

Bernie Deutsch  
Chairman

Russell Turner  
Vice Chairman

Mary Ann Drobysh  
Secretary

**Sullivan County Fire Advisory Board**

**Date:** September 24, 2012

**Meeting called to order at:** 7:35pm

**Pledge to the flag was held**

**Attendance:** 10 out of 15 members present

Bethel: Timothy Blais	A
Callicoon: Paul Hemmer	A
Cochecton: Gary Cochrane	P
Delaware: Tim Hornicek	P
Fallsburg: Bernard Deutsch	A
Forestburgh: Chris Cavello	A
Fremont: Anthony Wayne	P
Highland: Warren Wagner	P
Liberty: Don Sherwood	P
Lumberland: Charlie Fallon	P
Mamakating: Joe Roe	P
Neversink: Russell Turner	P
Rockland: Michael Juron	P
Thompson: Robert Yakin	A
Tusten: Craig Burkle	P

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

**Coordinators Report:**

The 911 calls are no longer being handled by the Sherriff's Department.

The old dive boat is out of service. There is a resolution to sell it for \$100.00.

The new boat purchased by Lumberland is beautiful. Charlie has all the information if anyone needs it. Highland Lake has a new boat as well.

The County Parade in Rock Hill went well. Next year it will be in Narrowsburg on September 28.

The County Memorial Service will be on May 5, 2013, 2:00pm at the monument in the rear of the Government Center.

The County Firefighters Association Calendar will be sent out shortly.

The Sullivan County weekend at the Fire Academy is at the end of October. There are 152 people registered. It will be Sullivan only this year, Orange County has made other arrangements.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1) **Training Facility:** The new container from the SCFA has arrived. It will be used for training with airpacks.
- 2) **EMS:** They have not had a quorum. The MS coordinator will have a captain's meeting each quarter.
- 3) **Arson:** Through the first 7 months of 2012 we have had more fire investigations than ever before. There have been 3 felony arrests and 2 more are possible. So far this year there have been more than 40 million in losses, including the Grandview fire of 30 million. The investigators will be attending a class at Montour in November.
- 4) **Radio:** Alex has sent an email to all Chiefs regarding the narrow band mandate from the FCC. It has been in the works for awhile and only affects the police and EMS, not the fire service. The DEP is not aware of the changes and is still on wide band but we are able to communicate with them. All fire trucks and portables must now use narrowband.

Alex gave a presentation that he has previously given to the Public Safety Committee on the Communications Upgrade Project. Our current system dates back to the 1970's and 1980's and is maintained by John Connolly who does a great job with the equipment that he has to work with. Alex gave us an overview of the equipment in place as well as the condition of said equipment.

There are multiple concerns moving forward, such as parts problems as well as tech support for equipment no longer being manufactured or supported by vendors. The Fire Service and DPW are still on low band, all other County agencies and police are on high band.

The SWIN project from the State never materialized and many counties in the State were relying on the program. In 2009 we contracted with Blue Wing for an assessment and recommendations. They proposed 3 plans and the County selected the middle option at the approximate cost of 9.7 million. The proposed plan would consolidate all emergency services, DPW, 911 and police services. Towers are to be added and existing towers upgraded with greater redundancy capabilities. Coverage will be improved and communications between services will be improved.

The County had initially voted the funding to the 2012-2017 Capital Plan, spreading out the work and the costs over that time period. Motorola has begun the process of obtaining our new frequencies. All of the various approval processes for the new tower sites are being done. Blue Wing is working on the tower development plans. Other counties are outspending us in their efforts to upgrade communications. We are on the low budgetary end in the State.

Grant money has been received to help offset some costs and the County is looking for additional grants if they become available.

The problem is that the County has decided not to fund any money this year and they will assess the situation again next year. This could possibly jeopardize the purchase of the new frequencies and they could be lost to us if not done on the original timeline.

We need to have 6 legislators approve this funding and as of now that is not the case. We need to make them aware that all of the fire service stands behind this plan and we are united in the effort to achieve these goals. Dick will go to each Fire District and get their support. We need everyone to lobby their legislators on this issue and make them aware that without the new equipment it would be problematic if the old equipment should fail or be damaged. Dick and Alex have worked extremely hard on this issue but now everyone needs to step up. We need to put the pressure on them as a whole. We will send a letter and request they attend one of our meetings to see that we support this issue.

**Correspondence:** none

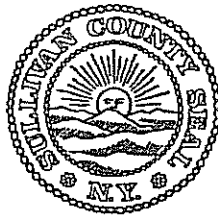
**Old Business:** none

**New Business:** none

**Good and Welfare:** none

**Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn      Time: 8:51pm**

**Next meeting November 26, 2012 at 7:30pm**



# SULLIVAN COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

## Appointment Form

This Letter serves to advise

the Sullivan County Legislature that the Town of:

nominates:

Name:	
Address:	
Home Phone:	
Buss. Phone:	
E-Mail:	
Other:	

To be our representative to the Sullivan County Fire Advisory Board for the year 2013.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor, Town of: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Fax or Mail form on or before December 31<sup>st</sup> to: Annmarie Martin Clerk to the Sullivan County Legislature

Fax #: 845-807-0447

Email: [Annmarie.Martin@co.sullivan.ny.us](mailto:Annmarie.Martin@co.sullivan.ny.us)

Mail: Sullivan County Government Center  
Sullivan County Fire Advisory Board  
Appointment Attention: Annmarie Martin  
100 North Street PO Box 5012  
Monticello, NY 12701-5012