



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

MINUTES OF  
March 24, 2010 MEETING

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Chairman LaFerrera opened the meeting at 8:02 p.m., followed by the Salute to the Flag and a moment of silence for sick and departed members: Ex-Chief Marty Albert of Babylon, Ex-Chief Jerry Kidney of Rocky Point and Ex-Chief Louis Rispoli of Centerport.

Acceptance of Minutes:

The minutes of the February 24, 2010 meeting were accepted by a motion from K. Capon and seconded by P. Garypie with the following correction under REMSCO: posted addresses on their website, didn't give out addresses. The motion carried.

Correspondence: T. Portoghese

Correspondence received since last meeting:

- Memo from Bob Delagi Department of Health Services to All Ambulance and First Response Services regarding Post Exposure Follow-up / Blood borne Pathogens.

Correspondence sent since last meeting:

- Letter to NYS representatives (officials) regarding 2010-2011 Executive Budget with regard to amount of state aid paid to county VEEB. Sent electronically from Fire Academy website.
- Letter to County Executive and County Legislators in support of the 2011 proposed Capital Budget.

List of courses offered are on the last page of these minutes.

Treasurer's Report: C. Del Vecchio

The opening balance was \$3907.46. The closing balance was \$4307.46 after a deposit of \$400. 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

A. LaFerrera: attended last Public Safety meeting. Attended Southampton Chiefs' which had a presentation on Chemical Suicide.

There is an Introductory Resolution (#1029) before the Legislature; it is regarding providing fixed year terms for public safety appointments. This would affect FRES, PD and Probation.

J. Egan: Looking for five year terms. Appointments would have to be approved by the Legislature. This subject came up at Suffolk County Chiefs' meeting. The majority of people were in favor of supporting this bill. We were very vocal when Dave Fischler was going to be replaced. If someone new comes in, we're back to square one. We want continuity. Part of issue is that we have continuity. If bill passes, the County Executive has to come back to the FRES Commission for recommendations for Commissioner, then that person would have to go before the Legislature. This resolution was tabled at last night's meeting.

Commissioner's Report: J. Williams

- I commend everyone on how the storm a couple of weeks ago was handled. The Radio Room did a great job; it was the busiest since the blackout of 2003. There is a good possibility that Newsday will put a bad spin on it. There were 2418 calls in 24 hours. 911 transfers from PD to FRES. We were taking Suffolk PD and Nassau County 911 calls.
- Snowstorm in December was denied by FEMA and we are appealing. We had damage in November, December and March.
- Thank you for all your letters of support for the SAFER Grant.
- Regarding the banner/signs with number of calls. Put on recruitment signs and here at the Fire Academy.
- Thank you for letters on capital budget.

N. Reilly motioned for a letter to Communications Bureau in doing a good job on March 13<sup>th</sup>. J. Carney seconded.

M. Quinn: The Commissioner wrote letters of commendation for each person working during the storm and it went in their personnel folder.

Deputy Commissioner's Report: J. Searing

- There was a meeting on the Capital Budget
  - 3405 is done in phases (Fire Academy). Removal of tanks / replacement of lights / design of garden apartment building.
  - 3416 – Rehabilitation of Radio Room – has been bonded. We have a preliminary timeline. Phase 3 of 3416 is UHF capability.
  - 2012 for EOC renovations and improvement and a storage building out back. It would be a green building i.e., energy efficient.
- Hydrant Law passed last year and we are working on this project and are trying to get a handle on what's involved. We are working with the various Fire Marshals Offices to get this rolling.
- Extinguisher Law passed yesterday. It strengthened law for fixed systems not just portable.
- Resolution was introduced stating that private residential communities must clear snow from roadways and puts accountability on FRES.
- Again, fire reporting is extremely important.
- We will be going out in the next several months regarding CAD preplan.

Fire Marshal's Report: Absent

Fire Academy: D. Stockinger

- State Aid Issue: letters continue to go out. 800 to 900 people have accessed our website to send out email. We haven't heard back about \$437,000 that State owes us. County Attorney's office is handling it. Received our award letter for next year and we will net \$366,000+.
- Capital projects: well has been completed and training has been conducted.
- Medal of Valor – submissions from 6 departments with a total of 17 individuals. Turned over to VEEB board and they will be making their selections.
- Fire Police Certification was conducted on March 16<sup>th</sup>. We will start to offer it in the early summer.
- Fire Instructor Program will be May 13-16 and May 21-23. It is a 50 hour class.
- USAR Task Force. There was a meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Over 183 people turned out for the meeting. Discussed requirements; applications are coming in; planning team will be meeting to go over all of this.

SCPD – Special Patrol Bureau: Capt. J. Blosser

Helicopter fleet status. Expecting new helicopter in June or July. Right now, we have one (1) helicopter out of service for inspection and have two (2) in service. We expect the inspection to go well. Deputy Inspector spoke regarding terrorist bombing – we tried to tailor it to EMS and Fire community. It is good training.

Question asked of him regarding selection of landing zones. Our approach is that fire responders know their area and if they pick a site they want to use for whatever reason, we feel that as long as it is a safe place to land, we will. Some agencies have a preplan and if landing site has been used and all like it, we will use that one.

EMS: M. Masterton

- We are involved with the Fire Academy on the USAR Team; incident bombing.
- Education: We had good turnout for CME. 600 people were credentialed; 500 people will be taking EMT classes.
- EMS Conference will be in NYC August 26 – 29, 2010
- Ceremony for Line of duty deaths will be held May 19<sup>th</sup> in Albany.

Budget Committee: D. Silverman

No report.

Arson Task Force: Absent

Combined Radio Committee: N. Reilly, Jr.

We had a meeting earlier in March that was very well attended. We covered many pertinent items. Next meeting is scheduled for June 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm.

Nicolls Road is to be closed on Sunday from 8:00 am to noon for the marathon.

R. Sorrentino: whatever happened to "plain language"? It seems as if we are going away from it instead of towards it. J. Searing: it is not gone. We have gotten very positive feedback.

Buildings & Grounds: K. Capon

Thank Commissioner for moving the grill away from the door. It is the time of year to do an inspection of the grounds. Since April's meeting is cancelled, it will be on May 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

Legislation & Standards: E. Tully, absent but submitted report

- Went to Albany 3/16 with Suffolk and Nassau law and legislation.
- Gave out proposals on Consolidation of Fire Districts and the Rope Law.
- Saw Suffolk Assemblymen and State Senators about this Consolidation Bill.
- We want to change it or Exempt Fire Districts like Albany did for the School Districts. There are 15 pages of proposals to Chapter 74 of the law of 2009.

J. Egan: Thought it would become a dead issue.

Codes & Prevention: V. Bologna, Jr.

Residential sprinklers. As of 2012 it should be part of the code.

EMS & REMSCO: A. LaFerrera

REMSCO:

- There is going to be an EMT program at SCCC; only 24 students per year; it will start in the fall of 2011.
- Response times and reporting – please get information into the Commissioner's Office.
- Ryan White Act – all EMS must have a designated officer.
- They are seeking two seats on the FRES Commission.

Burn Center: C. Zitek

The Clean Room is finished. Last meeting was held in there. We will be ordering equipment shortly with a grant. Thank you everyone who donated. The University has plans on moving the Burn Center and it will be a better facility.

Anyone interested in joining the Burn Center, please see anyone involved.

Recruitment & Retention: K. Capon

No meeting until next month.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- S. Thebold motioned for a letter on term limits. Seconded by J. Carney. Motion carried.
- Re: Newsday puts out nasty article; when are we going to do something? Someone has to come up with a plan. Perhaps Executive Committee should get together after article comes out and decide what should be done; perhaps a letter should be written. N. Reilly motioned for Executive Committee to get together and write letter. Seconded

by S. Thebold. Motion carried with no opposition. R. Vella – we should do this as a Joint Committee letter also.

- C. Zitek motioned that all Commission members absent from last month’s meeting be excused. Seconded by R. Vella. All in favor; motion carried.

New Chiefs’ Orientation is on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at Fire Academy.

Public Comment:

Public Safety meeting is on April 22 with the general meeting and public hearing on April 27 at 2:30 pm. I don’t think the public has a clue about how much the fire service did during the storm. J. Williams mentioned having a Suffolk County employee as a fire service PIO. There was a push for individual fire departments to do this on their own but it never really got off the ground.

Legislature office will have representation here at times.

A motion was made to adjourn meeting by R. Vella and seconded by C. Del Vecchio. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Members Excused</b>	<b>Staff Present</b>	<b>Guests Present</b>
A. LaFerrera	C. Bancroft	J. Williams	M. Barry
S. Thebold	E. Tully	J. Searing	J. Capon
K. Capon	R. Keller	R. Stockinger	M. Masterton
V. Bologna		M. Quinn	B. Knight
C. Del Vecchio		T. Portoghese	Capt. J. Blosser
C. Zitek			
R. Vella			
D. Carrigan			
P. Garypie			
R. Sorrentino			
N. Reilly			
D. Silverman			
F. Thornhill			
J. Egan			
J. Carney			

<b>NEXT MEETING</b>	Wednesday, May 26, 2010
<b>TIME</b>	8:00 pm
<b>LOCATION</b>	SC Dept. FRES Library, Yaphank
<b>REFRESHMENTS</b>	R. Keller and R. Vella

**LIST OF COURSES OFFERED**

<b>Course</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Days / Time</b>
EMT-Basic Original	SC EMS Academy	5/24-8/19/10	Mons,Tues&Weds 2-6pm