

Ross Turner  
Chairman

Jason Kraack  
Vice Chairman  
**Sullivan County Fire Advisory Board**

Mary Ann Drobysch  
Secretary

**Date:** November 25, 2024      Pledge to the Flag recited.

**Meeting called to order at:** 7:10 pm

**Attendance:** 6 out of 15 members present    No Quorum

**Minutes:** Read

Bethel: Peter Maltese	A
Callicoon: Ross Turner	P
Cochecton: Jason Knack	P
Delaware: Tom Dent	A
Fallsburg:	
Forestburgh: Michael Rommell	A
Fremont: George Conklin	A
Highland: Dave Preston	A
Liberty: Don Sherwood	P
Lumberland: David Hook	A
Mamakating: Larry Arnold	P
Neversink: Tim Dexheimer	P
Rockland: Guy Baker	A
Thompson: Roger Bisland, Jr.	A
Tusten: Craig Burkle	P

**Coordinators Report:**

Burn Ban had been extended until 11/30/24. John thanks everyone for all the hard work for the last few large incidents, all departments, EMS and police services.

Fire grants were announced, Sullivan received 4, 88 in total were given out by the state.

Wildland Grants should have been submitted by last week, the AFG grant is due 12/20.

Any department that needs help with grant writing can contact John and he will forward the contact information for the Conty's Grant department.

Fire officer training is set to begin.

There will be a youth academy in July.

Alex gave a report.

There are currently 3 new dispatchers in training at the Control Center. There should be another next year.

Work is continuing on the Jeffersonville tower, property is being looked into in Rockland for a new tower and Eldred will probably need one as well.

The County will begin moving to IM responding. Those departments already using it should continue, those that are not should get it and the County will pay of it. If you have been using it already the County may be able to reimburse you. Alex will be sending an email out. The move should help with internal communications.

There was discussion about trying to standardize plans throughout the county to make communications more effective.

The EMS fly car has resulted in 15 to 17 minutes in time saving on call responses.

Alex has sent out information on EMT training at SCCC in February.

BOCES classes are ongoing.

If the budget is approved there should be new EMS, BEFO and CPR instructors.

**Committee Reports:**

**Arson Task Force:** No report

**911:** Nothing further

**EMS:** No report

**Communications:** Battalion 5 Letter to be addressed under new business.

**Old Business: None**

**New Business:** There was a great deal of discussion regarding the Battalion 5 letter and the problems with radio and communication issues. Some of the suggestions early in the discussion were to limit the use of the scan feature and limit the number of people that respond unnecessarily.

Keeping a log of the issues with time, date and location may not always be convenient but it is the best way to address each issue after it occurs. This information can be used as a training tool as well as to help improve the system. There should not be a confrontation between a chief and dispatcher, issues should be brought to Alex's attention. Large incidents present the biggest challenges.

The major complaint is that we seem to always talk about changes, but nothing comes of them. Money is always an issue, any upgrades come with costs. The County has been looking at new tower locations, but COVID slowed the process.

As of right now, we have around 95% coverage, realistically we will never be at 100%, however, there is some room for improvement. Alex is willing to go out and work with any department that has issues and try to help. Alex detailed the policy the Control Center uses in sending out pages and tones and when mutual aid is requested.

There is no easy fix. The best thing we can do right now is form a work group with all the battalions and possibly a member of this board to come up with solutions that are realistic and will help communications both between and within departments and the Control Center. Moving to IM paging may help some, but policies need to be formulated and put into place on who and how many in a department should be responding by radio. The County's IT department may be of some help as well.

**Good and Welfare:** Our ongoing attendance issues continue to be a problem.  
Happy Holidays to everyone.

**Meeting Adjourned 8:05 pm**

**Next meeting January 27,2025 at 7:00 pm**