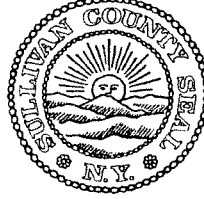


BILL LOTHROP  
CHAIRMAN

TIM SCHADT  
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:** September 22, 2008

**Meeting called to order at:** 7:31pm

**Pledge to the flag was held**

### **Attendance:**

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

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

### **Coordinators Report:**

John Hauschild has been appointed as the Emergency Services Training Center Coordinator.

The EMS Advisory Board is still reorganizing.

Dick has met with several of the gas companies looking to work in Sullivan County. They went over some of the issues that might involve the fire service. They are also willing to meet with local departments as well. There are shut off valves for the lines so there are no real fire issues for local departments other then to secure the area if a problem should occur.

The County is working on the budget problems.

The design for the classrooms is finished; the project has gone out to bid. 2 classrooms and an extension for an equipment room are planned. They will also be looking to add floodlights and pave the lots. There is some money available for that as well.

SWIN has many issues that need to be fixed. The State may not continue the program if the problems are not resolved. The State is aware of the communications problems we, as well as other counties have. We will need to do a countywide feasibility study by an outside agency, not by sales reps. So we know specifically what needs to be addressed.

As of October 1<sup>st</sup> there will be required preregistration for all training classes. We have had several classes cancelled this summer. Ulster and Orange have had similar problems.

We need to submit to the State our requests for the 2009 classes by mid January. Joe is putting the classes together and then John Hauschild will handle the attendance part of it. Up until this summer it had been a good year with well attended classes. The Wildland Search and Rescue Team and the Dive Team have received a \$10,000.00 grant obtained by Aileen Gunther.

The Firefighters Association has donated a storage container for the Training Center. It was placed by the existing one. We are still looking for another ½ container. There was some discussion on communications, such as the use of high band with portable radios. There is very limited usage, not all the coordinators have them. Cell Phone usage has increased. There are other things that are being worked on as well. When talking with Pennsylvania we need to use cell phones, we are on different frequencies.

Alex Rau was at our meeting and explained that the database in the control center needs to be updated. There are a lot of non emergency personal listed, as well as old and outdated phone numbers and that is causing some problems with the texting and paging of calls.

There is a new dispatcher, Jeffrey Walter.

There was testing done last week of the use of the mobile command center as a backup to the Wurtsboro tower. They are making some adjustments so it will work better.

There is work being done at the State Police backup system as well.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Training Facility:** no report

**EMS:** no report

**Arson Investigation:** There is an ongoing investigation into the Fallsburg incident. There have been arrests made. Charlie noted that the team has done a good job and gave some statistics on how we rank compared to the national average. We are under the average. If the chiefs are busy the battalion coordinator can call for an investigator. First interviews are crucial in the investigation process.

**Radio/Communications:** SWIN does not look encouraging. There will be a committee meeting in October.

**Tax Abatement:** The Governor has vetoed a proposal that would have allowed both the income tax and property tax abatements. Only one will be allowed. This has been strongly criticized by FASNY. There is more information on the FASNY website.

**Winter Residential Heating Committee:** This is a new Committee in anticipation of a long a financially difficult winter for many residents. This is a multi-agency committee and Bernie is our representative. Jack Halchak is also on it. This committee is also to help people with their heating problems. They will be working with various organizations and vendors to try and head off potential problems. The expected problems for the fire service include an increased number of “creative” heating solutions by homeowners that could result in unsafe situations. There will also be a new report for the fire service, an alternative heating report which can be used to compile data for informational purposes. They will be applying for a grant for fire prevention as well. Ulster and Orange counties are trying similar ideas as well.

**Correspondence:** Mike Reuber has resigned from this Board as he is leaving the area. We will write him to thank him for his long service to this Board. Dick will see if Leni Binder and the County Manager will write as well.

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:**

The communications committee will meet in October.

Bill asked if everyone could begin the process of getting their appointment letters for next year. He will be reviewing the attendance for this year and passing that information along to the appropriate parties. We only had 5 meetings this year and there are some people who have only been to 1 o 2 meetings. You really need to come to the meetings a represent your town.

He also wanted to make sure that everyone is receiving their minutes, whether by email or regular mail.

Tom asked if the minutes can be sent out earlier. Bill suggested that while you are at the meeting you could take notes as to what is important.

The Chiefs are upset about the change in protocol for tone outs for drills. Only 1 is being done and they would like at least 2. Alex said that the control center will be revisiting the announcement policy. The protocols were designed to be fluid and can be changed when a need arises. When they come up with something they will send it out. This will be discussed at the next Battalion Coordinators meeting as well. There are changes expected by the end of the year.

**Good and Welfare:** none

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:35 pm**

**Next Meeting November 24, 2008 at 7:30 pm at the Sullivan County  
Government Center**