



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

**In Memory Of**

**Former**

**FRES Commission**

**Member**

**RICH VELLA**

MINUTES OF  
SEPTEMBER 25, 2013 MEETING

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Vice 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: Ex-Chief Rich Vella, West Babylon Fire Department, a former member of the FRES Commission; William Lindsay, the Presiding Officer of the Suffolk County Legislature and firefighter Sean Cook of Smithtown Fire Department. Motion by N. Reilly to dedicate a page of these minutes to Rich Vella, seconded by D. Carrigan. Motion carried.

Acceptance of Minutes:

The minutes of the June 2013 meeting were accepted by a motion from R. Murphy and seconded by E. Tully. The motion carried.

Correspondence: T. Portoghese

No correspondence received or sent since last meeting:

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

Treasurer's Report:

The opening balance was \$4040.78. Deposit of \$150 leaves a closing balance of \$3190.78 at SCNB and \$1000 at FASNY; combined total closing balance is \$4190.78. 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 / A. LaFerrera

Egan: FA topic. Members of Joint Council would like to meet with VEEB. Number of trainings will be negotiated. EMS needs to be involved and should be entitled to some classes which were never included. We have to fight for training for the volunteers.

Williams: I doubt that we will come to an agreement before February or March. These items cannot be settled quickly.

LaFerrera: Concerned about the line of communications between County and VEEB; it'll be tough to negotiate with 9 members of the Board.

Williams: Bob selected 4 members, himself and Ed Johnston, John Jordan and I will be part of negotiating committee. My plan is take it one issue at a time. The attorneys will be brought in at a later time. My recommendation is to have a multiyear contract. The CE will not sign a contract unless there is oversight on classes and reduction of administrative costs.

Crafts: If there is a breakdown in communications, I would like to have the Joint Council notify us so we are not in the dark.

Sorrentino: If no agreement by July, what happens? Does the County take it over? Williams: Yes. The current contract can be extended 6 months. This year it was signed in July.  
Silverman: Are Jay (Egan) and Tony (LaFerrera) going to be involved in negotiations to represent this Commission?

Egan: No. It's a county contract. Bylaws are being changed because fire departments cannot get enough live burns.

Reilly: Why should we negotiate for number of training? If it is what we want that's what it should be.

Egan: I feel sorry for the Fire Academy employees but they do not work for the County. It is a private corporation. It is not our responsibility or our place to tell them what to do.

Commissioner's Report: J. Williams

- JetBlue Airlines has donated 50 ticket vouchers for first responders. We will put in all 109 fire departments, and pull out 50 and those will receive the vouchers. JetBlue does not want tickets sold; they want them used by first responders. Nassau County also got them. It will be run through the FRES Commission.
- By end of year we will have coordinators meeting.
- We have 4 part time positions available at FRES that are 100% grant funded.
- VEEB – it became a hot item. VEEB said they did not know all the facts. We extended contract to July 1<sup>st</sup>. Spoke with VEEB yesterday and told them what County wants to see. Parties have pledged 100% cooperation. Intention is to get it done and it is only funded up to July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Reilly: What number of training at this point? VEEB said 7.

Fire Marshal's Report: E. Springer

- MacDonald's literature is here – there are 500 per department. A flyer was sent out.
- Fire Prevention – "T" is in service. He will be going to fire prevention outings. Jul had cancer and is cancer-free right now. She damaged her leg and had to have surgery and is on the mend, but cannot go to any open houses.
- USAR team planning an overnight on Plum Island – logistical exercise. November 9 and 10.
- Hazmat refresher is being given here and is filled up.
- Involved in pilot program. John Searing is going to hazmat leadership forum. We have regional hazmat meetings monthly. We discuss where we want to go and what we want to purchase regionally. We purchase equipment that is agreed upon mutually. Scheduling hazmat training through our office. We are relying on the state to provide training. Looking for incident command hazmat class. Running it in the winter.
- NY Atlantic Railways is coming and will bring in 4 cars and have 4 4-hour sessions – October 24 and 25.
- Wildfire Academy is offering a number of classes that week also.

Fire Academy: J. Sipala (Board Member)

We are all in agreement to have a contract and get back to the business of training.

Crafts: how many people chosen to be negotiating contract have experience negotiating contracts? Sipala: Not going to answer.

SCPD – Special Patrol Bureau: Capt. J. Blosser

We had a good summer. Had 3 or 4 helicopters in service all the time. We are doing fine. New helicopter is part of a capital project.

EMS: M. Masterton

We moved from Dennison building to Yaphank.  
Report pending.

Budget Committee: D. Silverman

Budget Committee will be meeting before the next FRES Commission meeting on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm to discuss 2014 operating budget.

Arson Task Force: T. Crafts

No report.

Combined Radio Committee: N. Reilly, Jr. & G. Miniutti

- October 9 is next meeting
- The back-up Center is up to date and fully functional. We are working to improve our abilities from the back-up center
- Cache equipment requests continue to grow, which is a good thing
- We continue to work on interoperable radio initiatives
- Mutual link – IP based platform connecting us to Nassau, State and other agencies around the region. Application to follow. Installed streaming video back to our center and anywhere on the mutual link network.
- Two additional 7500 consoles being installed in the EOC, on the county system and designed to interoperate with Nassau OEM
- Similarly we will be able to talk to Nassau Firecom in the same fashion\
- Need Nassau to build out their side for completion

Buildings & Grounds: E. Tully

Everything is good.

Legislation & Standards: E. Tully

Everyone is here; no one is in Albany. Nothing going on in Albany. Governor wants to set designated areas for texting.

Codes & Prevention: V. Bologna

Not present / no report.

EMS & REMSCO: A. LaFerrera

I missed last meeting. Mike gave a good report.

Burn Center: F. Thornhill

- Fundraiser at Martha Clara is coming up on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Price had to go up.
- Dr. Sandoval reported that they were very busy with burns.
- Took a tour of skin bank.
- Something new – Dr. Simon has an idea that she would like to have a cell library. There is no funding for this, but she is going to try to get grants. A great concept that has never been done.

Recruitment & Retention: R. Murphy

Campaign has been revamped. Recruitment committee met last week and we are live on radio and TV and committee noticed some spikes. We are getting inquiries from other states about our program and getting great recognition. The numbers are going up.

Williams: This program ends next October. We need the new grant. Please talk to your Congressmen. If we don't get this grant, the program is finished.

Old Business:

Nothing.

New Business:

Nothing.

Public Comment:

Leg. Browning: I'm glad that Bob Holley and the VEEB and the County are going to cool off and negotiate. VEEB as a contract agency is a product of the legislature. I didn't know anything after I was told that I would be kept in the loop. I question the idea of giving more training without hiring more trainers. We are constantly hearing about privatizing government and here we are trying to turn a private industry into government.

We unfortunately lost Bill Lindsay, who was a good guy.

An advisory panel was suggested for VEEB and County. Something to think about for the future.

Egan: Legislation has to be adaptable.

Bloom: Can we hold back any tickets for those who may need it for a family who has a sick child, for instance.

Williams: These tickets are given to fire service, not County or FRES. I believe that JetBlue would be very open-minded to the fire service if something like that comes up.

Medal of Valor ceremony was postponed.

As of today, the graduation ceremony for FF1 is still on for October 12<sup>th</sup>.

Thornhill: I believe we should be represented in the negotiations between VEEB and FA/FRES. We are supposed to be an advisory council and we are not doing that.

Egan: The FRES Commission is part of the Joint Council; we have a seat on that Council. The advice we need to give them is that we want more training.

A motion was made to adjourn meeting by R. Murphy and seconded by E. Tully. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Members Present	Members Excused	Staff Present	Guests Present
T. LaFerrera	C. Bancroft	J. Williams	R. Knight
A. Bloom	V. Bologna	E. Springer	M. Masterton
R. Murphy		G. Miniutti	J. Sipala
T. Crafts		D. Rubin	K. Browning
A. Sullo		T. Portoghese	
D. Carrigan			
E. Tully			
R. Sorrentino			
N. Reilly			
D. Silverman			
F. Thornhill			
J. Egan			
B. Prosek			

<b>NEXT MEETING TIME</b>	Wednesday, October 23, 2013 8:00 pm
<b>LOCATION</b>	SC Dept. FRES Library, Yaphank
<b>REFRESHMENTS</b>	Arthur Bloom and Vinnie Bologna

**LIST OF COURSES OFFERED**

Course	Location	Dates	Days
EMT-Basic Original	Patchogue Ambulance	8/26-2/20/14	Mons, Weds & Thurs
EMT-Basic Original	W. Islip FD	9/9-6/19/14	Mons & Sats
EMT-Basic Refresher	SC EMS Academy	9/1/13 (RAPID)	Monday thru Friday
EMT-Basic Original	Copiague FD	9/17-5/15/14	Tues & Thurs
EMT-Basic Refresher	Setauket FD	9/22-12/19/13	Sundays
EMT-Critical Care Orig	North Amityville	9/22-8/21/14	Sundays
EMT-Critical Care Orig	SC EMS Academy	9/23-8/21/14	Mons & Weds
EMT-Basic Refresher	Huntington Commun FAS	10/2-1/16/14	Weds & Sats
EMT-Critical Care Refresher	SC EMS Academy	10/2-1/16/14	Sundays
EMT-Basic Refresher	Hampton Bays Ambulance	10/9-12/19/13	Weds & Sats
Cert 1 <sup>st</sup> Responder Orig	SC Fire Academy, Cafeteria	10/13-12/19/13	Thursdays
Rapid Daytime EMT-Basic Or	Community Ambulance Co.	10/23-1/16/14	Mons / Weds / Fris