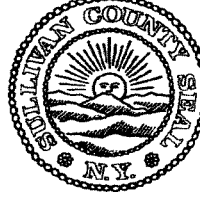


BILL LOTHROP  
CHAIRMAN

TIM SCHATZ  
VICE CHAIRMAN



MARY ANN DROBYSH  
SECRETARY

## SULLIVAN COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

SULLIVAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER  
100 NORTH STREET, P.O. BOX 5012  
MONTICELLO, NY 12701-5192

**Date:** March 31, 2008

**Meeting called to order at:** 7:35 pm

### **Pledge to the flag was held**

Meeting adjourned until after swearing in of members by Dan Briggs, County Clerk. Meeting resumed at 7:47pm

### **Attendance:**

Bethel: Ed Lubniewski	P
Callicoon: Paul Hemmer	P
Cochecton: Gary Cochrane	P
Delaware: Bob Simon	P
Fallsburg: Bernard Deutsch	P
Forestburgh: Arthur Salomon	A
Fremont: Anthony Wayne	P
Highland: Tim Schadt (Joe Mellan)	P
Liberty: Don Sherwood	P
Lumberland: Charlie Fallon	P
Mamakating: William Lothrop	P
Neversink: Tom Matthews	A
Rockland: Michael Juron	P
Thompson: Gary Smith	A
Tusten: Michael Reuber	A

**Reading of the Minutes from the previous meeting:** Minutes amended to show that Charles Fallon is also a member of the Radio/Communications Committee. Minutes accepted as amended.

**Coordinators Report:** Dick gave everyone a couple of handouts on the NYS Alert System and advised everyone to go to the website and look things over and sign up. The site is designed to reach as many people as possible in the event of a disaster or an emergency. They are traffic, weather, disaster, emergency service alerts as well as others. They plan to add Amber Alerts as well. You can register and pick how you want to receive them, phone, email, cell phone, or fax. The information you give is protected in a private database and is not subject to FOIL requests. The County has already supplied the database with preliminary information. The system has the capacity to take an area and draw a radius and alert the people within that radius. There are potential problems with the system due to smaller service areas for some phone companies that have limitations with their equipment. Dick warned that everyone should be careful for which alerts you sign up for, it covers the entire State so you should pick both specific areas and specific types of alerts.

Dick has received 4 applications for the Emergency Training Center Coordinator. They will try to do interviews next week. All 4 candidates are good choices.

There will be a proposal made to the count in a couple of weeks regarding our communications system. The company making the proposal has tower sites in the county and multiple frequencies. There would be no maintenance costs but we would be required to lease the equipment from them. There would be a buyback option at the end of the lease period. The radio committee will look this over, possibly as a plan if the NYS wireless does not pan out. Low band equipment is being phased out, everything is now digital.

Dick attended a groundbreaking in Boro Park for Hatzolah. He was impressed by the support of the community. They do not have paid paramedics but their training and equipment are all top notch. They also do cleanup after an accident, help families with food, Shiva arrangements, etc.

Dick and Alex are working with Orange and Rockland Utilities on a way to get more help from them with problems with utility lines and poles, whether it is to provide people at the scene or to de-energize wires so firefighters do not have to remain at the scene indefinitely. Dick pointed out that the line trucks for the utility company are only there to make the situation safe; they usually leave a scene quickly. Similar meetings were held with NYSEG last year.

There was a meeting in Delhi about the problems faced by the smaller counties in fielding full Haz-Mat Teams. A regional Haz-Mat team was discussed. Larger municipalities may be willing to help but they do not want to travel far out of their areas. There will be additional meetings on this.

The Chiefs Academy will be on April 12<sup>th</sup> and there will be a seminar on Fire Police on April 26 at Loch Sheldrake.

The new classrooms are in the final stages of planning and will go out to bid. There is money available from the Criminal Justice Grant for equipment and furniture.

Projects for 2009 will include paving around the tower area, parking lots and lighting for the outside areas. The projected costs are around \$500,000.00.

The Battalion meetings are complete. The next round will be in September.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Training Facility:** Joe gave a report on the status of classes available. He warned everyone about the new requirements and stressed that the Bridge class will be offered only for a limited amount of time. All classes are posted on the Sullivan County Government website. The listing can be found through the Bureau of Fire link. There may be a cutback of classes due to a cut in funding by the State, however any unused hours throughout the State are then pooled and can be applied for. We have 6 instructors now so there is opportunity for more classes. All classes are posted on the Sullivan County Government website. The listing can be found through the Bureau of Fire link.

**EMS:** John is back. There is now a dialogue between the EMS Board and the County Legislature. There funding issues should be resolved soon. Bill offered our assistance, if they would like it.

**Arson Investigation:** There have been 10 investigations for January and February with 3 of them still open. The fires do not appear to be criminal. March has seen 4, 1 of them being criminal. Bill wants everyone to know what a great job the Fire Investigation Team does.

**Radio/Communications:** see Coordinators report.

**Tax Abatement:** No report, can still apply for a couple of weeks.

**Correspondence:** The letter Paul wrote to Public Safety regarding the replacement of Bob Theodore's was read. The letter was presented at the last public safety meeting and there were quite a few people from the fire service there to support the call for the position to be filled. The letter was well received by the legislature. A committee to create the job specs was formed and included Bill, Joe and Dick.

**Old Business:** The changes in our Rules and Regulations were presented. There was discussion and a motion was made to forward the revised Rules and Regulations to the Public Safety Committee for review. The County Attorney will also need to review it. It was suggested that it be posted on the Bureau of Fire's website. That can be discussed after the approval process. The changes were very minor.

**New Business:** Paul is now a Fire Commissioner. His Board of Commissioners questioned him if is a conflict serving here as well. Dick thought that the best way to deal with this is to speak to the attorney for that district and he can advise the Board that it is not a conflict. This same issue has come up in the past as well.

Bill questioned whether the salary set by the County for the job being vacated by Bob Theodore is sufficient. The salary range will be \$30,000.00 to \$34,000.00, which is the salary for a Grade 7 position. He feels that that is not adequate for the job and its many responsibilities. He wants it on record that there are many people who feel the same way.

**Good and Welfare:** John Crotty is out of the hospital and doing better.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:50pm

Next Meeting May 19, 2008 at 7:30 pm at the Sullivan County  
Government Center