



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

MINUTES OF
MAY 30, 2012 MEETING

Chairman Egan 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.

Acceptance of Minutes:

The minutes of the March meeting were accepted by a motion from E. Tully and seconded by F. Thornhill. The motion carried.

Correspondence: T. Portoghese

Correspondence received since last meeting:

- Memo from Karl Klug to all EMS Agencies regarding 2012 National EMS Memorial Bike Ride.

No correspondence sent since last meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

The opening balance for April was \$3455.78. There was no activity; therefore the closing balance was \$3455.78. The opening balance for May was \$3455.78; \$350 was deposited leaving a closing balance of \$3805.78. Motion made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's reports. All in favor and no one opposing, the motion was carried.

Report of Officers: J. Egan

- Tony LaFerrera could not be here tonight as he was at an emergency board meeting.
- Egan: Joint Councils had meeting today to discuss issues because we have meeting with Bellone tomorrow at 2:00 pm. Have a good agenda for tomorrow.
- Public Safety meeting had presentation by Fire Academy.
- CFSI was not as well attended as in the past but we got a lot of information from legislators and there were meetings re D block, public safety radios. All organizations are trying to speak to the correct people but everyone is in the same boat as far as financing is concerned.

Commissioner's Report: J. Williams

- There is a big issue with the budget; we are in a real difficult position in the county; 350 people are being laid off end of June. We were slated to lose 3 but we were able to save 2; 1 person will retire. Everyone needs to know that there is no money out there;

there is resolution pending for money to be restored to Fire Academy, money will come from fleet (police cars). Stockinger said he has been telling people that fire departments can team up with neighbors so that all can be trained.

- We don't have a Deputy Commissioner and are in need of Fire Marshals and dispatchers. Dispatchers would be my first pick even though a Deputy Commissioner directly affects me. It isn't a question of priorities – there is no money and we need to understand that as a group. I don't know what is going to come out of the meeting tomorrow.
- The current policy is that we have to have all our overtime approved. That being said, no overtime has been denied for Public Safety. We are not the only department that is short-staffed; every department is affected.
- After Action report on wildfires: one of the biggest things is that we have 92 different frequencies for 109 fire departments. Everyone did a fantastic job but we can't monitor 92 frequencies. For 45 min 3 firefighters were missing from a truck. PD had helicopters up; I'm sure brush trucks were very close to them but were on a different frequency. We are going to form a task force. Another item from the After Action is that those from other areas don't know where we are; next time we will put someone on the LIE and have them brought to our staging area.
- Coordinators: PIO positions had conversations with CE and we are making changes in that program. We are having a class next week. Press was down the block and Dennis Whittam was told not to have an interview with press and he did anyway; CE was coming within the hour and he was supposed to just tell them that.

Egan: it seemed that there were so many people at command post. JW: there was an overabundance of chiefs and others at the command post. We learned lessons from that. It was difficult to get the two fire chiefs. Governor's security people closed a road down.

Crafts: according to the Charter, FRES is supposed to have a Deputy Commissioner so that the Deputy can take over for the Commissioner if need be. Think the Charter should be changed. There should be a chain of command.

Re: Overtime for dispatchers, it seems that it would be financially responsible to hire instead of paying so much overtime. JW: it takes 6 months before we would notice a decrease in the overtime. Most of the time we look for volunteers to work overtime; but when we have to, it is mandated. We will have to eventually hire some dispatchers. It is a tough situation. Getting back to the Deputy Commissioner, we have talked about making someone an acting Deputy Commissioner but without the pay. It is hard for me to fight for a Deputy when people are being laid off, especially since it will be a political appointment.

Egan: revisions to the Charter can only be done during certain intervals and that time has come and gone. With all the overtime, people will start to snap and what is that going to cost the County? Maybe a mistake will be made and then the County will pay dearly. We need to look collectively at issues. Town of Brookhaven had a celebration for firefighters who were involved in wild fires; but it would have been better if they had included us in the discussions.

Fire Marshal's Report: E. Springer

- WMD Haz Mat incident drill at Riverhead, with several agencies participating. Scenario was a chlorine leak and the drill was to mitigate the incident. Drill went very well and lasted about 3 hrs. Report is in process.
- ICS 300 is June 5-7 at FRES, in the Library. Please contact Ruth at 852-4900 if interested. ICS 400 is June 26-28.

- We will be participating in a multijurisdictional drill at Stony Brook University.
- Don Lynch is scheduled to get a canine at the end of October.
- USAR team is going to West Virginia at the end of October and have been purchasing quite a bit of equipment. We are looking at purchasing a trailer to house equipment (through a grant).
- Response guide books hopefully will be coming in soon.
- Dick Nolan discussed the USAR drill at a meeting regarding whether or not participants will be covered. JW: had a meeting with Nolan and County Attorney and there will be a resolution establishing the USAR and IMAT teams. Each department will have to go on record that they are authorizing their people to go to drill.

Fire Academy: R. Holley

- We appeared at the Public Safety Committee May 3 and May 17 and laid out all information to the committee and there just isn't the money to give us. I understand that there is a proposal out there to transfer money to the Fire Academy from DPW fleet account (\$87,000); this was the amount removed from training. We are hoping to save money through other areas. We have reached out to other governmental agencies. (Regarding the money from DPW: we don't want to get in the middle of a political fire storm.)
- We stopped giving the National Certification Exam due to problems with OFPC. We ran into numerous problems; and were having difficulty getting answers.
- We are giving tests ourselves but we cannot offer National Certification at this time.
- Medal of Valor Ceremony is set for September 30 at Selden at 1:00 pm. There are 16 recipients.
- We are trying to get departments to train together and are looking for regional sites to reduce our costs and reach more people.

SCPD – Special Patrol Bureau: Capt. J. Blosser

Helicopter 3 went down for inspection in early April; they are waiting on parts to complete work and hopefully will be done soon. Helicopter 1 came down for 100 hour inspection and went back up within a week. Regarding the new helicopter – we can't argue passionately when county is in such bad financial shape.

EMS: M. Masterton

AMBULANCE SERVICE OPERATIONS

- Provided staff support to the REMSCO Executive Committee.
- Provided staff support to the REMSCO Education & Training Committee.
- Provided staff support to the REMSCO for their March, 2012 meeting.
- Provided staff support to the REMAC for their March, 2012 meeting.
- Participated in a SEMSCO Executive Committee conference call.
- Completed work with the Saltaire Volunteer Fire Company, the Incorporated Village of Saltaire and the State DOH in the development of their Expansion of Operating Authority application.
- Prepared the REMSCO's 4th Quarter (January 1 – March 31, 2012) Report & Voucher.
- Prepared the Program Agency's 3rd Quarter (January 1 – March 31, 2012) Report & Voucher.

- Provided on-site technical support at a major wild fire in Manorville.
- Provided technical support and developed a comprehensive health and safety plan utilizing in-county and NY City resources for a FDNY firefighter wake and funeral service, drawing over 6,000 people to Suffolk County. This included ensuring continuity of operations across the affected area for a three (3) day period.
- Continued work with the Brookhaven National Lab FD in the development of an MCI exercise.
- Attend Regional Planning Committee (RPC) meetings, linking EMS to hospital activity.
- Distributed final notice regarding the NY State EMS Awards Program application and supporting information to the EMS System.
- Staff processing hundreds of survey responses and updating regional PAD Database, per county law, to identify/confirm physical location of AEDs across Suffolk County.
- Staff working with multiple agencies to implement upgrade on individual tablets.
- Met with FRES Communications to address ongoing concerns related to ambulance dispatch to Chemical Suicide calls. Goal is to work with the National Academies of Emergency Medical Dispatch to modify call taking procedures for select calls to ensure first responder safety in cases of suicide by chemical.
- Sent situational awareness bulletins to the EMS System regarding:
 - Epinephrine Ampule Recall;
 - National Skin Cancer/Melanoma Awareness Month and free cancer screenings for responders and their families; and
 - Changes in clinical use of Methylprednisolone.
- Provided technical support to formulate an Emergency Medical Action Plan (EMAP) to the Suffolk County farm in preparation with a public gathering.
- Held teleconference with Zoll Data Systems regarding NY State Extract configuration issues.
- Met with West Islip FD to discuss the drafting of their Controlled Substances Plan.
- Met with LI-2 Day Breast Cancer staff and other Public Safety groups for planning of their annual event.
- Met with East Hampton Volunteer Ambulance to perform ePCR reprogramming on tablets.
- Attended Hazard Vulnerability Assessment at Brookhaven Memorial Hospital.
- Attended Combined Radio Committee meeting, discussed narrowbanding issue and capital project progress.
- Attended meeting at FRES re: 800 MHz radio system expansion and planning for future growth.
- Attended Suffolk County Traffic Safety Board meeting.
- Participated in IMAT re-organizational meeting.
- Met with Holbrook FD to provide ePCR in-service to in-house trainers.
- EMS Division hosted FirstWatch technical review and system expansion webinar with FRES, efforts to expand use of surveillance software underway.
- Staff provided a presentation on Division Roles and Responsibilities at the at "New Chiefs Seminar" at Suffolk County Fire Academy
- Provided Controlled Substances templates to Coram FD re: reinstating their CS program
- Attended monthly Suffolk County Traffic Safety Board meeting.
- The Division's CISM Team held one (1) team meeting and responded to seven (1) requests for service.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

- Staff attended multiple meetings of the REMAC's Protocol Sub Committee as efforts to revise the ALS protocols continue.
- Staff attended meetings of the FRES Commission, County Recruitment & Retention Committee Ambulance Chiefs Assn, and RTAC.
- Reviewed and processed twenty nine (29) CME refresher Packets (15 EMT-B, 13 EMT-CC and 1 EMT-P)
- Staff conducted administrative audits of five (5) EMT-B Original courses (East Islip, Miller Place, East Moriches, Southold, and East Northport).
- 110/123 EMT-B Original Students passed the March NY State Written Exam, grade average 89%, consistent with the NY State average.
- 32/36 EMT-B Refresher students passed the March NY State Written Exam, grade average 88%, consistent with the NY State average.
- The Division is currently coordinating the work of 2,907 providers enrolled in the CME Program.
- Staff partnered with the Flying Point Foundation and Southampton Hospital to present first responder training addressing patients across the autism spectrum.
- Providing technician remediation at the request of three (3) agencies.
- Division staff developing a plan to update all EMS Instructor and Student resources to conform to the National Standard Curricula, which goes into effect in 2013.
- Continues to monitor national pharmaceutical shortage and its impact on protocols and clinical care. Includes working with State DOH and SEMAC TAG and County health department Chief Pharmacist to remain current with industry standards for alternative medication choices and the complex issue of compounding.
- Providing technical support to multiple agencies required to submit modified CME Plans to the NY State DOH.
- Working with all agencies to update administrative paperwork for management of countywide CME Program.
- In conjunction with regional Faculty (RF), conducted one (1) NY State Instructor Update.
- The AHA Training Center conducted two hundred (200) courses, collectively registering one thousand one hundred fifteen (1,115) students.
- Division staff currently overseeing the following courses:
 - Two (2) EMT-CC Original courses;
 - Five (5) EMT-B Original courses;
 - Five (5) EMT-B Refresher courses; and
- One (1) EMT-Paramedic Refresher course.
- Staff developing several additional courses to commence in June and run through the summer, with attention to staffing and budgetary concerns being addressed to gauge impact on the September course offerings.
- Staff conducted one (1) ALS Credentialing and Authorization class (15 students).
- Staff presided over the following CME course offerings:
 - one (1) Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) class;
 - one (1) CPAP class (25 students);
 - two (2) ALS Skills Session (40 providers);
 - one (1) BLS Skills Session (12 providers);
 - one Advanced / Difficult Airway (16 providers);
 - two (2) AHA BLS Instructor Renewal courses;

- one (1) AHA ACLS Courses;
- four (4) BLS CME Core Content classes (68 students);
- three (3) ALS CME Core Content classes (112 students); and
- One (1) BLS CME Core Content Rotation (4 days, average 43 students/day).
- Division staff reviewed performed Quality Improvement reviews of the following cases:
 - fifty two (52) cases of endotracheal intubation;
 - eighteen (18) cases where Medical Control MD divert patient from closest hospital to “appropriate” hospital;
 - twenty one (21) case reviews referred by Medical Control;
 - twenty four (24) cases of IO application;
 - sixteen (16) cases of controlled substance use;
 - twenty two (22) CPAP applications; and
 - Three (3) BLS Blood Glucose use in the pilot program.

DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS / HOMELAND SECURITY

- Provided CME Lecture to the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) to indoctrinate them into the duties and responsibilities outlined in the Suffolk County Comprehensive All-Hazards Emergency Plan.
- Participated in a NY State-sponsored exercise, *NY Fury*, addressing hospital evacuations and surge based on a tornado scenario.
- Met with representatives of OEM and NYSDOH on coastal storm planning.
- Attended Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Local Technical Assistance Review (LTAR) meeting.
- Progressed with purchasing specifications and Request for Proposal (RFP) process for Medical Ambulance Bus (MAB) purchase.

Budget Committee: D. Silverman

No money, no report!

Arson Task Force: J. Egan

No meeting.

Combined Radio Committee: N. Reilly Jr.

- We suggest sending out another letter to fire districts regarding UTAC interoperability frequency in radio equipment.
- Trying to get a plan together for 700 radios.
- The radio system is for public service not just PD. Only a portion is being used (6%). Meetings are being set up to discuss this issue. Infrastructure is in place for 700 and 800 systems. Public safety section was given to PD to administer. We need more cooperation using that system. Greg is doing a great job. Blosser: it is a county-wide system; however, usage is much higher than 6%.
- Next meeting is July 11th here and Nassau County will be invited so that we can share ideas. We will invite a representative from PD. Information will be emailed.

Bloom: It is refreshing that this committee is taking the initiative in involving Shelter Island.

Egan: addition of PD will be welcomed.

Buildings & Grounds: E. Tully

Pretty good shape and all seemed to be OK. Everything is up to date.

Legislation & Standards: E. Tully

- Had committee go to Albany and they told us we are doing a great job BUT, there are many bills waiting. The LI Fire Districts Legislative Committee submitted a list of the topics they would like addressed:
 - Fallen Firefighter Memorial Recognition Bill, Bail out Rope Reform; Consolidation Amendments; Elimination of Exemption from Seat Belt Law; Felony/Sex Offenders; Affordable Health Insurance for Volunteers; Novelty Lighters.

Codes & Prevention: V. Bologna

No report.

EMS & REMSCO:

No report.

Burn Center: F. Thornhill

- Annual Recognition Day was last week.
- Skin Bank has had to lay off an employee that was paid by a grant.
- Burn registry keeps a record of all burns. Economic, location; it can be demonstrated to any organization.
- Committee is rewriting bylaws on burn center.
- Annual Golf Tournament is August 14 and The Night at the Vineyard is October 5.
- There are 2 new clean rooms that will be opened soon.
- Dr. Simon has developed a method for regrowing skin.
- FYI: The Burn Center increased their staff automatically during the wildfires. Thank goodness there were only three (3) casualties.

E. Tully motioned for a letter thanking them. F. Thornhill seconded. Motioned carried.

Recruitment & Retention: R. Murphy

- Since the inception of the 2009 SAFER Grant performance period (10/1/10) we have recruited 1,032 new volunteers. 862 of those were received by way of the Suffolk's Bravest online system and 170 were reported to us as walk-ins from only eight (8) reporting agencies.
- We are currently receiving information from approximately 100 new recruits per month.
- Agency Census and Information Form requests have gone out twice now and we have 67.65% reporting. The numbers being reported show growth in both Fire and EMS staffing levels and we have reason to believe the growth may be even greater than reported. Cite the CI example with 47 new recruits sent but no change to annual totals.
- Received Brookhaven, Hauppauge and Orient after the list was printed (69.85%)
- The Committee met on 5/16/2012.
- The application period for the 2012-2013 school year closed on 5/1/2012. Approximately 93 new applications were received (33 EMS and 60 FD) and approved by the Committee.

- All reports and reimbursement requests have been submitted and have been approved by FEMA/DHS.
- Our social media sites are proving very effective.
- We need to make sure people focus on filling out the paperwork necessary for OUR recruitment programs and not worry so much about the FASNY or State Chiefs paperwork.
- We have been actively recruiting at major events, SCCC volunteer fair, radio interviews, and promoting the SERVES program within the fire service at cadet and FF1 courses. I believe the Academy was adding a SERVES information slide to the lecture PowerPoint presentations.
- Train the recruiter sessions will be taking place in the Fall. 8 sessions throughout Suffolk.
- Got two shopping bags worth of paperwork from Nassau OEM. Will be sorting through shortly.
- Spring expense report totaled \$111,258.00 or \$1,685.73/student (\$91,915.18 = FD, \$19,342.82 = EMS).
- Pumped things up for National Volunteer Week that immediately followed the brush fires. Noticeable recruitment spike (Ridge and Manorville especially). Nassau press conference regarding recruitment sponsored by FASNY to promote Recruit New York.
- Working with State Chiefs right now to set up their Recruitment training for Suffolk County in September/October (Sue Syzdek).

Old Business:

Nothing.

New Business:

D. Carrigan motioned that all those absent from last meeting be excused. Chip Bancroft seconded. All in favor; motion carried.

Public Comment:

Browning: unfunded mandates are a huge problem. The Fire Academy has been cut and they came to us but we don't have any money. We are at \$770 million of unfunded mandates. Mandate relief with 2% cap; haven't seen it. State is only giving 29% instead of 50% of money for Medicare. When you hear there is no money – there really is no money. State has to do something about the unfunded mandates; for example, the jail; taxpayers pay for it and they will probably add more mandates. Police are sharing cars from precinct to precinct. Money they want to transfer to the Fire Academy is also for the Sheriff's Department, not just the Police Department. The fund for cars has been tapped into many times before and we haven't gotten cars in a while. A sector car is driven 24/7 and some are in pretty bad shape. Reagan from EMS is being bumped and we are trying to keep her where she is. Don't believe that we will lose Dr. Russo. Don't want to see Resolution for cars/Fire Academy turn into a political fight. I also have heard that people are looking into car money for other things. I will look into the issue with the Charter. I wouldn't want to see the Charter changed. We need mandate relief and see if state will adopt some of our ideas.

Egan: we are thankful that you are here, even with the bad news. We appreciate that you take the time to come.

Egan: Fire service should not be put in the middle of a political issue.

A motion was made to adjourn meeting by E. Tully and seconded by C. Bancroft. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10 p.m.

| Members Present | Members Excused | Staff Present | Guests Present |
|--|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| A. Bloom | A. LaFerrera | J. Williams | K. Browning |
| V. Bologna | S. Thebold | E. Springer | C. Del Vecchio |
| R. Murphy | N. Luparella | R. Holley | Capt. J. Blosser |
| C. Bancroft | P. Garypie | G. Miniutti | W. Masterton |
| T. Crafts | R. Sorrentino | T. Portoghese | R. Knight |
| R. Vella | J. Carney | | |
| D. Carrigan | | | |
| E. Tully | | | |
| N. Reilly | | | |
| D. Silverman | | | |
| F. Thornhill | | | |
| J. Egan | | | |
| B. Prosek | | | |
| Alternates Present | | | |
| J. McLoughlin – Fire Marshals Assc of SC | | | |

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|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| NEXT MEETING | Wednesday, June 27, 2012 |
| TIME | 8:00 pm |
| LOCATION | SC Dept. FRES Library, Yaphank |
| REFRESHMENTS | Bryan Prosek and Tony LaFerrera |