



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

MINUTES OF  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2014 MEETING

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In the absence of Chairman Egan, Vice Chairman Tony LaFerrera opened the meeting at 8:04 p.m., followed by the Salute to the Flag and a moment of silence for sick and departed members: Ex-Commissioner, Ex-Chief and Sixty-one year Member George Lessard Sr.

Acceptance of Minutes:

The minutes of the May meeting were accepted by a motion from T. Crafts and seconded by D. Carrigan. 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: Chip Bancroft

SCNB (7/11 – 8/10): the opening and closing balance is \$50.78 due to lack of activity. FASNY account: the opening and closing balance is \$4061.03 due to lack of activity. Balance of both accounts is \$4111.81. Only East Hampton Chiefs' have not paid this year's dues. Motion made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. All in favor and no one opposing, the motion was carried.

Report of Officers: A. LaFerrera

Chairman Egan couldn't be here tonight.

VEEB White Paper was given out at Suffolk County Chiefs' meeting. FRES Commission subcommittee (or liaison committee) will be looking to schedule a meeting with the VEEB. Williams: required by contract to meet quarterly and discuss what the Fire Academy sees for next year.

LaFerrera: line of duty deaths (LODD) and organ donors: organs are needed for an autopsy for LODD; so therefore, the person can't be an organ donor. Organs have to be present and Department of Justice requires an autopsy.

Commissioner's Report: J. Williams

- Line of Duty Death (LODD): East Islip had one just this week and a lot of chiefs do not know the procedures and therefore don't know what to do or how to advise the family. .

New York Public Employee Safety and Health (PESH) has to be informed within a specific timeframe and we should impress this information on everyone. Department Chiefs, who do not know how to guide the family through a LODD, could cause them to forfeit a significant amount of money. We have to educate them (chiefs) that they have only 8 hours to notify PESH. We have a new medical examiner who now understands the protocol.

- Operating budget is out. We will have a FRES Commission Budget Committee meeting on October 22 at 7:00pm. All our positions are funded and we picked up 3 new positions.
- The dispatcher and supervisor tests are scheduled for October 25<sup>th</sup>. Right now dispatchers are working a lot of OT and the current list is expired. We had 2-3 retired. We have to take some people out of the room to train new dispatchers. They are not happy downstairs. We lose a lot of people to FDNY and PD. We will be looking to increase the quota next year. Our alarms are up about 80,000.
- Fire Marshals: hired 2 part timers and will be hiring 1 full time Fire Marshal within 30 days. The County has about 2000 buildings and the fire marshals are tasked with their inspection. There is no current Fire Marshal list, no Assistant Chief Fire Marshal list or Chief Fire Marshal list. I have asked for these lists.

Discussion ensued regarding dispatchers. We are not going to charge Fire Departments for Districts, and our overtime is going through the roof. \$500,000 is what is budgeted and we are up to \$750,000. We have a lot of mandated overtime. The thinking is that it is cheaper to pay current employee overtime than to hire someone. Once the lists are established, it is my plan to increase number of people. Will problem ever be solved? Probably not. The first 6 months are for training and they cannot sit by themselves at the console. Senior people are trainers.

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

No report.

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

No report.

Fire Academy: R Holley / E. Johnston (Absent); report given by Ronnie Barz

- Thanks to the Commissioner, the field is being repaired.
- Hazmat refresher on line will be ready by January 1. They will give a regional class for those that do not have a computer.
- Peter Gunther removed his name from consideration for the VEEB. There is an opening on fire and education side. Had 2 candidates who were highly qualified. Memo sent to all chiefs associations, resumes are due by Sept 30.
- White paper: law was written in 1944; looking to change make-up of VEEB and we're looking for feedback so we can go ahead. Three 3-year terms; 1 rep from each Township.

Sanok: we have to go to state legislature to have it changed. Has to go to the Department of Education.

- Hopefully this will work within 2 years.

Carney: the Vollies are losing their seat. Fewer and fewer Chiefs are showing up at meetings.

Murphy: putting it in the hands of the chiefs and taking away from Vollies.

What should qualifications of individuals be? We want the best candidates. Does it have to be an ex-chief?

Murphy – I think a VEEB member needs to come to Vollies meetings.

Joint Council has been getting slapped around and we will be looking into white paper.

Reilly: the fire service business was always done here at FRES Commission, not the Joint Council – they make recommendations. It is for informational purposes.

Carrigan –discussed charter and lopsided vote.

- Medal of Valor is this Sunday at Bohemia at 1:00 pm.

SCPD – Special Patrol Bureau: Capt. J. Blosser

Everything is going fine; we had a good summer; had a lot of calls.

EMS: (Absent)

No report.

Budget Committee: D. Silverman (Absent)

No report.

Arson Task Force: T. Crafts

No report.

Combined Radio Committee: N. Reilly, Jr.

- Combined radio – had a discussion about the county. Spoke to districts and chiefs. Had a meeting 9/10. Had a tour of the radio room; very few showed up. Have to contact each organization and find out who radio person is. A lot is going on. November 12 meeting is at Coram back-up center. A lot of districts don't know what is going on.

Williams: We have over 90 different frequencies in the County. We can send a letter out to each Chiefs Council about radio person.

- Greg did a great presentation job. Can he go to township meetings? Isn't a question of overtime because we need to get word out. How about we set up 3 different townships with meetings ad this would save a lot of meetings.

Williams – I will talk to Greg.

Are we having problems with Verizon?

Buildings & Grounds: E. Tully (Absent)

No report.

Legislation & Standards: E. Tully (Absent)

No report.

Codes & Prevention: V. Bologna

Town of Islip Fire Marshals are looking for support to get Peace Officer status. V. Bologna motioned for a letter of support and J. Carney seconded. Motion carried.

EMS & REMSCO: A. LaFerrera

- At REMSCO, Fourteen departments were honored with CPR Lifesaving Awards. Lifesaving has doubled in Suffolk County. Southold and Lindenhurst were memorable because the people whose lives were saved were present.
- Dr. Pigot has been doing ride alongs.
- REMSCO meeting is November 6 in Centereach at 6 pm.
- Regarding ambulance inspections - there are not going to be any "breaks", so if something is wrong, they are going to get a citation.

Burn Center: N. Luparella

Burn Center has been pretty busy. Clean room is going through certification. Sea Star in Atlantis on October 5, 2014 from 3-8 pm.

Recruitment & Retention: R. Murphy

Recruitment Committee met last week and the numbers are still fairly good. We are approaching the end of the SAFER Grant, which end in October. We are in a winding down period. In the absence of the SERVES Program, the FASNY program is still out there (must be a member of a fire department).

Old Business:

Nothing.

New Business:

9/11 Memorial stair climb at Stony Brook University,

Public Comment:

Nothing.

A motion was made to adjourn meeting by R. Murphy and seconded by B. Prosek. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Members Present	Members Excused	Staff Present	Guests Present
A LaFerrera	E Tully	J Williams	R Barz
A Bloom	D Silverman	T Portoghese	B Sanok
V Bologna	S Thebold		J Blosser
R Murphy	J Egan		
N Luparella			
C Bancroft			
T Crafts			
D Carrigan			
N Reilly			
K Markott			
J Carney			
B Prosek			

<b>NEXT MEETING TIME</b>	Wednesday, October 22, 2014 8:00 pm
<b>LOCATION</b>	SC Dept. FRES Library, Yaphank
<b>REFRESHMENTS</b>	John Carney and Bryan Prosek

**LIST OF COURSES OFFERED**

Course	Location	Dates	Days / Time
EMT CC Refresher	Setauket FD	8/23-12/18	Sats 8am – 2pm
EMT Original	Sag Harbor Ambulance	9/2-3/19	Tues & Thurs 7-10-11pm
EMT Original	St. James FD	9-2-3/19	Tues 7-10 & Suns 9-2
EMT Original	Ridge FD	9/3-5/21	Mons & Weds 7-10-11pm
EMT Original	Copiague FD	9/4-5/21	Tues & Thurs 7-10-11pm
EMR/CFR Original	SC Fire Academy Room G	9/7-11/20	Suns 8 – 2:30
EMT Basic	Sag Harbor Ambulance	9/7-3/19	Suns 9 – 4
EMT Basic RAPID	SC EMS Academy	9/8-11/20	Mon-Fri 8-3:30
EMT Basic	Huntington Community FAS	9/10-12/18	Sats 9-3:30 & Weds 7-10
EMT Basic	Southold FD	9/15-5/21	Mons & Weds 7-10-11 pm
EMT Basic	Gordon Heights FD	9/15-12/18	Mons & Weds 7-11pm
EMT Basic	Hampton Bays Ambulance	9/19-3/19	Weds & Fris 6:30-9:30-10:30
EMT Original	SC EMS	9/21-8/20	Sundays 8-2
EMT Original	SC EMS	9/24-8/20	Mons & Weds 7-10
EMT RAPID	Community Ambulance	9/24-12/18	Mons Weds Fris 9-3:30-4:30
EMT Original	Islip FD	9/25-3/19	Tues & Thurs 7-10-11 pm
EMT Original	Lakeland FD	9/28-6/18	Sundays 9-3:30-4:30
EMT Original	Centereach FD	10/14-5/21	Tues Thurs 7-10-11 pm