

Chris Tuleweit
Chairman

Ross Turner
Vice Chairman

Mary Ann Drobysh
Secretary

Sullivan County Fire Advisory Board

Date: March 28,2022

Meeting called to order at:

Attendance: 10 out of 14 members present

Minutes: Accepted as read

Bethel: Peter Maltese	P
Callicoon: Ross Turner	P
Cochecton: Jason Knack	P
Delaware: Tom Dent	A
Fallsburg: Eric Akerley	P
Forestburgh: Michael J. Rommell	P
Fremont: George Conklin	P
Highland: Ken Anderson	P
Liberty:	
Lumberland: David Hook	A
Mamakating: Charles Griswold	A
Neversink: Michael Kelly	P
Rockland: Chris Tuleweit	P
Thompson: Ed Walsh	A
Tusten: Craig Burkle	P

Minutes from the previous meeting, accepted.

Coordinators Report:

John apologizes for missing the last meeting and welcomes the new members. He also thanked Craig for his years of service as chairman.

All new members have to be sworn in and complete the ethics form. If you have not done so, please see Russ in the County Clerk to be sworn in. I had previously emailed out the ethics receipt, you can complete and return them to me of AnnMarie at the County.

The Chief's Handbook is designed for informational purposes only, it is not to dictate to each Chief on what they can or cannot do.

We are going to be having normal sized classes again at the Training Center, masking will be your option, there is no mandate. John will be meeting with the State instructors to plan the classes to be offered.

Each department has either received or will receive 48 Covid test kits. Please make them available to your members.

The Fallen Firefighter Memorial will be on May 1, at 2pm. The information has been sent to all Chiefs.

Committee Reports:

Arson Task Force: It has been a busy year so fire for the investigators.

Plan is back from the state and there are a few changes to be made. Once they are done it will go to the County Attorney for review, then here, then on to Public Safety then to the full Legislature for approval.

Radio: Dispatchers are still asking the Covid questions for each call but may stop soon as the numbers are decreasing. PPE is still important, be careful.
There are several new dispatchers in training, and they are looking to fill another full time position.
We will be doing an upgrade to the existing 911 phone system later this year. The equipment is over 6 years old and needs to be upgraded.
Orange County will be hosting an Interconnect System that would include all Hudson Valley Counties.
The Homeland Security Grant Program is back up and running. There are still some open projects to finish.
Motorola will be finishing up the paging, then testing and to see where we need to go to improve communications.
The Rock Hill Tower has been plagued by material backlogs, mostly due to Covid. We are waiting on the generator and electrical.

Communications: None

Old Business: There was a great deal of discussion on the issues of activated alarms and Air B & B's. At times the discussion overlapped between the 2. We have received some materials from a few towns while others do not have any regulations in place. There is agreement that the issues need to be addressed and there was frustration that there is little that can be done due to business and political issues.
Another part of the equation is the problem with member retention in the fire service. Members are volunteers and the time and financial costs can be burdensome. Perhaps there can be some form of redress financially to members. A simple land tax rebate does not help everyone as not all members are landowners, and a \$200.00 payment is just a small drop in the bucket. Mike and Eric will hash out some ideas for the financial issues and bring those back here so we can decide how to proceed. The Recruit and Retention committee may have some ideas on this as well. Other County's FAB may have ideas, there is power in numbers when presenting ideas to the State.
As far as the alarms, some activated alarms are real, but a great many may be able to be avoided by training the residents and help from the alarm companies. A committee could review existing policies, come up with both statistics and a plan forward to bring to the County Legislature. George, as a member of the Public Safety Committee offered his assistance when the committee completes their work. He will bring it up to the Public Safety Committee to make them aware of the issues the fire service faces. If anyone wants to contact him directly his number is 845-866-1238.
On the Air B & B issue, most towns do not have a listing of all the Air B & B's. Callicoon and Delaware do. The first step is for each town to compile a listing. There is a lot of information online, searches can be done by specific areas. The listings may have important information such as floor plans, occupancy, heating type, etc.
Please note that there is some overlap with these committees as the issues are related.

We will create 2 committees, one for the activated alarm problem and the other for the Air B & B issue.
On the Air B & B's,
Activated Alarm Committee: Craig, Pete and Russ. They should assess the plans each town has in place and present to the County why this needs to be addressed.

Air B & B Committee: Not Clear on Members. The committee should come up with a plan to bring to the County on how the industry could be regulated. Other areas have the owners and a checklist for all new rentals to go over heating, gas, electrical, alarms, and emergency situations that could occur and who to contact.

New Business

Good and Welfare. None

Meeting Adjourned

Next meeting May 23, 2022 at 7:30 pm