

Ross Turner  
Chairman

Jason Kraack  
Vice Chairman  
**Sullivan County Fire Advisory Board**

Mary Ann Drobysch  
Secretary

**Date:** Sept 25, 2023

**Meeting called to order at:** 705: pm

**Attendance:** 9 out of 15 members present

**Minutes:** Accepted as read

Bethel: Peter Maltese	A
Callicoon: Ross Turner	A
Cochecton: Jason Knack	P
Delaware: Tom Dent	A
Fallsburg: Chris Sutoski	P
Forestburgh: Michael Rommell	P
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	A
Thompson: Ed Walsh	P
Tusten: Craig Burkle	P

Minutes from the previous meeting were read and accepted as read.

**Coordinators Report:**

John reminded everyone to get sworn in if they already haven't.

Attendance records will be sent out to all the Town Supervisors.

Joel Mall is the new coordinator at the Training Center.

There will be a lithium-ion battery training seminar at the Monticello Fire Department on 12/11. The FDNY will be presenting. The problems lie mostly with aftermarket additions and not those factory installed.

The EMT training at SCCC will begin again in the spring.

The BOCES program did not have enough students for FF1 but 13 attendees and is currently training. The BOCES Carpentry Department is building the training props, materials were donated by the County Firefighters Association.

The Fall/Winter Class schedule at the Training Center will be announced soon.

The Recruitment Task Force, with assistance from the County Firefighters Association, has been very busy with multiple events and has had some success. Over 90 background checks have been submitted to the Sheriff's Office. They are also looking for a company to create a web page to list all the county fire departments with links to each department's website. There will also be an online application for those departments without a website. In addition, a letter will be sent to every department, we are looking for 2 people ages 18-25 to do a program at the local schools to help with recruitment.

There are ongoing training drills with the rehab unit.

We are still waiting on NY State for their review of our Arson and Mutual Aid Plans. Once we have the approval, we will review them here and forward on to the Public Safety Committee and then the full Legislature.

There is still not a list for the Workman's Comp list of doctors and facilities. John will follow up on that. Please remember that you should always get a claim number by phone and do not pay the bill. If you do pay you may not be reimbursed.

Billy Steinberg will be honored at the Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Albany on 10/10/23, the information will be sent out to all departments.

Alex was here to give a report on the 911 Center. There are new dispatchers to replace the ones that have left. They are also still looking for new people, there is an application on the County website. Please let your departments know.

Every few weeks dispatching is done from the State Police backup center to make sure that it is functioning correctly in the event of a problem at the 911 center.

There will be an upgrade in March to all the phones at the 911 center, the lines will be replaced with fiber and the old copper lines will be used as a backup.

Work on the radio system, towers and microwave links There is no date yet for the antennae change at the Wurtsboro Tower.

There is an issue with radio coverage in some schools. There was an issue at Sullivan West during testing. All departments should conduct testing with the schools in their district, if any help is needed, please contact Alex. Ground channels only should be used. Stairwells and basement seem to be the problem areas.

Everyone should sign up with the NY Alert Notification System. There are multiple alerts and areas you can select. The County uses the service.

Mental health calls that do not involve immediate danger or weapons should be handled outside the 911 system.

**Committee Reports:**

**Arson Task Force:** Things have slowed a bit with calls but still very busy with training, certifications, and conferences.

**Radio:** Nothing further.

**Activated Alarm Committee:** Last month there were over activated alarms. Still, not all towns have rules regarding this issue. We will compile more information and draft a letter to send out.

**Communications:** None

**Old Business:** The Air B&B issues are ongoing. Not every municipality has procedures in place. There are code enforcement/inspection issues, as well as capacity, parking and usage. There is no system in place to inform renters of any safety hazards, equipment operation, etc. We will send a letter to the legislature regarding our concerns,

**New Business:** If you cannot attend our meetings, please consider having someone appointed in your place.

**Good and Welfare:** None

**Meeting Adjourned 7:37**

**Next meeting November 27, 2023 at 7:00 pm**