



Suffolk County Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services Commission
PO Box 127 – Yaphank, NY 11980
(631) 852-4851

MINUTES OF
February 24, 2010 MEETING

Chairman LaFerrera opened the meeting at 8:03 p.m., followed by the Salute to the Flag and a moment of silence for sick and departed members: Robert Mistler, Jr. from Medford.

Acceptance of Minutes:

The minutes of the January 27, 2010 meeting were accepted by a motion from K Capon and seconded by C. Del Vecchio. The motion carried.

Correspondence: T. Portoghese

Correspondence received since last meeting:

- Memo from Bob Delagi to All Ambulance and First Response Services re: Updates to NY State DOH – BEMS Policy Statement;
- Memo from Bob Delagi to All Ambulance and First Response Services re: NY PCR Supply, January 22 and a follow-up memo January 27 re: NY State PCR Supply – New PCRs;
- Letter from the SC Fire District Officers Association regarding lack of interest in the Suffolk County Combined Radio Committee;
- Nomination letter from Suffolk County Ambulance Chiefs Association regarding a one-year term for their representative on this Commission. It has been forwarded to the County Executive's Intergovernmental Relations Unit since their request is contrary to the Charter.

Correspondence sent since last meeting:

- Letters of support for the SAFER Grant to Senators Schumer and Gillibrand and Congressmen Bishop, Israel and King.

Treasurer's Report: C. Del Vecchio

The opening balance was \$4076.60. One debit which left a closing balance of \$3907.49. Motion made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. All in favor and no one opposing, the motion was carried.

Report of Officers: A. LaFerrera / J. Egan

T. LaFerrera: IR 1078 to add additional seat to FRESC. This will be before the Public Safety Committee tomorrow. Bill IR 1034 regarding County commissions' attendance policy.

J. Egan: regarding Commission's checkbook – we will keep two (2) signers on checkbook.

Commissioner's Report: J. Williams

- Thanks for sending letters of support on SAFER Grant. Senator Schumer held a press conference on the SAFER Grant but it was mostly for Nassau County.
- Please bring back to boards, etc. to send in their fire reports. A department that does not send in its fire reports will lose out on grant money. We are doing better than we have in the past. We were at about 55%; we are now at about 80%.
- We have only 27 departments reporting on Bishop's Bill (PSAPs). We need to get more active with this. Eventually the low numbers will come out and we will be accused of hiding something.
- I commend Ron Barz and Tony LaFerrera at the number of meetings they attend.
- The recent fires in schools are a hot item; we get a lot of phone calls wanting information on these fires. I think we need a PIO. For example, fire coordinators say we need fire sprinklers and the Town Fire Marshal says we don't. We need to present a united front and not contradict each other. R. Sorrentino: it would be a good idea to have a "county PIO". This way they would be able to contact all media and let them know what is going on. J. Williams: we used to have one but the position was cut and due to the current financial constraints, it probably won't happen any time soon. We need someone who is a full time employee of the county to be a FRES PIO for the fire service. J. Egan: Maybe for now we can get an updated list of media contacts that we can contact with "good news". J. Williams: Please tell your chiefs that it is better for them to talk to media than not to. They will write what they want if they don't get anything from department.

Deputy Commissioner's Report: Absent

Fire Marshal's Report: W. Horst

- Updates for Fire Rescue Directory: It was a suggestion that chiefs not publish their addresses due to theft of radios; it is not a mandate.
- Introductory Resolution 1173: a "tightening up" of the current law regarding those that service portable fire extinguishers. On March 2nd at the Riverhead County Center there will be a public hearing. We are looking to the fire service to support this legislation. Text is in Legislature home page / intro reso 2010 / 1173.
- Progress on capital projects: money appropriated for taxpayer building, flashover simulators. We are waiting for backup documentation which hopefully will be issued shortly and then the requisition will be submitted to Purchasing. Introductory Resolution was sent in recently for lighting on training grounds and on Suffolk Avenue.
- Kickoff meeting with the police department on the rehabilitation of the radio room. Timeline is tentative but perhaps in September. FRES is part of the police department's system now and in the future.

Fire Academy: R. Holley

- Last Monday, VEEB selected a candidate for open seat.
- We had the second highest FFI class last January. We have no one to host this class now. Please bring this back to your agencies.
- Regarding our budget: there is a link on our website to email letters to NY lawmakers.
- We have sensors in taxpayers building for flashover simulator.

SCPD – Special Patrol Bureau: Capt. J. Blosser

We ordered a new AStar helicopter. We expect delivery some time in the summer.

EMS: M. Masterton

- A lot of EMTs are graduating in March – 10 classes. Agencies are doing well. We're back to where we were in the 70s. Big news is that on March 1st protocols go into effect. Can go online to take protocol exam. Most supervisors are already credentialed.
- H1N1 is winding down.
- D. Silverman: Restraint protocols: decided to have a universal restraint. M. Masterton: You would have to take a class to use this restraint. The medical community wanted restraint protocols clear cut. REMAC was trying to get all hospitals to buy into a commercial restraint device and then agencies would be able to get them from the hospitals. It is a Velcro device. Do not use any restraint without being trained on it.

Budget Committee: D. Silverman

- We met prior to this meeting to discuss:
 - 3405 replacement of well / to replacement underground storage tanks / improvements to taxpayer and tower bldg / request lights on training grounds / to begin planning and design for 2 new buildings
 - 3416 rehab of radio room / looking for funding in 2013 for building UHF towers
 - 3418 EOC improvements – for planning, design, construction, furnishings and equipment. New building is being requested to include prefab buildings including solar panels and wind turbines.
- Our hearing is next week on the 3rd.
- D. Silverman motioned for a letter to County Exec to support our capital projects. K. Capon seconded. Motion carried.

Arson Task Force: Absent

Combined Radio Committee: N. Reilly, Jr.

Meeting scheduled March 10th. We are going to reach out to all organizations to get their members to these meetings. Concern is very valid and we are going to try to rejuvenate this committee. Meeting is @ 7:30 pm.

M. Quinn: narrow banding is an FCC mandate. Deadline is January 1 2013 for narrowbanding. This does not affect low band (46.46 MHz) fire frequencies. It involves all VHF (150-174 MHz) and UHF (421-512 MHz systems). Today these systems operate in "wideband" with 25 kHz

frequency separations. As of January 1, 2011, the FCC will no longer accept new applications for VHF or UHF frequencies that are not narrowband compliant. January 1, 2013 – mandated to go to 12.5 kHz frequency separations. This affects VHF and UHF base stations, mobiles and portable radios. Those purchased after 1998 may be capable of being reprogrammed. Check with your radio vendor or service provider. Expect 6.25 kHz channel separation mandate from the FCC in the future.

Buildings & Grounds: K. Capon

- Barbeque grill is close to building. Used to be out in grass. Working with DPW to put cement block and overhang so employees can utilize the outside area.
- Light on corner – is it being replaced? Yes.
- Lights in parking lot go on and off. Can't they stay on? Will check into it.

Legislation & Standards: E. Tully

Working on consolidation bill and rope law. Many districts have been cited for not having SOPs in place. (Consolidation bill: fire districts, chiefs, FASNY, Fire Coordinators, Fire Police, EMS, Fire Marshals, Fire Investigators.)

Codes & Prevention: Absent

EMS & REMSCO: A. LaFerrera

REMSCO talked about radio theft and then posted addressed on their website. I will bring up this issue at the next meeting.

Burn Center: C. Zitek

- The Burn Center has been busy. A patient was moved from Nassau County Burn Center to Suffolk County Burn Center. Finished life support class of about 40 people. We have been asking for patches for a patch board. Please send a patch if you haven't done so yet.
- May 16th at 1:00 pm at hospital is Recognition Day.
- J. Williams: Can we do some kind of educational program to let all chiefs know that they should send people to the Burn Center instead of going to a local hospital (unless it is life threatening). C. Zitek: We are trying to do all that we can to get the word out. Kevin Peterson does a presentation at the new chiefs seminar. If anyone has any ideas please let me know. We have a Fire Coordinators meeting this Sunday, perhaps someone can come and "talk up" Stony Brook's Burn Center. Stony Brook also has a Burn Clinic; this is for those who aren't badly burned enough to need the Center. They are seen on an outpatient basis. Some doctors and PAs examine, evaluate and treat patients at the Clinic as well as the Center.

Recruitment & Retention: K. Capon

R. Vella: Any way we can get a banner saying how many alarms were answered in 2009? J. Williams: We will get that done through DPW.

Old Business:

Nothing.

New Business:

C. Del Vecchio motioned that there be two signatures on FRES Commission checks with three approved as signers. Seconded by R. Sorrentino. Motion carried.

April's meeting date has to be changed or cancelled. C. Del Vecchio motioned for it to be cancelled and R. Sorrentino seconded. Motioned carried.

SCFDOA.org is Suffolk County Fire District Officers' Association website.

J. Egan motioned that all Commission members absent from last month's meeting be excused. Seconded by R. Vella. All in favor; motion carried.

Public Comment:

None.

A motion was made to adjourn meeting by R. Sorrentino and seconded by C. Del Vecchio. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Members Present	Members Excused	Staff Present	Guests Present
A. LaFerrera	R. Keller	J. Williams	R. Knight
K. Capon	C. Bancroft	W. Horst	J. Capon
C. Del Vecchio	F. Thornhill	R. Holley	W. Masterton
C. Zitek	J. Carney	M. Quinn	Capt. John Blosser
R. Vella	S. Thebold	T. Portoghese	
D. Carrigan	V. Bologna		
E. Tully			
R. Sorrentino			
N. Reilly			
D. Silverman			
J. Egan			

NEXT MEETING	Wednesday, March 24, 2010
TIME	8:00 pm
LOCATION	SC Dept. FRES Library, Yaphank
REFRESHMENTS	C. Zitek and C. Bancroft