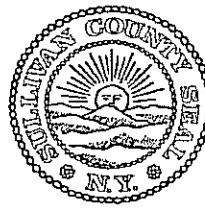


BILL LOTHROP  
CHAIRMAN

TIM SCHATD  
VICE CHAIRMAN



MARY ANN DROBYSH  
SECRETARY

## **SULLIVAN COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY BOARD**

SULLIVAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER  
100 NORTH STREET, P.O. BOX 5012  
MONTICELLO, NY 12701-5192

**Date:** November 24, 2008

**Meeting called to order at:** 7:30pm

**Pledge to the flag was held**

**Attendance:**

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

**Reading of the Minutes from the previous meeting:** Read and accepted as read

**Coordinators Report:**

Dick has submitted the budget for the Bureau of Fire. There are no cuts from last year, but no increases either.

There will now be a pre-registration requirement for training classes. A program is being worked on that will allow the chief's to go to a website and view available classes as well as their prerequisites. The chief would then send a list to John Hauschild of the people and requested classes. This had to be done by the chief and he should also determine if each party has the required prerequisites for the classes. The information can be emailed or faxed. Orange County has met with Dick and reviewed our program. If they enhance it in any way they will share the information with us. John and Jack are also working on putting together a synopsis of available classes and posting that information online as well. We may lose a class due to State budget cuts.

In the past, record keeping by the Bureau of Fire on what programs have worked has not been what it should. Paul had started adding information and now Jack has taken over the job. The information is up to date and available on the website.

The State Legislature has not done anything with budget cuts as of yet, but they will meet in December and cuts are likely.

The classrooms at the Training Center are going to be rebid.

The Training Tower has closed for the winter.

Dick and his deputy coordinators will be reviewing all plans and procedures that affect the Fire and EMS Services. Any revisions will be brought to this Board for review. All will be posted on the website as well when finished.

Jack is working on the accountability cards. There are requirements for 2009 due to NIMS.

There is a \$275,000.00 radio grant available. Dick will check the conditions of the grant to see if it can be used for an assessment study.

Dick praised the work being done in the last few weeks for the Fire Investigation Team, Wildland Search and Rescue and the Dive Team. They all have worked well in stressful situations.

Alex hopes to have the new announcement policy ready soon. Hopefully it will address all of the issues, but dispatch must always be the first priority. Alex will contact Anthony Wayne regarding an incident in October.

Ed thanked everyone that was involved in helping Smallwood with the triple drowning. There were a couple of problems. There was an issue with life preservers, as well as some privacy issues that have been addressed. Bill was impressed with how well multiple agencies worked together.

The EMS Board has undergone a change in their selection process. The captain of each company or his designee will serve, as well as a member of Mobile Medic and Hatzolah.

There is a new helicopter at the hospital. It is smaller but has a different design.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Training Facility:** see under coordinators

**EMS:** see under coordinators

**Arson Investigation:** It has been a busy month; the fatal fire in Barryville was accidental. There was another investigation as well. The police agencies, EMS and the fire departments are a great help.

**Radio/Communications:** They will meet once they have the details of the grant. This board must make the communication issues a priority.

**Tax Abatement:** Jack put a form on the website regarding the \$200.00 credit.

**Winter Residential Heating Committee:** Bernie and Jack have met with the rest of the committee several times and have created a report for the chiefs to fill out with every incident. They need everyone to be as complete and accurate as possible. There is also a poster that is being posted in every Post Office and in Coach USA buses and a flyer being distributed, possibly as a newspaper insert. The Hudson Valley Heating Council is paying for the flyer; the County is paying for the poster. Public awareness is essential in preventing home heating fires; if possible each department could post reminders on their outside signs.

**Correspondence:** A letter from Tom Matthews was read in regarding the treatment of a firefighter at the scene of a fire. A motion was made and passed to turn the letter over to Dick and Joe.

**Old Business:**

Everyone needs to get their appointment letters in.

**New Business:**

Next years meeting schedule was discussed. We will meet the last Monday in January, March, July, September and November. The May meeting will be held the Monday before Memorial Day. A motion was made and passed.

Dick talked about the email he had sent out regarding the Federal Safety Vest Requirement. Police, Fire, EMS and Public Works employees must wear these at an incident that takes place on a federally funded highway. Please be responsible about this, if an injury occurs and a vest is not being worn it could be a problem.

**Good and Welfare:** Tim thanked Bill for his service as Chairman and Vice Chairman for the last 6 years.

Bill thanked Tim and wished the Board well and hopes that we continue to move in a positive direction. He feels that we do make a difference.

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:31 pm**

**Next Meeting January 26, 2009 at 7:30 pm at the Sullivan County  
Government Center**