

Bernie Deutsch
Chairman

Russell Turner
Vice Chairman

Mary Ann Drobysch
Secretary

Sullivan County Fire Advisory Board

Date: November 26, 2012

Meeting called to order at: 7:30pm

Pledge to the flag was held

Attendance: 9 out of 15 members present

Bethel: Timothy Blais	P
Callicoon: Paul Hemmer	A
Cochecton: Gary Cochrane	A
Delaware: Tim Hornicek	A
Fallsburg: Bernard Deutsch	P
Forestburgh: Chris Cavello	P
Fremont: Anthony Wayne	A
Highland: Warren Wagner	P
Liberty: Don Sherwood	A
Lumberland: Charlie Fallon	P
Mamakating: Joe Roe	P
Neversink: Russell Turner	P
Rockland: Michael Juron	P
Thompson: Robert Yakin	P
Tusten: Craig Burkle	A

Reading of minutes from previous meeting: Read and accepted as read

Coordinators Report:

Hurricane Sandy: Several days before the actual hurricane the County was made aware of the potential for a major storm and we were updated daily. The closer the storm came, the worse the warnings became. While we did not get the rainfall that was predicted we got the high winds and a significant amount of damage from them. We were in communication with NYSEG, O & R and Central Hudson days prior to the storm. At least half of the County's residents were without power at one time or another.

The EOC was opened and it worked well. 18 agencies were there and everyone worked together. Clearing the roadways from debris and downed lines was the first item to be dealt with so that the utility repair crews could begin their work.

There was extensive damage to the utility poles and lines, some of which had to be rebuilt.

There were some cases of CO poisoning due to improper generator use but no fatalities. Power was lost at the EOC but the generator worked and we were back up and running. The Public Safety meeting that was postponed was finally held and there were between 40 and 50 members of the Fire Service that attended and several spoke about the need for the new communications system to proceed as planned. We will have to wait and see what the County does with the budget.

Letters will be sent to all chief's regarding training for 2013. We have to get our request into the State.

There was a yearly meeting at the Fire Academy for Fire Administrators and Coordinators.

Dick had a conference call today regarding some issues regarding local departments that went to Long Island to help with the cleanup efforts.

There was a meeting with DOT last week about the various highway projects. The westbound side of the Bridgeville Bridge will be completed in 2013 and then the work will begin on the eastbound side. Route 17B paving has been completed. Work is set to begin on replacing the bridge over the Neversink River in the Liberty area so we can expect lane closure there.

The County is still working on next year's budget.

Our fire investigators have been very busy of late.

It is time to renew the special team permissions with the Chief's. For the Dive Team and the Wildland Search and Rescue Teams only letters need to be sent, there is no full recertification process.

There will be a 4 county team set up for a HazMat grant, Rockland, Orange Sullivan and Ulster. There is \$71,000.00 available to be used by the 4 counties. Radiation Detection Devised will be purchased and we will need to have people trained I how to use them. The Firefighter Memorial Service will be held May 5. Letters will go out to all Chief's. There will be a meeting in December to address what issues the State Fire Service needs to make priorities of and to lobby the Governor's office and push the NYS Legislature on.

Commissioner Hower is asking for a new, state of the art facility to be built to house the Fire Academy and move it from Montour Falls. There is a lot of dispute on where it should be relocated.

The County Mutual Aid Plan retooling is progressing.

The old dive boat was sold for \$100.00 to the SC Dive Association.

There were 15 people at the Fire Academy for the October program.

Dick wishes everyone a happy holiday season.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1) **Training Facility:** no further report
- 2) **EMS:** no report
- 3) **Arson:** In 2011 there were a total of 61 investigations, so far this year there are 75. There have been 5 arrests and 2 other investigations are ongoing. There are 5 people being sent to Montour for advanced training. Charlie is trying to set up a program in each department for fire investigation within the department. He will talk to the Chiefs to see if they have any members that are interested. This would be separate form the County Arson Task Force. The State Police have been very helpful with the investigations. Out of the 10 people currently on the Task Force several have law enforcement back grounds, others in plumbing and cable work.
- 4) **Radio:** no further report

Correspondence: none

Old Business: The letter that was sent to Public Safety by this Board was read.

New Business: The 2013 meeting schedule was approved.

Good and Welfare: Bernie thanks everyone for their service and efforts this year and wishes everyone a healthy and happy holiday season and new year.

Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn Time: 8:12 PM

Next meeting January 28 at 7:30pm