

Craig Burkle
Chairman

Carlton Fritz
Vice Chairman
Sullivan County Fire Advisory Board

Mary Ann Drobysch
Secretary

Date: November 29, 2021

Meeting called to order at: 7:32 pm Via Zoom

Meeting is unofficial due to the lack of a quorum.

Attendance: 5 out of 15 members present

Minutes: Accepted as read

Bethel: Peter Maltese	P
Callicoon: Jim Doughty	A
Cochecton: Jason Knack	A
Delaware: Tom Dent	P
Fallsburg: Eric Ackerly	P
Forestburgh: Zachary Petrowsky	P
Fremont: George Conklin	A
Highland: Ken Anderson	A
Liberty: Carlton Fritz	A
Lumberland: David Hook	A
Mamakating: Mark Wharton	A
Neversink: Gary Frear	A
Rockland: Chris Tuleweit	A
Thompson: Chris Bastone	A
Tusten: Craig Burkle	P

Minutes from the previous meeting, September 27, 2021, were read.

Coordinators Report:

Our Covid numbers are way up. Cases are mostly among the unvaccinated. Please be careful.

Boosters are available for all adults and there is now the vaccine for 5–11-year-olds.

Next year's members will need to be sworn in prior to or at our first meeting. Please make sure your supervisor turns in the appointment form for next year.

The recruit and retention setting up for success program was not well attended. We need to try and do better for next year.

The new Rehab vehicle should be here in the next couple of weeks.

We are still waiting on the State's approval for our Mutual Aid and Arson Task force plans. They were sent to the State in May.

The training schedule for the winter is not yet set. When it is done, we may have to wait and see what happens with Covid and adjust accordingly.

Committee Reports:

Arson Task Force: Still waiting on the State.

There was a NYS Fire Investigators seminar regarding changes that are coming in 2022.

Radio: The Rock Hill Tower is still not up, waiting on equipment.

Alex is working on the radio issues; he will try and recreate the issues and then do testing. Please also remember that turning off the scam mode may help.

There are several new dispatchers at the Control Center, please be patient.

Tom asked about QPR, question, persuade and refer. It is a course to recognize issues or problems that members may be having due to stress, whether it be with work, life or financial issues and then to assist them in finding the help that they need in managing the situations. John has taken the course twice and at the last one there were 9 attendees.

Also remember that John and the coordinators are always available as well.

Communications: None

Old Business: Nothing further.

New Business: John wants everyone to think of projects the incoming board can work on.

The issue of activated alarms that are false alarms was discussed.

The false alarms cost departments quite a bit of money over the course of a year.

Several Towns have policies in place, some charge, some evaluate on a case-by-case basis. Air B&B's and group homes tend to be problematic. We could compile a list town by town on how they handle the issues, come up with a standard plan and present it to the County.

Eric brought up the point on recruitment and retention that money is a big factor. There needs to be pressure on the state for more funding. This was discussed at a Fire District meeting this year as well.

Zach questioned on whether we could charge utility companies when we must "babysit" downed wires. This has been an ongoing issue. This may be something to take up with the State Senate and Assembly since the Public Safety Commission has not helped. If there is no danger to the public just put out cones and go home. Zach pointed out that Orange and Rockland will send someone out with no cones or caution tape. John and Eric suggested that you tell them that it is their responsibility and leave. DPW can also take over once the danger has passed. Eric pointed out that NYSEG has plenty of money, maybe they could offer an incentive to the Fire Company.

We will send out letters to all the supervisors with the attendance for the year, as well as the appointment form.. They should take that into consideration when they appoint a member for next year.

We will need to have a new chairman next year, Craig has served his 3 year term.

Good and Welfare. None

Meeting Adjourned 8:03 pm

Meeting dates 2022 7:30pm

February 28

March 28

May 23

July 25

September 26

November 28