



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

MINUTES OF
March 23, 2011 MEETING

Chairman LaFerrera opened the meeting at 7:56 p.m., followed by the Salute to the Flag and a moment of silence for sick and departed members:

Acceptance of Minutes:

The minutes of the February meeting were accepted by a motion from K. Capon and seconded by E. Tully with correction noted under new business. The motion carried.

Correspondence: T. Portoghese

Correspondence received since last meeting:

- Rules and Regulations and Application for Recognition of Outstanding Contribution 2010 NYS EMS Awards Program from REMSCO.
- Thank you letter from Deputy Commissioner John Searing for fruit basket after his knee surgery.
- Resignation letter from Craig Zitek due to obligations to his new job.

Correspondence sent since last meeting:

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

Treasurer's Report: C. Del Vecchio

The opening balance was \$3970.33. There was a deposit of \$100 and a \$92.23 debit leaving a closing balance of \$3978.10. Motion made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's reports. All in favor and no one opposing, the motion was carried. Many organizations still owe dues for 2011.

Report of Officers: A. LaFerrera / J. Egan

LaFerrera: Stony Brook Hospital (specifically the Burn Center (has been the topic of many meetings regarding cuts. Article 6 money will probably affect EMS.

Vella: probably the thing that will affect us the most is EMS training.

Egan: Selden funeral last week was a great joint effort. The support was terrific.

Commissioner's Report: J. Williams

- Buzzer system for door has been removed, but we will give you access cards.
- We were able to promote Ed Springer to Chief Fire Marshal.
- We had to justify our department cars and not one car was taken from us.
- New radio room is done; still have some problems with text messaging to some departments. These problems are being worked on.
- We are getting hit with more budget cuts. I do not want to lay anyone off and we are being pushed hard on overtime. The Communications Bureau must be manned to a certain level. The overtime in that department from January to now is over \$200,000. Only grant funded overtime will be approved. Jeff cannot attend these meetings on overtime. I have to try to cut the overtime as much as I can. Travel is also cut. Every department is the same. Started out with a reduction in budget, took another 10%. We will still respond to emergencies. 2012 will be worse than 2011. I am pushing for 3 dispatchers, a supervisor and 3 fire marshals. We are low on fire marshals. It is difficult to cut fire marshals overtime because they get called out for fire alarms, the dogs get called out, etc.
- Hiring dispatchers hopefully in June or July. J. Carney motioned to support Commissioner in his hiring plan and this was seconded by E. Tully. Motion carried.
- There is no grant money to pay for a fire marshal position and that is a problem.

Deputy Commissioner's Report: AbsentFire Marshal's Report: AbsentFire Academy: D. Stockinger

- Opened up the field this week with firefighter training. Drainage system still needs more work; also lighting. Couldn't complete all the work due to all the snow.
- New course announcement – Scene Support Operations.
- USAR Team has a meeting this Tuesday night @ BNL. Main topic will be drill at Fire Island October 7 - 9.
- We have received applications from 7 departments with a total of 9 nominees.
- We are redeveloping the website; there will be a new look and on-line training.
- NFPA is developing training for hybrid and EV for the fire service that will be available July 1. See the website for highlights (www.evsaftytraining.org)

SCPD – Special Patrol Bureau: Sgt. B. Barrett

Letter was faxed out to all fire departments that we can program in every department's frequencies.

Helicopters: one is down for routine maintenance. Others are up. The County Executive put another helicopter in the capital budget. It is currently with the Legislature.

EMS: M. Masterton

Highlights from report at this meeting: A prepared statement was read into the record, concerning the Health Department's loss of future Article 6 money, and the State's administrative decision to disallow reimbursement for work already done since 2008, in

accordance with approved Municipal Health Services Plans, in which EMS objectives were identified.

Article 6 money is money that the State DOH gives a local Health Department for health-related programs that extend well beyond EMS into a wide area of public health protection, providing services to medically fragile people, forensic investigations and environmental protection, to name a few. Article 6 funding covers a wide variety of health services that included EMS activity over the last 20 plus years.

A full service health department like the SCDHS has multiple "mandated" services. EMS is not a mandated service. Additionally, the Governor eliminated future Article 6 reimbursement as EMS is considered an "optional" service.

The loss of revenue to offset EMS Division operating costs is significant and the full impact on these losses has not yet been determined.

Please refer any and all questions to Bob Delagi.

First Quarter Report Highlighted Items:

- Completed CLIA re-application process with 95% of agencies responded.
- Refresher classes opening: four (4) EMT-B, one (1) EMT-CC and one (1) EMT-P.
- Original classes opening: one (1) EMT-B daytime class and one (1) EMT-B afternoon class.
- Dix Hills Fire Department will be hosting a rapid BLS CME class starting in early April. Check the REMSCO website for info.

Budget Committee: D. Silverman

No report.

Arson Task Force: T. Crafts

Our accelerant detection canines and their handlers (Brett Martinez & Jul and Don Lynch & LP) will be recertified this summer.

Combined Radio Committee: N. Reilly, Jr.

Meeting will be scheduled shortly when Jeff is available.

Buildings & Grounds: K. Capon

Commissioner spoke with DPW and asked them to fix the light on the corner and was promised that it will be fixed. Walk around grounds before May's meeting.

Legislation & Standards: E. Tully

- 176B of town law states that volunteers are required to give a letter to their chief and Board of Fire Commissioners if they move out of the district.
- Rope bill 2600 is in the Labor committee on the Assembly side.
- We heard about the bill regarding fire district elections to be the same day as school budgets (by a new state senator).

Codes & Prevention: V. Bologna, Jr.

No Report.

EMS & REMSCO: A. LaFerrera

No REMSCO report; I was here at an emergency meeting regarding the burn center.

Burn Center: C. Zitek

- The Senate passed a bill to restore some money to the hospital. Hopefully most of the money will be restored. D. Carrigan motioned to send a letter and N. Reilly seconded.
- Get people to use Twitter and Facebook to keep pressure on – they are remarkable tools.

Recruitment & Retention: K. Capon

No Report.

Old Business:

Nothing.

New Business:

Fox 5 special. We will be discussing with members of chiefs councils of Nassau County the report when they get back from FDIC.

Public Comment:

Public Safety meetings are good to go to.

Silverman: Did Bob Delagi indicate that this commission could help him in any way?

E. Tully motioned that all those absent from last meeting be excused. K. Capon seconded. All in favor; motion carried.

A motion was made to adjourn meeting by C. Bancroft and seconded by C. Del Vecchio. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

See next page for Attendance, Next Meeting Information and Courses Offered.

Members Present	Members Excused	Staff Present	Guests Present
A LaFerrera	S. Thebold	J. Williams	J. Capon
K. Capon	R. Keller(alternate present)	D. Stockinger	A. Sullo
V. Bologna	R. Sorrentino	T. Portoghese	M. Masterton
C. Del Vecchio	F. Thornhill (alternate present)		R. Knight
C. Zitek			Sgt. Brian Barrett
C. Bancroft			
R. Vella			
D. Carrigan			
E. Tully			
N. Reilly			
D. Silverman			
J. Egan			
J. Carney			
B. Prosek			
Alternates Present			
T. Crafts – Smithtown Town Fire Chiefs' Council			
M. Barry – Brookhaven Town Fire Chiefs' Council			

NEXT MEETING	Wednesday, April 27, 2011
TIME	8:00 pm
LOCATION	SC Dept. FRES Library, Yaphank
REFRESHMENTS	V. Bologna and C. Del Vecchio

LIST OF COURSES OFFERED

Course	Location	Dates	Days / Time
Cert First Responder-Original	Brentwood Legion Amb	4/10-6/16/11	Ask for Specifics