

Bernie Deutsch  
Chairman

Russell Turner  
Vice Chairman

Mary Ann Drobysh  
Secretary

**Sullivan County Fire Advisory Board**

**Date:** July 29, 2013

**Meeting called to order at:** 7:36pm

**Pledge to the flag was held**

**Attendance:** 9 out of 15 members present

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Bethel: Rich Hendrickson   | P |
| Callicoon: Paul Hemmer     | A |
| Cochecton: Gary Cochrane   | P |
| Delaware: Tim Hornicek     | A |
| Fallsburg: Bernard Deutsch | P |
| Forestburgh: Chris Cavello | A |
| Fremont: David Hirsch      | A |
| Highland: Warren Wagner    | P |
| Liberty: Don Sherwood      | P |
| Lumberland: Charlie Fallon | P |
| Mamakating: Lou Tunno      | P |
| Neversink: Russell Turner  | A |
| Rockland: Michael Juron    | A |
| Thompson: Robert Yakin     | P |
| Tusten: Craig Burkle       | P |

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

**Coordinators Report:**

The facilitator position at the training center was approved as a civil service position. Applicants will go through the County personnel office. There will be a set list of requirements and the County will generate a list of 6 people to serve on a rotating schedule. If a department wants to use the facility they will contact John and he will arrange for the facilitator. The department can arrange for other to join in the training. There will be a \$50.00 charge to the lead company. Rick Hendrickson was a great help in getting this set up.

The radio tower projects are moving along slowly. The properties have been leased and work is beginning. Motorola is still involved in the planning. High Band pagers for departments are being worked on.

Classes are ongoing at the Training Center. Our new instructor, Jim Gerard has already received municipal training and can begin right away. John Hauschild is also available as a substitute if need be.

The Emergency Services Handbook has been approved and implemented.

Bill Lothrop's surgery went well. He is at the Hospital for Special Surgery in NYC. The Sullivan County weekend at the Fire Academy at the end of October has a few openings left.

There will be a large Hasidic gathering on Cohen and Cohen Road this week on the anniversary of Rabbi Tannenbaum's death. The Emergency Operations Center will be open.

Bethel Woods has had a good season and few problems this year. There were some problems with larger than expected crowds and also some intoxicated patrons but nothing too serious. They want the lots emptied out by 2:30 am after a concert and there is some concern about drivers not wanting to leave because of the possibility of a DWI. Rich brought up the issue of the haphazard lawn seating and the problems that could occur if emergency services had to get through the crowd. Alex could not be here tonight, he will come to our next meeting.

Jack Halchak gave a report on the Emergency Operating Center. It is a work in progress and we are learning from our mistakes. After Hurricane Sandy they received hundreds of suggestions and are working on implementing some of them. There is a huge need to disseminate information to the general population in a crisis and they are exploring ways to get that done.

Jack is asking each department to complete an accurate equipment inventory each year and forward that information to the EOC. He will put the information into a statewide database that can be accessed by the deputy coordinators as well. Each Town and Village should also have an updated Emergency Plan on file with the EOC as well. Everyone here should contact their town and make sure that there is a plan and it is updated. The EOC needs to be able to contact the town officials as needed, the supervisors, highway superintendent, etc. They also need to have the ability to locate specific equipment if needed. Find out what roles your department plays in the event of an emergency within your district. Most Towns do have a plan in place, make sure it has current information and forward it to the EOC. It also needs to be approved by the State Office of Emergency Management. The plan needs to state that it is NIMS compliant.

The issues with utility lines and repair were discussed. Calls to utility companies are handled by the priority of the call. Each call goes on a list and the utility companies dispatch based on the nature of the calls. If a repair truck drives by downed wires it may be responding to a more hazardous situation. They first take care of de-energizing and life threatening issues, and then move on to repair. Town DPW departments can help with tree removal when the lines are no longer live. Sometimes removing the trees can help in an outage situation as well. Please be aware that once a line is reenergized it can cause problems with generators that have been hooked up to supply power to homes.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1) **Training Facility:** no further report

2) **EMS:** no report

**Arson:** There have been 37 investigations through the end of June. There was a presenter from O & R at the Orange County Training Center which members of the Lumberland Department attended. They are setting up a new plan for live wires based on the level of response to the incident. He left his phone number for us to contact him for additional information.

3) **Radio:** Alex will be at our September meeting to update us on progress.

**Correspondence:** none

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:** Lou brought up the issues with having to replace gear because of excessive damage during training exercises. Tom asked if older equipment could be used for training. Dick explained that the State has the ten year rule in place for the training equipment as well. Dick will look into this and try to get some answers or possibly have someone come to a meeting and explain what is going on.

**Good and Welfare:** We will be sending a get well card to Bill Lothrop

**Adjournment:** Motion to Adjourn      **Time:** 8:37 PM

**Next meeting September 30, 2013 at 7:30pm**