

Russell Turner
Chairman

Jim Doughty
Vice Chairman

Mary Ann Drobysh
Secretary

Sullivan County Fire Advisory Board

Date: November 28, 2016

Meeting called to order at: 7:31 pm

Pledge to the flag was held

Attendance: 10 out of 15 members present

Minutes: Accepted as read

Bethel: George Roosevelt	P
Callicoon: Jim Doughty	A
Cochecton: Jason Knack	P
Delaware: Isaac Green-Diebboll	P
Fallsburg: Bernard Deutsch	A
Forestburgh: Zachary Petrowsky	P
Fremont: Shane Cruz	A
Highland: Philip Deyermond	P
Liberty: Carlton Fritz	P
Lumberland: Charlie Fallon	A
Mamakating: Tim Koestler	A
Neversink: Russell Turner	P
Rockland: Michal Juron	P
Thompson: Ray Stevens	P
Tusten: Craig Burkle	P

Coordinators Report:

Dick attended a Regional Fire Administrators meeting.

Fire Coordinators are going to become state employees.

They discussed the issues with training, the new course requirements and how different classifications of fireman need to or not to take courses based on their designation. PESH Training on how to treat others was also discussed and is an important issue. The turnout gear rule was also discussed. There was a discussion on the death of the Ulster County firefighter and the equipment he was using. The importance of keeping complete and accurate records and informing members of practices and protocols to make sure they understand them was brought up as well. It helps with the safety of department members. Please try to resolve issues locally before contacting the State and/or PESH.

Alex was here as well and updated everyone as to what is going on with the Control Center and the new radio system and the progress being made. There are 2 new dispatchers that are currently going through training. Due to staff turnover they will also be hiring several more in the next few weeks.

There will be a new EMS dispatch protocol put in place. It is a more flexible system to help in questioning the caller. They will also be looking to update law enforcement and fire protocol as well.

The install has been completed and there is some unofficial testing. Everything looks good. There was an opportunity to test during a storm and that went well. It looks like there will be 95% mobile coverage. The portable coverage is going to be better than expected.

Bulk pricing on equipment has been sent out to commissioners and departments and that should begin to move forward. The show he attended was very helpful and informative.

Official coverage testing will begin soon. Ideally, they wanted to test with foliage on the trees but they do not anticipate that will make much of a difference.

The channel lineup is not set, we are waiting on the FCC.

DPW is partially on line and working on the testing as well. The Sheriff will be on soon. If all goes well the Fire Service should be on in January or February. If you are ready you can move paging over. If you are not ready full service is expected by April or May. If there are any questions you can always contact Alex. Jason asked about the lag time when the mike is keyed. It appears that is something everyone will need to get used to.

Committee Reports:

Arson Task Force: Fire Investigations are down from the past couple of years. 36 total investigation requests, 3 were incendiary, and 18 accidental and 15 undetermined. That is very frustrating but arson is a difficult crime to prove.

There have been 2 fatalities and 1 serious injury.

There are 8 active investigators and 7 of those have attended a CLE Seminar with funds provided by the State based on each departments fire reporting. Some also attended sessions at the Dutchess Fire Academy at their own expense. Online training is also available to them. Charlie has retired but they are doing well with the people that they have.

Radio: Nothing further

Communications: None

Old Business: None

New Business: Russ wanted to thank everyone for their dedication and the time they spend at these meetings. He does not plan on coming back for 2017.

Good and Welfare: Please keep Bernie in your prayers. He is facing some serious health issues.

Everyone have a happy and safe holiday season.

Meeting adjourned 7:54pm

Next meeting January 30, 2017 at 7:30pm at the Government Center