

Chris Tuleweit
Chairman

Ross Turner
Vice Chairman

Mary Ann Drobysh
Secretary

Sullivan County Fire Advisory Board

Date: September 26, 2022

Meeting called to order at: 7:30pm

Attendance: 8 out of 15 members present

Minutes: Accepted as read

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

Minutes from the previous meeting accepted as read

Coordinators Report:

It has been a very busy few months with fire calls. The Fire Investigators have been very busy.

Sullivan 180 is having a Fire Department Challenge. There will be an informational meeting in October. IT will involve the overall physical and mental health of department members. There will be substantial prizes for 1st and 2nd place, with smaller prizes also being awarded. Funds for the prizes will be from Sullivan Renaissance and NYS, with the help of Aileen Gunther. Judging will be fair.

The information for the DEC Grant has been sent out.

The discretionary funds that were available from the County had a very short turnaround time. There was not enough time for everyone to apply.

The Arson Task Force and Mutual Aid plans are moving through the system. We hope to have them here for the November meeting.

The Rehab unit was utilized 3 times this year. It will be set up with gear for the winter.

The recruit and retention program is going well, they have held several events so far and have a few left to go. They have over 40 potential new members.

There has been a better response for training, some classes even have a waiting list. 2 Full time instructors are to be certified and 3 skills instructors are to be trained for next year.

Committee Reports:

Arson Task Force: Nothing further.

Radio: Nothing further

Activated Alarm Committee:

A draft for activated alarms was presented and discussed. There are a series of steps with escalating fines if the alarms continue without remedy. The proposal has the departments tracking the alarms and then submitting to the Town for fines to be placed on the tax bills. Money collected would then go to the department.

The problem is that the Towns that have a procedure already in place do not turn the money over, the Town keeps it.

Eric detailed Fallsburg's plan and the problems with summer communities and the minimal effort on the part of code enforcement and police with the alarms. Not all of the members of code enforcement The Town has put out memos and public notices. There will be a meeting within Fallsburg on this tonight. Pete asked if any of the measures already adopted have resulted in a reduction of activated alarms. The answer was yes, for some types. The problem will become that people will not respond to activated alarms in areas that are prone to problems.

Callicoon has a form for Chief's to fill out and send to the Town.

Delaware is working on a plan. Ross feels there should be at least a paper trail to the Town.

Cochecton has no plan.

There was also discussion regarding the alarm companies responsibility in this issue.

Communications: None

Old Business: None

New Business: There was discussion about contacting our State and County legislators for additional tax relief for volunteers. Incentives, college tuition reimbursement, or fuel discounts were cited as possibilities. Fallsburg offers milage reimbursement for completed training classes. They also helped with funeral expenses for a past chief. Fallsburg and other towns offer a small life and accidental death policy for members.

This board could do some legwork and present to the County, or, directly to the State.

We could invite local representatives to our meetings and present our concerns.

We will invite Aileen Gunther to our next meeting to explain the commitment and expense that fire department members have. Once she has confirmed a date we will let all members know so we will have a well-attended meeting.

We will send a letter to Ann Marie to prepare a resolution for us to change the time of our meetings to 7:00.

There is not a lot of movement on the AirBnB issue.

Good and Welfare. None

Meeting Adjourned 8:29pm

Next meeting November 28, 2022 at 7:00 pm