

Bernie Deutsch  
Chairman

Russell Turner  
Vice Chairman

Mary Ann Drobysh  
Secretary

**Sullivan County Fire Advisory Board**

**Date:** September 29, 2014

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

**Pledge to the flag was held**

**Attendance:** 9 out of 14 members present

**Minutes:** Accepted as read

Bethel: George Roosevelt	P
Callicoon: Jim Doughty	P
Cochecton: Gary Cochrane	A
Delaware: Paul Hendershot	A
Fallsburg: Bernard Deutsch	A
Forestburgh: Art Salomon	A
Fremont: David Hirsch	A
Highland: Warren Wagner	A
Liberty: Don Sherwood	P
Lumberland: Charlie Fallon	P
Mamakating: Lou Tunno	P
Neversink: Russell Turner	P
Rockland: Michael Juron	P
Thompson: Brain Soller	P
Tusten: Craig Burkle	P

Russell thanked everyone who attended the Thunder Hill Tower presentation.

**Coordinators Report:**

Jack Halchak was at the meeting for Dick. He reported that the Thunder Hill and Tennanah Lake towers are completed. 6 other contracts have been awarded. The County is working on finalizing the insurance. Everything is on schedule and the additional towers should be constructed simultaneously.

Jack will forward me a list of the members of the radio committee and I will send it out with the minutes. They have met once.

We had 100% fire reporting this year for the first time in a long time. That results in \$1,000.00 in scholarship money for the Arson Task Force.

There was a Countywide Chief's meeting regarding a proposal for Fire Fighter 1. Jack will forward it to me and I will send it out with the minutes.

The State has passed the law regarding background checks for registered sex offenders. Departments can run the check and then decide if they want to admit the person as a member. Checks can also be run on existing members.

If someone has been convicted of arson they are not allowed to join. Each department's by-laws should have good morals clause contained within.

The repairs to the training tower have been completed.

The bid for the stadium lighting has been opened up.

The Fallen Firefighter Memorial in Albany will be on October 7.

Jack detailed some of the grants that have been awarded and others that are being worked on, including a grant for 30 laptops and 30 ebooks for Fire Fighter 1. Jack has previewed the ebook and found it easy to read. There are links to videos and PowerPoint presentations. The long range goal is to have a laptop for each student. It may be possible to assign an ebook with a user name and password for use at home.

The County Fire District Association has purchased 30 new Fire Fighter 1 workbooks, they should be here soon.

### **Committee Reports:**

Arson Task Force: Monthly reports were not ready, no report.

Radio: No report.

**Communications:** None

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** The HazMat plan revisions were discussed. There were not a lot of changes, just modernizing the plan a bit and adding additional phone numbers. After discussion a motion was made to accept the plan as amended, motion seconded and passed. We will forward the revised plan to the County for their review and approval.

Russell asked if the new radio system would support voice and text messaging. Jack explained that system purchased was a voice paging system. Approximately 1000 units have been purchased. There were some questions regarding the distribution of the units, the County has not yet decided on a plan. The County purchase is not meant to supply every firefighter in every department, each department will have to purchase any additional units that may need. The County is doing their best to try and ease the burden on individual departments, they are always looking for new grant money. Many departments have been putting money aside for this project. If there are any questions you can contact the Bureau of Fire. The existing low band radios can still be used for fire ground communications. Charlie asked if there were any low band car radios available. He will check with Dick and send an email out looking for any.

Brian stated that any issues with the new radio project should be addressed with the proper people, there is a lot of misinformation going around. Charlie has a disc to hand out to everyone on Fire Scene Preservation and Investigation.

Don asked about the topics addressed at the spring meeting with the Hasidic organizations. There was recently a fire in Liberty that resulted in the death of a child. Local Fire and EMS had trouble getting to the location due to the amount of Hatzolah members responding and blocking access. Perhaps Dick could address these issues in the spring meeting. This is a problem for all local departments and is a public safety issue that needs to be addressed.

Good and Welfare: A moment of silence was observed in memory of Harold Kronenberg.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

**Next meeting November 24, 2014 at 7:30pm at the  
Government Center**