

Tim Schadt  
Chairman

Bernie Deutsch  
Vice Chairman

Mary Ann Drobysh  
Secretary

### Sullivan County Fire Advisory Board

**Date:** January 26, 2009

**Meeting called to order at:** 7:34pm

**Pledge to the flag was held**

**Elections:**

**Nominations for Chairman:** Tim Schadt, sole nominee, elected

**Vice Chairman:** Bernie Deutsch, sole nominee, elected

**Appointment of Secretary by Chairman:** Mary Ann Drobysh

**Attendance:** out of 15 members present

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

**Reading of minutes from previous meeting:** read and amended under correspondence to reflect the incident happened in a class, not at a fire. Minutes accepted as amended.

#### **Coordinators Report:**

Dick welcomed us back as well as Joe Roe from Mamakating who is Bill's replacement. Dick has assigned to his deputies the task of reviewing and updating our policies and procedures. There are copies of all of these available on the website. Once review is completed if any changes are required they will be brought here for approval and then forwarded to Public Safety and the full Legislature.

Travis Hartman has been added as a new Fire Investigator. He is a detective for the Town of Fallsburg.

The County Manager is trying to have the classrooms at the training facility to be funded under the Federal Economic Stimulus Plan.

NIMS 300 classes are starting today. NIMS 400 will be next month.

There are almost 1400 hours currently allotted for training by the State, they may be cut after the State budget comes in.

There have been 3 fatal fires in the last couple of months, as well as the prior one in Barryville. These are keeping the investigators busy. The causes have all been determined but the events were very draining on the team.

Dick has sent an email detailing the requirements for the safety vests.

A member of the Liberty Fire Department has been injured while operating the jaws of life. He said he was momentarily distracted. Dick urged everyone to always be vigilant and careful.

Alex Rau was a guest speaker and discussed some of the communication issues. The announcement policy is being revamped; the changes will be explained at the battalion meetings in February. He will also give Dick for all the operating procedures to Dick.

The Wurtsboro tower suffered some ice damage and has been repaired. He also stated the 911 center is in the process of developing a web presence, it should be up shortly.

There will be an exam for dispatchers coming up. Information is available on the website or the SC Personnel Department.

The State wireless program is up in the air right now. The County is using grant money to find our own consultant so we can move forward.

The Control Center is also looking into backup communications.

Special Operations tones should be in individual pagers by April 1.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- 1) **Training Facility:** See Coordinators Report.
- 2) **Tax Abatement:** No change but the deadline for the property tax exemption has passed.
- 3) **EMS:** There has been no formal meeting. The group will consist of the Captains from each squad, or their designee.
- 4) **Arson/Fire Investigation:** In 2007 there were 45 investigations and in 2008 there were 62 investigations. They are happy to have a new member to help out.
- 5) **Radio:** No report.
- 6) **Winter Residential Heating:** They have received approximately 30 reports and will probably receive more once the battalion meetings begin. They will review them all and compile the data. They are waiting for grant money to come in. Jack has been asked to speak to several groups about the problems we are encountering. Please make sure your chiefs are filling out the reports and have them be as specific as possible.

**Correspondence:** None

**Old Business:** None

### **New Business:**

There was a great deal of discussion on the State mandated fire training. Dick has attended meetings regarding this issue, with members of FASNY, NYS Chiefs Association, OFPC, the Fire Service Council and the Dept. of Homeland Security.

FASNY has online training as well as traditional courses. There are questions as to the coordination of the classes with the prerequisites required.

The State has money set aside for the mandated programs, but there are limitations on how and where it can be spent. If they mandate the programs they have to make sure the money is set aside.

Not everyone is in favor of mandating. There are potential problems with it. There will be additional meetings. Our options appear to be:

1. Do nothing and wait for the State budget, much as we do now.
  2. Take all the fire training offered by the OFPC and have it all mandated
  3. Mandate the core courses only and any money left after that would go to support classes.
- Dick wants feedback from everyone on this issue and he will bring our thoughts back to his next meeting on this issue.

Dick assured us if the classes are to be mandated the State will have to make the funding available. Some of our Board members feel it should be left alone. Mandating courses may chase away potential new members. Dick advised that if we left it as is there is no guaranty that we would get the hours we requested.

Other members liked the idea of mandating only the core courses. John explained the problems EMS has encountered with State mandates. The idea of standardization is nice; however local departments will lose their voice under State mandates.

There was discussion on the current class format length and the pressure it puts on new members. Another idea mentioned was that the State should offer some kind of college credit for the courses to make it more attractive.

Dick asked if anyone else has ideas to contact him to discuss them.

The details on the changes to the following policy and procedures were reviewed and discussed: Mutual Aid, Electric Utility Protocol, Communications, Emergency Services Training Center and the Mayday Plan (no changes). All the plans, as well as the others still under review are available on the website. All the changes will be gone over at the battalion meetings as well.

The Ryan White act information is also to go on the website. In the event of an exposure there is a letter for the Chief to fill out and sign to request medical information.

A motion was made and passed to accept the changes to plans discussed tonight. The Changes can be submitted to Public Safety.

Dick wanted to acknowledge that Paul had done a lot of work in getting the plans written and posted and now Jack will be updating them.

Tom asked that in the event of an ice storm, or some other event, if there was a phone number available, outside of 911, that would provide local information, such as shelters and help available for other problems. Alex responded that the 211 system is referral for social service issues. If shelters or other emergency services have been set up 211 would be notified and that information would then be available to callers. Jack is also working on a list of fire houses that are self sustaining. It should be available soon.

**Good and Welfare:** None

**Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn      Time: 9:05pm**

**Next meeting March 30, 2009 at 7:30pm at the  
Sullivan County Government Center**