



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

MINUTES OF
JUNE 25, 2014 MEETING

Vice Chairman LaFerrera opened the meeting at 8:00 p.m., followed by the Salute to the Flag and a moment of silence for sick and departed members: Joe York, East Northport and County Coordinator; Ed Carpenter, Sayville; James Cox, Ex-Chief from Mattituck.

Acceptance of Minutes:

The minutes of the May 28, 2014 meeting were accepted by a motion from R. Rizzuti and seconded by E. Tully. The motion carried.

Correspondence: T. Portoghese

No correspondence received or sent since last meeting.

Treasurer's Report: J. Bancroft (Absent)

No report.

Report of Officers: J. Egan / A. LaFerrera

Many deaths recently.

Commissioner's Report: J. Williams

- We will be opening up a brush truck training course at the Fire Academy. Pine Barrens Association will be in charge of it. Will run 2 courses a year. It should be starting in October.
- Both dogs came back from St. Louis and requalified.

Deputy Commissioner's Report: J. Jordan (Absent)

No report.

Fire Marshal's Report: E. Springer (Absent)

No report.

Fire Academy: B. Holley / E. Johnston

- Put budget to bed; the budget will be annual.
- Second week of boot camp. Expecting a low failure rate.
- July 1st – PD will be doing annual fireworks demonstration.
- We are looking to add a couple more courses. E.g., rapid intervention; thinking of doing special taxpayer class.

VEEB: W. Sanok

Al Groveman is Vice President.

SCPD – Special Patrol Bureau: Capt. J. Blosser

Not much going on. EC145 should be in service all summer. Hearing that we might get another but we haven't heard anything definite.

Egan – they are trying to make that happen.

Perhaps add a channel to Huntington.

EMS: (Absent)

No report.

Budget Committee: D. Silverman

No report.

Arson Task Force: T. Crafts (absent)

No report.

Combined Radio Committee: N. Reilly, Jr.

- Memo went out re communications challenges (memo follows these minutes). County has 6 million to spend on high band system but no frequencies. Can't build system without frequencies. If low band goes by wayside, what will we do? Dispatching departments – County has no way of notifying the departments. We have plan but we need channel. This will take time – a couple of years so we have to get going.

Miniutti – real concern is that departments are not taking it seriously.

- Next meeting is September 10th.

Discussion ensued: We have additional talkgroups that we will roll out now. Paging is a real concern.

Williams: We've sent out memo and it's not the first time. Don't think the information is not reaching the correct people and/or they are not taking it seriously.

Browning: Motorola meetings they say they have bent over backwards to help us.

We need all commission members to go back to organizations and departments and ask if they got fax and tell them that we are going to build the system out.

Rizzuti – active chief and we work on a very limited budget. There is no money allocated for new radios.

Williams – we send fax to number that we have gotten from the departments and districts; if wrong number, let us know. Low band is going away and something has to be done.

Egan: Can we set up a Sunday morning meeting perhaps regarding this issue and get the word out.

Groveman: Lack of clarity on timeline.

McDonough: Huntington exec meeting next week and it will be presented.

Reilly: everyone did their own thing and that can't happen again.

Williams: we will put together a "white paper" on what problems are and what should be done. I haven't been asked one question from any department or district.

McDonough: I will put a power point presentation together from white paper.

Williams: we will put a group together from FRES to do a presentation to any group who wants it. The County will support this effort.

Egan: it needs to be a County solution, not 10 townships doing 10 different things.

It is on department side, not PSAP side.

Thornhill – I appreciate presentation and such nice things were said about me and I just want to express my appreciation.

Buildings & Grounds: E. Tully

Fire ground is in good shape? Yes, all is well.

Legislation & Standards: E. Tully

- The Four bills that passed both legislative chambers and will go to the Governor for action.
- Prohibits registered sex offenders from becoming volunteer firefighters or EMS workers
- Provides authorized leave for volunteer fire department members or volunteer ambulance squad members for states of emergency; deems leave is excused when a state of emergency is declared by the federal or state government and such person is engaged in the actual performance of his or her duties as an emergency responder; provides such period of leave shall not be charged against any other leave to which the employee is entitled; allows the employer to request a statement from the department or service stating the period of time the employee responded to the state of emergency.
- Section 1 of the legislation amends the GML to address VFBL coverage for volunteers who provide emergency services before an officer in command arrives on the scene.
- An act to amend the executive law, in relation to notice requirements and enforcement for residential buildings with truss type, pre-engineered wood or timber construction. (This is going to result in notification of every residential structure being built in your jurisdiction and nowhere in the legislation does it include lightweight steel trusses or SIP construction methods now being used in residential construction.

Codes & Prevention: V. Bologna (Absent)

No report.

EMS & REMSCO: A. LaFerrera

No meeting; next meeting is July 8th at Ocean Beach.

Burn Center: N. Luparella

Golf Outing on August 5th.

Recruitment & Retention: R. Murphy (Absent)

No report.

Old Business:

Nothing.

New Business:

Nothing.

Public Comment:

- Browning: Infrastructure improvements; Motorola has bent over backwards to accommodate us.
- Helicopter money was moved up in budget; don't know when it will be appropriated. I would like to get information on all helicopters.
- VEEB Appointments touched upon.
- At last Joint Council everyone was charged with a responsibility of a key topic.
- Please call Browning if they want a meeting.

Arson Squad: 3 new guys and all need to be trained.

Browning: they want people who are detectives.

A motion was made to adjourn meeting by B. Prosek and seconded by D. Silverman. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Members Present	Members Excused	Staff Present	Guests Present
A. LaFerrera	R. Murphy	J. Williams	W. Sanok
S. Thebold		R. Holley	R. Barz
A. Bloom		E. Johnston	J. Blosser
N. Luparella		G. Miniutti	W. Jackson
A. Sullo		T. Portoghese	A. Groveman
D. Carrigan			
E. Tully			
R. Rizzuti			
N. Reilly			
D. Silverman			
K. Markott			
J. Egan			
B. Prosek			
Alternates Present			
J. McDonough - Huntington Town Fire Chiefs'			

NEXT MEETING	Wednesday, September 24, 2013
TIME	8:00 pm
LOCATION	SC Dept. FRES Library, Yaphank
REFRESHMENTS	K. Markott and J. Egan

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



JOSEPH F. WILLIAMS
COMMISSIONER

EDWARD K. SPRINGER
CHIEF FIRE MARSHAL

GREGORY C. MINIUTTI
CHIEF OF COMMUNICATIONS

JOHN G. JORDAN SR.
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

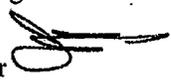
EDWARD C. SCHNEYER
DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

JOEL VETTER
CHIEF OF SUPPORT SERVICES

STEVEN BELLONE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE, RESCUE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

TO: All FD/VAC Chiefs / All Governing Bodies

FROM: Joseph F. Williams, Commissioner 

DATE: June 13, 2014

SUBJECT: COMMUNICATIONS CHALLENGES

Suffolk County is at a crossroads in radio communication. As I am sure most agencies are aware, Motorola has formally announced they are getting out of the low-band pager business, and while they are not the only vendor, it must be recognized as a harbinger of things to come. Couple this inevitability with the fact that Congress passed federal law HR3630 signed in February 2012, requiring Public Safety entities using the UHF T-Band spectrum to relocate their systems to other frequencies within nine years and we, as a county fire service, could be in dire straits. By our records, approximately half of the county fire service relies on UHF T-band frequencies for their operation.

While there is speculation that changes may be made to the law, it is only speculation and it is imperative that we take the legislation at face value. Each T-band agency should begin assessing their specific situation and investigating potential replacement spectrum.

I'd like to share with you what the county is doing. First, we will continue to support low-band operations until all departments have migrated off or until such time as it is technologically impossible to do so. The county also maintains a robust high-band VHF system (MedCom) which will remain in operation.

In addition, as you know from my previous memo, Fire/Rescue is funded for, and on the cusp of building out a simulcast UHF paging system county wide, however we are in need of non T-Band UHF frequencies to bring that project to fruition. I again appeal to any department that would consider turning over such a frequency for the good of the fire service.

Further, the county is expanding its 700/800MHz system. We have begun to, and will continue to work closely with the Suffolk County Police Department to allocate talk groups for command and control on a countywide, and eventually town wide basis. The countywide interoperable talk groups for command and control are a reality; I encourage departments to consider investing in 800MHz radios and/or dual band radios with 800MHz included to foster that communication as we begin to consider ourselves one large coordinated system. Currently, we are prepared to support such operations through the issuance of cache resources as needed.

Please contact Greg Miniutti, my Chief of Communications if you have any questions or need any additional information. He can be reached at 631-852-4818 or gregory.miniutti@suffolkcountyny.gov. The fire service has a long tradition of rallying to support itself, and I believe that this tradition will allow us, as a team, to tackle the communication challenges ahead.

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YAPHANK, NEW YORK

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EMERGENCY MGMT OFFICE: (831) 852-4900
COMM. CENTER (24-HOUR): (831) 852-4815
FAX: (831) 852-4881