

Ross Turner
Chairman

Jason Kraack
Vice Chairman
Sullivan County Fire Advisory Board

Mary Ann Drobysch
Secretary

Date: January 30, 2023

Meeting called to order at: 7:05: pm

Attendance: 12 out of 15 members present

Minutes: Accepted as read

Bethel: Peter Maltese	P
Callicoon: Ross Turner	P
Cochecton: Jason Knack	P
Delaware: Tom Dent	P
Fallsburg: Chris Sutoski	P
Forestburgh: Michael Rommell	A
Fremont: George Conklin	A
Highland: Dave Preston	P
Liberty: Don Sherwood	P
Lumberland: David Hook	P
Mamakating: William Tobin	P
Neversink: Michael Kelly	A
Rockland: Guy Baker	P
Thompson: Ed Walsh	P
Tusten: Craig Burkle	P

Minutes from the previous meeting and were amended under coordinators report to show that the BOCES program for firefighter is 1 year and 1 year for EMT, one or both are available. Minutes accepted as amended.

Coordinators Report:

John welcomes both new and returning members.

The annual report will be available in March.

The Sullivan 180 Challenge for Fire Departments is up and running, 17 departments have signed on so far. It runs from January 1 to August 31. If any department wishes to join, please contact Lindsey Wheat.

The BOCES programs will begin in September, details are being ironed out.

There will be an evening EMT class at SCCC.

The Rehab unit is available and ready for the winter. Please note that it does not function as an auxiliary, it is there for the support of first responders. Departments auxiliary units should be on hand to hand out water and snacks. The rehab team has been conducting drills with the unit.

Please note that background checks are required for all new recruits. The form needed is on the Bureau of Fire's website. Recruitment is up from last year, the task force has been very helpful.

Committee Reports:

Arson Task Force: No report

Radio: Alex welcomes both the old and new members. He offered to help if anyone has any questions.

The Rock Hill tower is waiting on some equipment. New microwave links are being installed and Motorola is also working on the site. It will include a national interoperable repeater, the first in the County.

Other Tower and antennae work will be done in the spring, as well as paging enhancements. Motorola will also be working on various equipment issues.

Orange County is also doing upgrades to their equipment and putting a new fiber optic system and servers in place.

Please be patient as we have several new dispatchers.

All departments should encourage proper use of radios. Please turn off the scanning functions, it makes communications more difficult.

The Control Center was instrumental in the delivery of 2 babies this year.

If there is an issue with radio communications it is important to let report the problem right away so it can be investigated right away, Contact either Alex or John.

Activated Alarm Committee: A draft proposal was sent to everyone. Chiefs need to document any false alarms and contact the proper building department. At first the homeowners would receive warnings and then if it continues there would be an increasing fine schedule. The towns code enforcement does not always do the paperwork that is needed, and the towns do not always follow up with collections. When they do they do, the money does not usually get passed down to the fire departments.

As far as Air B & B's, they are not all being registered with the town, so the facilities and equipment do not get properly inspected. Some towns have more procedures in place, such as inspections and registrations.

Homeowners do not always prepare the renters on how to use the facilities and who to contact if there is an issue. Properties are sometimes rented beyond capacity. Perhaps some kind of fact sheet could be handed out by the owners to the tenants that cover the basic use for occupancy. We need to push the towns into doing something.

Communications: Mike Kelly sent an email questioning the possible use of Zoom meetings. We have tries that in the past and did not have a lot of success with attendance.

It would be helpful if everyone could respond to the minutes mail whether or not that are available to attend the next meeting. Some towns have procedures in place, but not all. The County does not monitor for room tax unless they are registered with the towns.

Old Business: None

New Business: There was discussion on tax incentives and what is available. Chris Knapp for the Real Property Tax Service will be doing a presentation on Fallsburg in March.

There are possibly other incentives on the way. The FASNY website has some information available.

We will have Aileen Gunther to our next meeting to discuss what we feel are our needs as well as some of the options available and what may be coming in the future.

Mary Ann was reappointed as secretary.

Good and Welfare None

Meeting Adjourned 7:40pm

Next meeting March 27, 2023 at 7:00 pm
Russell Reeves will be at the meeting to swear in all members