



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

**These Minutes**

**Dedicated to**

**the Memory of**

**Long-Standing**

**Commission Member**

Ken Capon  
of Shelter Island  
and  
Henry Moisa  
of Orient

MINUTES OF  
FEBRUARY 25, 2015 MEETING

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Chairman Egan opened the meeting at 7:37 p.m., followed by the Salute to the Flag and a moment of silence for sick and departed members: Ex-Chief, Past Commissioner and a 55-year member of East Brentwood, Frank Reily; Ex-Chief of Huntington Manor, Walter Tienken and Dominick Caretta.

Acceptance of Minutes:

The minutes of the February 5, 2015 meeting were accepted by a motion from V. Bologna and seconded by D. Silverman. The motion carried. Dedicate a page of minutes to Ken Capon from Shelter Island and a page to Henry Moisa of Orient, motion by N. Reilly and seconded by D. Silverman

Correspondence: T. Portoghese

No correspondence received since last meeting.

Correspondence sent since last meeting: Letter to NYS Codes Council regarding the adoption of the 2015 International Residential Code without amendments.

Treasurer's Report: J. Bancroft (Absent)

No report.

Report of Officers: J. Egan / A. LaFerrera

LaFerrera – nothing to report.

Egan – talked about board-up companies. Meeting to be held next week regarding this issue.

Springer – They are considered emergency call-out companies and they don't have to be licensed.

Browning – could there be a rotating list, perhaps through the Fire Marshals; instead of just showing up when an incident occurs.

We received a letter from a company's lawyer saying that they did not need a license.

Springer – Robert Bambino as President of the Fire Marshal's Association will be at the meeting.

Reilly – anyone doing business in Suffolk County is licensed, why not them? Consumer Affairs said they were not license because they are an emergency service.

Commissioner's Report: J. Williams (Absent)

No report.

Deputy Commissioner's Report: J. Jordan

- Meeting with County Executive's staff to develop a hiring plan for FRES.
- Capital projects being worked on with CE staff – not too optimistic that the renovation of this building will be a priority.
- Participating with many events: MCU drills, etc. We sent assets upstate.
- Monitoring a person with possible Ebola.
- MERV dispatched twice – a school bus incident and a CO2 incident
- Coordinated January deployment to NYC for an ice event – sent many ambulances
- SC Hazard Mitigation Plan has been renewed and is good for the next 5 years.
- Offered much training through the state.
- Participated in Emergency Management forum on Plum Island
- EOC activated for 5 snow events
- Police Department Homeland Security representative is William Murphy

Fire Marshal's Report: E. Springer

- Brett's K-9 Jul is reaching retirement age and we'll have to talk to the Commissioner about what we do from here. Brett is Accelerant Detection Canine Unit's "oldest" handler
- FELB – we are doing renewals now.
- Fire Marshals – we hired one full-time and 2 part-timers. They help out a lot.

Bologna – Any plans to hire another full timer? Springer – Yes, but there is no list.

Fire Academy: R. Holley

Not a lot to report on

- Many repairs are on-going
- New advanced maze is open and getting great reviews
- Haz Mat Refresher is up and running and doing very well
- Person from State to give some of our courses College accreditation will be visiting us soon.

VEEB: R. Barz

Bob Kutch from Deer Park is a new VEEB member and is here tonight.

Jordan – communication is very, very good now between FRES and VEEB/FA.

SCPD – Special Patrol Bureau: Capt. J. Blosser (Absent)

No report.

EMS: M. Masterton

- Thanks FRES, OEM, support services, etc. for the LODD of ambulance paramedic from Hampton Bays.
- We have a Rapid class starting next week
- Medic refresher next week
- We have many drills coming up, working with Fire Academy, etc.

Egan – ALS for narcotics – Hasn't ended, just has to go through a review process. Deadline is in June. All regions in State are requiring it.

Budget Committee: D. Silverman

Nothing to report. Anticipate meeting next month.

Arson Task Force: T. Crafts

We are working on getting a meeting to get task force together: thinking of have two during the day and two at night (changing from daytime meetings).

Martinez is longest service handler of K-9 dogs and SC has longest history of working with ATF.

Combined Radio Committee: N. Reilly

- Had a meeting scheduled for March 11 and have to move it to April 8
- UHF paging – we found a west end frequency. We have both licenses we need to build out.
- East end 2016 / West end this year
- In Coram next week
- Two promotional SCINs and hire 6 dispatchers
- New mobile command unit specs are done

Buildings & Grounds: E. Tully

Heard report from Fire Academy

Legislation & Standards: E. Tully

### **2015 ISSUES OF UNITED CONCERN**

**ELIMINATION OF EXEMPTION FROM SEAT BELT LAW** – Seek legislation to require operators and passengers of certain authorized fire and EMS emergency vehicles to be restrained by safety seat belts by eliminating the existing exemption for such vehicles engaged in emergency response.

**EMS BILLING** – Amend section 209-b of the General Municipal Law to allow volunteer fire organizations to bill for service. Currently, New York State is the only state in the country to prohibit volunteer fire departments and companies from receiving reimbursement for this valuable service. This archaic rule forces taxpayers to completely fund all EMS in these service areas.

**FLAMMABILITY STANDARDS/SOFT FURNISHINGS**– To prohibit the sale of upholstered furniture in New York that becomes fully involved in flames in less than twenty minutes from the time that it is exposed to a heat source and prohibit the use of materials that produce toxic gases that cause or are likely to cause cancer.

**AMEND PENAL CODE TO ADD ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY PERSONNEL**  
– Make it a crime to illegally circumvent uniform code by making illegal conversions a charge of “Endangering the welfare of fire and emergency personnel.” Landlords make conversions so they can make more money off of properties without obtaining proper permits. The conversions may not have proper egress and could create an extremely dangerous situation for firefighters.

**CONSOLIDATION AMENDMENTS** – Seek chapter amendments to the 2010 NY Government Reorganization and Citizen Empowerment Act, Article 17-a of the General Municipal Law, better known as the “Consolidation Dissolution Act,” to allow public stakeholder planning to occur prior to dissolving a fire district or any other local government entity.

**EXPANDED CANCER TREATMENT**- Provide a rebuttable presumption that several types of cancers are covered under VFBL and VAWBL.

### **ITEMS TO BE SUPPORTED**

**SUPPORT THE ADOPTION OF THE 2015 IRC BUILDING CODE WITHOUT AMENDMENT** – Actively support the adoption of the IRC Code by the NYS Code Council and oppose any actions by the Legislature to amend the IRC Code.

**EXTEND THE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS’ LUNG BENEFIT**– VFBL coverage for conditions of impairment of health caused by diseases of the lung will expire on June 30, 2015, if no action is taken. This proposal would extend this benefit for another five years.

**EXTEND THE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS’ HEART BENEFIT** – VFBL coverage for conditions of impairment of health caused by diseases of the heart will expire on July 1, 2015, if no action is taken. This proposal would extend this benefit for another five years.

Codes & Prevention: V. Bologna

Vote was not taken on letter written and sent last month.

EMS & REMSCO: M. Masterton

- Some changes: a collar and no backboard
- Protocols are unified (listed in state formulary)
- CPR saves are going up

Burn Center: N. Luparella (Absent)

Reilly – Mattituck is holding a charity event (a car show) on September 20 to raise money for burn center.

Recruitment & Retention: R. Murphy

- Extension on existing SAFER Grant is due to come up April 1. County is working on new application which closes next Friday.
- Last numbers at Recruitment and Retention meeting were favorable but down from period when we were doing a lot of advertising. Hopefully we will get another grant and boost things up again.
- Volunteer Programs Coordinator – due to end employment April 1, however, through the County Executive's Office, the County is funding that position because we still have to follow people, etc.

Old Business:

Nothing.

New Business:

Election of Officers:

Board Members:

- Motion by N. Reilly and seconded by R. Murphy that nominations for Chairman be closed and one ballot be cast for Anthony LaFerrera for Chairman.
- Motion by D. Silverman and seconded by R. Murphy that nominations for Vice Chairman be closed and one ballot be cast for T. Crafts for Vice Chairman; R. Murphy withdraw his name from consideration.
- Motioned by D. Silverman and seconded by V. Bologna that nominations for Treasurer be closed and one ballot be cast for John (Chip) Bancroft for Treasurer.

All motions carried and officers chosen as above.

Egan – we have discussed that this commission is the forefront of the service. Hopefully our numbers will increase and attendance will remain up.

Public Comment:

Public Safety meeting tomorrow.

A motion was made to adjourn meeting by E. Tully and seconded by N. Reilly. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Members Present	Members Excused	Staff Present	Guests Present
LaFerrera, A.	Luparella, N.	Jordan, J.	Barz, R.
Bloom, A.		Springer, E.	Kutch, R.
Bologna, V.		Holley, R.	Masterton, W. M.
Murphy, R.		Johnston, E.	
Crafts, T.		Miniutti, G.	
Sullo, A		Portoghese, T.	
Carrigan, D.		Alles, C.	
Tully, E.			
Rizzuti, R.			
Reilly, N.			
Silverman, D.			
Markott, K.			
Egan, J.			
Carney, J.			
Prosek, B.			
<b>Alternates Present</b>			
Lynch, D., Fire Marshals' Association of SC			

<b>NEXT MEETING</b>	Wednesday, March 25, 2015
<b>TIME</b>	7:30 pm
<b>LOCATION</b>	SC Dept. FRES Library, Yaphank
<b>REFRESHMENTS</b>	C. Bancroft and T. Crafts