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

MINUTES OF
May 25, 2011 MEETING

Chairman LaFerrera opened the meeting at 8:06 p.m., followed by the Salute to the Flag and a moment of silence for sick and departed members: Ex-Chief, Chaplain, Rick Van de Kieft, Mastic; Ex-Captain Lenny Melle, Rocky Point; and Harold Malkmes, Stony Brook.

Acceptance of Minutes:

The minutes of the March 23, 2011 meeting were accepted by a motion from K. Capon and seconded by R. Keller. The motion carried.

Correspondence: T. Portoghese

Correspondence received since last meeting:
Notice of veto of bill regarding PSAPs. (We think the veto will be overridden.)
No correspondence sent since last meeting.

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

Treasurer's Report: C. Del Vecchio

The March opening balance was $3978.10; there was a $350 deposit and a debit of $85.81, leaving a closing balance of $4242.29. The April opening balance was $4242.29 and with no activity, the closing balance was $4242.49; Motion made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's reports. All in favor and no one opposing, the motion was carried.

Report of Officers: A. LaFerrera / J. Egan

LaFerrera: attended several funerals.

Commissioner's Report: Absent

Deputy Commissioner's Report: J. Searing

- We have the SAFER Grant and we are the grantee; Nassau County is the sub-grantee. It is extremely important for all departments to submit their fire reports. Members from departments that do not report will be ineligible to receive SAFER Grant money. We hear that people hesitate to call Barbara Foley, then call me and let me know there's a problem. The information from the demographics survey we sent out is part of the grant.

We have goals that need to be met; if we don't meet the goals, the grant can be taken away.

- Capital budget went through review cycle. 3416 – FRES Communications Center Rehab/UHF Communications Infrastructure: it will start being funded in 2012 (putting UHF sites around the county).
- We have some sustainability money for the fire grounds.
- Operating budget is due in June and we are working on it right now. We have to cut another 5%.
- Communications issues: still a handful of departments with issues. Some older tone sets are not readily supported. We are working on these issues right now.
- We had a Verizon problem that caused them to be here for three days doing repairs.
- If anyone has a problem with communication issues, please get in touch with us right away.

LaFerrera: D. Silverman wants to send letters re: Capital Projects 3416 and 3418. Seconded by D. Carrigan.

Fire Marshal's Report: E. Springer

- The Fire Marshal's Office starting licensing fire extinguishing companies. The revenue brought in this year will be about $180,000, which goes into the General Fund. We do facility inspections and proficiency tests and a written test is given. When all is completed satisfactorily, the company and/or individual will receive a license. They will carry this license that lists what they can inspect. Two companies have been put out of business and the DA is prosecuting them at this time.
- We had 35 school districts to inspect and re-inspect. We do tent inspections.
- I will contact Nassau County as far as sprinkler permits goes.
- USAR – we are involved in this also and are starting to buy equipment with grant money.
- FRES Decon Team – participated in a drill at MacArthur Airport with the Arson Squad and Islip Town Haz Mat.
- \JFIP Case Manager and Counselor have been hired and program is on its way.
- We are involved with the new jail.
- BLU MED tents (mobile hospitals) were set up with vendor and all equipment was run and then taken down
- SCINS for two (2) Fire Marshals are in the County Executive's Office awaiting approval.
- We had an inspection from the state (homeland security) – all equipment purchased by a grant through the Department of Homeland Security has to have a sticker on it stating such.

Fire Academy: D. Stockinger

- Medal of Valor letters went out last week. The ceremony will be on Sunday, September 25th at Mastic FD.
- Firefighter I has been finalized with OFPC and will be offered in September
- We have to reduce 5% (about $110,000). Along with the State decrease, this amounts to in excess of $300,000. There will have to be changes. We are considering charging fire departments for pump tests.

SCPD – Special Patrol Bureau: Capt. J. Blosser

One helicopter is out for inspection and should be back in about 3 weeks. All others are up. Our capital project for replacement of a helicopter is moving along but has not been laid on the table as of yet. We are concerned because cost of helicopter goes up yearly. Newer helicopters are UHF capable.

EMS: M. Masterton

March/April Report follows these minutes.

Budget Committee: Absent

Arson Task Force: R. Keller

Last meeting cancelled. Next meeting should be July 13th.

Combined Radio Committee: N. Reilly, Jr.

We have a new Chief of Communications. We will set up a date for a meeting prior to our next FRES Commission meeting.

Buildings & Grounds: K. Capon

Light on the corner is fixed. Next month I'd like to do the walk around the grounds at 6:30 pm. Meet at the Fire Academy.

Legislation & Standards: Absent

R. Knight: Nothing is before the legislature to be voted on. Professional firefighters are lobbying hard on safety ropes and name on the wall.

Codes & Prevention: V. Bologna, Jr.

Fire sprinkler incentive act (HR 1792) allows for tax credits for sprinklers. Motion for letter V. Bologna; seconded by C. Bancroft. Motion carried.

EMS & REMSCO: A. LaFerrera

No REMSCO report.

Burn Center: F. Thornhill

- Money was going to be cut from the Burn Center due to the State's budget issues. It was thwarted due to the tremendous support from locals. We got most of the money we wanted. The hospital will have cuts and has informed us that the Burn Center will be cut somewhat.
- Burn Center Recognition Day was last week. Skin Bank is moving slow but it is operating.

- Burn Registry – trying to keep a record with many different factors. Minorities have a disproportionate amount of burns.
- Next fundraiser is August 6th at Martha Clara Vineyards at 6:00 pm.
- Is Burn Center looking at alternative locations other than Stony Brook due to the state budget cuts? Please come to meetings which are the third Monday of month on the 19th floor of the hospital.

Every time they have to cut, they look at the Burn Center. We can't' let up on the state legislators.

At a Burn Conference recently, it was said by attendees that Stony Brook's Burn Center is as well-equipped and operated as any other.

Recruitment & Retention: K. Capon

Progress.

Old Business:

Nothing.

New Business:

Nicholas Luparella is new member to the Commission representing Riverhead Town Fire Chiefs' Council.

Public Comment:

K. Browning: Article 6 issue – some of that money is EMS money. Medical Examiner's Office / Health Centers had a meeting in Albany regarding the issue of reimbursement. What was 50% reimbursement is now 36%. There is another meeting today. Hopefully we will be successful. We submit a plan / they approve and they pay. Now they want the money back. It will have a serious effect on our budget. As soon as we hear, we will let you know. Lobby with state reps; they have to find the money.

UHF radios – money is in the budget. There is money in the budget to replace storage of equipment.

I will find out about the SCIN forms.

R. Colarco requested that all reach out to state reps for article 6 money.

C. Bancroft motioned that all those absent from last meeting be excused. S. Thebold seconded. All in favor; motion carried.

A motion was made to adjourn meeting by K. Capon and seconded by R. Keller. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Members Present	Members Excused	Staff Present	Guests Present
Ant LaFerrera	C. Del Vecchio	J. Searing	W. Masterton
S. Thebold	E. Tully	E. Springer	R. Holley
K. Capon	P. Garypie	R. Stockinger	A. Sullo
V. Bologna	R. Sorrentino	G. Miniutti	Capt. J. Blosser
N. Luparella	D. Silverman	T. Portoghese	R. Knight
J. Bancroft	J. Carney		J. Capon
R. Keller			
R. Vella			
D. Carrigan			
N. Reilly			
F. Thornhill			
J. Egan			
B. Prosek			

NEXT MEETING	Wednesday, June 22, 2011
TIME	8:00 pm
LOCATION	SC Dept. FRES Library, Yaphank
REFRESHMENTS	C. Bancroft and D. Keller

LIST OF COURSES OFFERED

Course	Location	Dates	Days / Time
EMT Basic Refresher	So. Country Ambu	6/22-8/18/11	Mon, Wed & Fri : 7–10:30 pm
EMT Basic Refresher	So. Country Ambu	6/24-8/18/11	Mon, Wed, & Fri: 7-10:30 pm

EMS DIVISION STAFF REPORT – BY: Bob Delagi, Tom Lateulere & Linda Mermelstein, MD, MPH
For the REMSCO & REMAC. March – April, 2011

AMBULANCE SERVICE OPERATIONS

- Provided staff support to the: REMSCO Executive Committee; Resource Needs Committee; Education & Training Committee.
- Provided staff support to the REMSCO for their March, 2011 meeting.
- Provided staff support to the REMAC for their March, 2011 meeting.
- Met with the National MS Foundation and developed the health & safety plan for this year's walk, to be held in May.
- Worked on finalizing the health & safety plan for this year's LI 2-Day Walk for Breast Cancer.
- Reviewed Controlled Substances Plan submitted by the East Brentwood FD.
- Held initial Controlled Substance meeting with the Cutchogue FD as they seek entry into the program.
- Completed 2012-2013 Training Plan & Budget Temnplate, and submitted to NY State DOH.
- Held preliminary meeting with promotors of a Part 18 permit event for the August "Escape to NY" concert, arts, cultural affairs and camping weekend.
- Worked with the LI Ducks and EAS, Inc. on this year's Part 18 permit for LI Ducks Baseball.
- Install and receive in-service training on the MOGS 100 oxygen generating machine.
- Met with Physion Control, re: Lifenet receiving software performance.
- Received training on the Department's Grants Management System (GMS).
- Attended meeting, and facilitated discussions between Saltaire FD, Kismit FD and NY State DOH regarding operating territory, mutual aid, and expansion of operating authority.
- ePCR Updates: refresher training for Copaigue FD, and initial meeting with Center Moriches FD.
- Staff attended the following meetings, representing EMS System interests:
    - RPC;
    - TRTF;
    - FRES Commission;
    - SC Ambulance Chief's Assn; and the
    - Suffolk County Highway Traffic Safety Board.
- Attended PDA Kick-off meeting and made application to NY State OEM/FEMA for winter blizzard disaster declaration.
- Provided technical support at an emergency response for a strange white powder.
- Distributed revised MOLST form and NY State EMS Policy 11-02 to the EMS System.
- Distributed information on the 2010 NY State EMS Awards program to the EMS System and interested parties.
- Distributed the Niagra University's survey to the EMS System, seeking information as they develop a curriculum for addressing patients with disabilities.
- Facilitated meeting between Medical Control in Nassau and Suffolk Counties to address areas of mutual interest.
- Provided on-site tehnical support and developed health & safety plan for line of duty death of Nassau County Police Officer / Selden Firefighter Breitkkopf wake and funeral services.
- Distributed FDA recall information throughout EMS System on recent Amiodarone recall.
- Held series of phone meetings and exchanged emails with multiple parties to resolve conflicts associated with hospital sign-off of controlled substances waste, leading to mutually agreeable solution.
- Provided on-scene technical support at a school evacuation with about eighty (80) patients overcome by strange odor.
- Provided on-scene technical support at a suspicious package call at St. Charles Hospital resulting in a horizontal evacuation.

CONTINUED.

AMBULANCE SERVICE OPERATIONS – continued.

- Completed work with the County Attorney's Office and the Contracts Unit, releasing the 2011-2015 Ambulance Service Agreements to the EMS System for execution.
- Provided on-site technical support to the Deer Park FD at a chlorine spill with eight (8) patients.
- Attended meeting with Sayville VAC to assist in facilitating relationship between the ambulance service and the Bohemia FD as its BLS-FR Service.
- Consulted with Lifestar Response Corp on issues associated with a pending TOA Application.
- Assisted the Suffolk County Attorney's Office with the defense of a claim agains an ambulance company.
- Worked with the CE's Office and FRES to develop a Regional LI Purchansing Consortium. The end result will be an opportunity for municipalities, including fire and ambulance districts, to purchase supplies and equiopment at a reduced cost if they join the consortium.
- On-going work with representatives of Long Island MacArthur Airport ARFF to assist in development of emergency rehab and EMS interface protocols for hazmat response.
- Provided technical support for the Space Shuttle Program during several attempts to launch.
- After receiving word last month that the Capital Project request for the EMS Division to equip all ambulance vehicles and each hospital emergency department in the county with new VHF High-Band mobile radios has been approved, and legislative process to allocate the funds has been approved, the Division began the process of ordering equipment. This is in response to the FCC mandate for narrow-banding and its impact on radio communications. This is a seed project to offset costs, ambulance agencies will need to address bidgeting for other radios they may need for chiefs vehicles, first response vehicles, etc.
- Held EMS Leadership Roundtable Meetings with representatives of agencies in the 1st and 3rd Divisions. The meetings secueduled for the 2nd and 4th Divisions and the 5th Division South, were cancelled due to lack of enrollment. These meetings, likened to a "New Chief's Seminar" are used to provide focused attention to addressing areas of operational concern and to encourage agencies to discuss challenges they face. Meetings have been scheduled and invites sent. Meetings to be held from March 7 to June 6, 2011.
- Attended March SEMAC, SEMSCO, Program Agency Directors and associated committee meetings.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

- Provided staff suport for several meetings of the REMAC's protocol Sub Committee.
- Began development of a "Spanish for EMS" training curricula for the region's EMS providers.
- Received March Exam results with 145:156 (93%) of students passing on their first attempt.
- Conducted 21-hour NY State CIC Course, graduating 16 new instructors.
- Conducted 8-hour NY State Instructor Update for 42 of the region's instructors.
- In recognition of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the Division sponsored a CME class on Sexual Abuse/Assault and SANE Centers.
- Division staff developed and devliered its first "Customer Service for EMS" class. This new class has been addeded to the Division's course catelogue.
- Opened 2 CFR Courses; Brentwood VAC and USAF/NYS Fire at Gabreski Airport.
- Reviewed and forwarded 46 completed CME packets to NY State DOH: 38 EMT-Bs, 3 EMT-CCs and 5 EMT-Ps completed their respective refreshers through CME process.
- Conducted an ALS Credentialing Class for 11 new ALS providers.

CONTINUED.

EDUCATION & TRAINING - continued

- Delivered Rapid 24 Hour Core CME course at Dix Hills FD, averaging 54 providers per session for each of 4 sessions.
- Staff conducted 8 Core Content sessions.
- Reviewed 57 ALS cases, restricting privileges of 13 ALS providers and 1 BLS provider due to medication or protocol errors.
- Performed QI review of 130 intubation attempts on 146 patients. 49 (67%) were successfully placed, with 1 unrecognized esophageal placement. In another questionable case, ETCO2 waveform capnography confirmed proper placement.
- Performed QI review of invasive procedures – multiple combitube and IO attempts/placements.
- Participated in a webiner with General Dynamics on the use of the Rosetta™ for transmitting 12 lead EKGs to Medical Control.
- Reviewed 58 cases where controlled substances were administered.
- Reviewed 87 cardiac arrest cases.
- Reviewed 43 cases if Medical Control consults for change in hospital destination.
- Reviewed 35 cases of CPAP application, all appropriate with many documenting patient improvement.
- Performed review of 3 cases at the request of the ambulance services.
- Staff conducted 3 NY State PSEs for 185 students, from 6 original and 1 refresher EMT-B course. 182:185 (98%) passed.
- Conducted 1 EMT-Paramedic Refresher and 1 EMT-CC challenge skills exam for 34 students.
- Conducted 1 EMT-B challenge EMT-B Course for 58 refresher students.
- Staff conducted the following non-core CME classes: WMD Awareness (64 students); Geriatrics (62 students); OB Emergences (24 students); CISM Introduction (24 students).
- Completed work on systemwide update on ALS Behavorial Emergency/Agitation Protocol and BLS/ALS Use of Restrains SOP. This will be an agency-driven update, under direction of Service Medical Director, CIC, or CLI. The product is ready for distribution to the EMS System shortly.
- Division staff currently monitoring / conducting the following courses: 5 EMT-B original; 2 EMT-CC original; 1 EMT-CC refresher and 1 EMT-P refresher.
- Division staff developing an ACLS course, to be offered shortly.
- The use of the Division's CME Access License for CME participants is progressing as planned. Multiple students have taken advantage of this opportunity.
- Staff continues to monitor the use of Blood Glucometry by BLS providers on the North Fork, as the pilot program advances.
- In collaboration with Medical Control, and our intern, Dr. Fox, staff continues to work on a QI Study relative to cardiac arrest survivability. The study is in its final stages with Dr. Fix seeking neurological outcome data on survivors from hospitals where patients survived to discharge.

DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS / HOMELAND SECURITY

- Continued work with newly hired DOH representative working on HCF Evacuation plans.
- Parntered with RRC to facilitate meeting with 4 LTC Facilities that have vented patients to address "ventilator surge" in the region.
- On-going work with representatives of Long Island MacArthur Airport ARFF to assist in development of this year's tri-annual FAA-required exercise.
- Received training on new ETEAM software at FRES/OEM.

CONTINUED.

DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS/HOMELAND SECURITY – continued.

- Participated in a webinar by NY State DOH and FEMA on Functional Supoprt Services in Shelters.
- Facilitated Strategic National Stockpile training, and site walk-through at the regional receiving site.
- Staff involved with other key stakeholders in the upcoming "SNS-Craddle-to-Grave" full scale functional exercise.
- Participated with other key stakeholders in a follow-up conference call with the End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) consortium, regarding "dialysis surge."
- Attended the Regional Emergency Planning Commission meeting.
- Attended a meeting with FRES/OEM on sheltering issues.
- Attended a Stakeholder's Meeting with FRES/OEM on the SHSP and UASI grants for FY 2011.
- On-going participation as a member of the "Host Committee" on the planning of a regional meta-leadership summit to foster public-private partnerships.
- Attend/Evaluate Patient Influx Triage Exercise at Stony Brook Hospital.
- Participated in the Hospitals Evacuation Exercise conducted by the NY State DOH.
- In conjunction with Public Health, collaborated on partnerships with several pharmacy chains in Suffolk County to provide medications in an emergency.

END OF DIVISION STAFF REPORT