



Suffolk County Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services Commission
102 East Avenue – Yaphank, NY 11980
(631) 852-4851

MINUTES OF
April 22, 2020 MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE MEETING

Chairman Silverman opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m., followed by the Salute to the Flag and a moment of silence for sick and departed members:

Commissioner, Ex Chief, Deputy Fire Coordinator, Phillip Tepe, Dix Hills Fire Department
Past President Salvatore Rosina, North Babylon Volunteer Fire Company
Past President Jean Gilman, North Babylon Volunteer Fire Company
Peter H. Miller, East Marion Fire Department
David King, Sr., Greenport Fire Department
Past Fire Commissioner, Donald Sheridan, West Babylon Fire Department
Thomas Newburg, Quogue Fire Department
Ex-Chief Angelo Cona, Deer Park Fire Department

Acceptance of Minutes:

The minutes of the February 26, 2020 meeting were accepted by a motion from J. Coughlin and seconded by A. Sullo. All in favor and no one opposing, the motion carried.

Correspondence:

No correspondence received or sent since last meeting

Treasurer's Report: F. Bonventre

Report presented by F. Bonventre.

The opening balance was \$5912.61 with \$0.00 deposits. Expenses were \$325.00 in the form of a check, # 235, for lunch for FRES workers. Interest earned was \$0.15. The closing balance was \$5587.76. Motion made by J. Coughlin and seconded by A.Sullo to accept Treasurer's reports. All in favor and no one opposing, the motion was carried.

Report of Officers: D. Silverman / K. Markott

Chairman Silverman:

- I will try to make this as brief and to the point as possible.
- I would like to acknowledge the great job that S.C. FRES and S.C. EMS have done. Communication that has been disseminated and distributed to fire rescue service has been terrific. I would like to commend Commissioner Jordan and his staff and Director Bialek and his staff. They have made sure everyone is properly equipped and that all medical protocols were being put out in a timely manner. It is a very fluid situation, especially on EMS side, with different and changing standing orders and I would like to thank everybody.

Commissioner's Report: J. Jordan in attendance

Commissioner Jordan:

- Good evening everyone and sorry we could not meet in person. These are uncharted waters and unseen times which, I believe, no one on this call has seen before and, hopefully, will never see again. We have been through storms and other multi-operational periods of events, but none of us has seen anything like this before. It goes beyond training we have taken on many fronts.
- I would like to comment on the unbelievable cooperation that we have gotten from all the services in respect to new procedures and protocols we have put in place and the unquestionable, unwavering and unbelievable dedication of the fire and EMS first responders putting their lives at risk for people they do not know. People are risking a lot everyday without compensation and this speaks to the dedication, commitment and bravery of all the men and women in every department and agency. Hats off to all.
- First, thanks to the FRES Commission for the lunch you provided for everyone. It was very much appreciated.
- Secondly, I would like to introduce the new Deputy Commissioner, Al Gehres. Al has a very extensive resume and was a former Division Commander in the FDNY/EMS Bureau. He is a former IMAT member and was involved with many deployments. He has much experience which we will be capitalizing on here at FRES. He has a Doctorate in Emergency Management and a robust career in public service. He is a very welcome addition to FRES.
- **Deputy Commissioner Gehres:** I am looking forward to working with all of you to make better anything we can and move the mission forward as we should.
- **Commissioner Jordan:** I am going to suspend the usual report and, at your request Drew, will report on COVID centric operations and status of affairs at this time.
- Obviously, FRES has been coordinating and supporting the operations of this event from the start. I don't have dates for every single thing but, I will try to create a timeline for you so you have a snap shot of what's been going on.
 1. January 20 we started conference calls in the County relative to COVID and have been going almost everyday since then and now we have multiple calls.
 2. January 25 we implanted guidelines for 911 dispatch with regards to FC questioning and we added the "T" relative to travel and in relation to travel within the last 21 days at that time. Distributed similar guidelines to all Fire/EMS and police departments with emphasis on infectious control procedures. Eleven airports were designated as receiving airports including JFK. Travelers from China were being examined exiting the plane. If they were exhibiting signs they were being sent to the hospital if they were asymptomatic they were obviously isolated/quarantined for 14 days.
 3. February 8 FRES and Suffolk County Health rapidly depleted our inventory of consumable items, specifically N95 masks, through the distribution to Fire and EMS by, what we called at that time, a stop gap measure. We had already been almost two weeks into our FCT protocol and were rapidly changing the way we did business as a service. We were pretty much by then treating almost every call as potential COVID exposure and obviously consuming PPE at a rate we had never seen before.

4. March 5 we participated in a Pandemic Tabletop at HL Dennison Building. It was an internal exercise with many agencies participating to discuss potential scenarios. When I brought up the existence of Protocol 36, as late as this date, we were looking at that as a very grim scenario and we were hoping and really did not think we would get there. Little did we know we would not only get there but surpass that. At that time, in the early stages, we were fielding many resources for requests for medical supplies through only the State at the time. We would have to discuss burn rates. Most agencies didn't know what burn rates were as we never really discussed burn rates in respect to PPE and the supply chain for PPE was nonexistent. When you were ordering from places like Grainger or Henry Schein you were being told shipping dates were early April and we hoped by that time we would be back to full supply and the supply chain would be open. We know now that was not true as we surpassed the beginning of April. Protocol at the time was we would forward the request to Suffolk EMS and they would discuss and determine the burn rates, then funnel the request back to FRES and we would fill the request based on the burn rate established. This did not last very long as we received 1000s of requests and could not handle the requests at that rate. We changed the way we filled logistic requests probably five times before settling on a way we would do it.
5. March 7 the State declared a State of Emergency.
6. March 8 first confirmed case in Suffolk County and surprisingly it was a community based spread. We assumed the first case would be travel because that would make sense. We all said, "How did it get here? It was all the way out on the north fork." Although it was trackable at the very beginning it quickly became unmanageable meaning the tracking mechanisms that we were able to do were quickly becoming overwhelmed. Between the County and the State it was an all hands event.
7. March 9 held conference call with all our regional partners.
8. March 11 up to six confirmed cases and 113 monitored and only 37 in quarantine.
9. March 12 Suffolk County declared a State of Emergency; we activated our EOC and started to distribute some response guidelines.
10. All hospital emergency departments surged with influenza like symptom patients and they established triage tent areas outside.
11. Planning Section at FRES was tasked with two things early on. One was helping to develop hospital expansion plan and the other was helping to develop morgue expansion plan. This was a very huge task and burden. FRES contributed and deployed the med blue tent to Stony Brook Hospital on March 21 and set it up in their parking lot. They used that as an Emergency Department which gave them the ability to triage patients outside so they didn't have to worry about infecting the hospital at the time. I think they put 40 beds or so in that unit when it was first deployed.
12. Testing site was established at Stony Brook Hospital. At this time we had established daily operations call at 8:30am with the CE, Health Department, Police Department and Medical Examiner's Office. Shortly after that we established daily calls with Towns and Villages at 4pm and County elected officials at 5pm. (standing scheduled times)

13. March 28 FRES added an additional tent to Stony Brook Hospital and set it up at entrance to the hospital.
14. March 29 14,000 tests had been done and there were 5000 positive cases and 41 deaths in Suffolk County. Hospitals had started to secure refrigerated trailers to accommodate decedent surge at their facilities.
15. Within the County, Medical Examiner led the team with FRES and DPW as part of the team, for morgue expansion. DPW Operations and Maintenance really pushed and were able to convert County Building 106 at the Suffolk County Farm. The County Morgue holds 71 decedents, we were given a refrigerated CONEX trailer that holds 44 decedents and purchased an additional one. The original plan for Building 106 was a capacity of 75 decedents but after a number of redesigns with a racking system and shelves on wheels (first redesign had capacity of 125, second redesign had capacity of 250), it can now hold 425, so the County has the capacity to hold 513 decedents in addition to the original 71 decedents at the Morgue proper. What we do everyday now, unfortunately, use the FRES morgue trailer and one of our trucks driven by DPW in consultation with staff from the Medical Examiner's Office and everyday we go to hospitals, nursing homes or funeral parlors and we pick up decedents and we place them in one of our expanded storage locations. They will be released to funeral homes and things like that as they can be. Although it is a grim task, we do hold it as a success as our model has been used by other counties in the State as best practice.
16. Hospital expansion project had many successes. We built many good relationships with hospitals and were able to get the hospitals 136 vents from the State. All of the PPE or equipment that we secured was not a given or automatic and needed to be negotiated. We always train kind of for regional and you think there is help coming. This global pandemic affected every county in the state and country and we needed to retool and be self-sufficient.
17. Today, April 22, 2020 we have over 29,000 cases and 926 deaths as a result of COVID-19.
18. With respect to Logistics, our POD, point of distribution, operates seven days a week and is the place where we hand out PPE and other supplies. We have distributed to over 500 agencies including towns, villages, police departments, FD/EMS agencies, nursing homes, assisted living homes, hospitals, Federal VA hospital, tribes on the east end and we are distributing to supermarkets and private industries. To date we have distributed over 2.5 million pieces of PPE. We will be transitioning soon to a commercial inventory system. The use of the system has been donated to us for 6 months and County IT will be positioning four folks at FRES to transition records and inventory to new system. It will be so much less labor intensive and will be much more efficient for tracking purposes during recovery process.
19. We crafted and distributed guidance in conjunction with Suffolk EMS and also hold weekly webinars for first responders on a variety of subjects in conjunction with Suffolk EMS. We are also hosting a "think tank" with folks from all different walks of first responder life, including Medical Director Dr. Winslow at meetings as well as an epidemiologist and they

have been brainstorming potential best practices and ways to make life more manageable with respect to response but also having simultaneous meetings talking about recovery, what the fire rescue services will look like in two or four weeks and developing guidelines for the next round whatever that may be. Until the supply chain opens up commercially fully, we expect to be operating at this rate at FRES for a while.

- 20.** In reference to FC/FCT protocols- We were developing a list generated by the Department of Health, with quarantined individuals and then positive individuals. It got to the point where it was taking FRES dispatch 12 hours a day to first cull the information, factually vet the information, distribute to PSAPs and then make telephonic notifications to agencies affected. It became absolutely unmanageable because the info in many cases was seven days old before we were getting the positives and, therefore, was unmanageable to give absolute reliable information. We had conversations about this with our partners in PSAPs and as we were treating every case a potential positive COVID exposure anyway, we decided to abandon notification process. We believed it was actually giving a false sense of security because if people were depending on that list they really were not protecting themselves or their responders in the right way. We had no pushback from PSAPs. A few chiefs were upset that they were not getting the list, but after explanation, most adopted our thought process in this.
- 21.** FRES is the after hours rollover for 311 Center. At the beginning it was a huge undertaking for FRES supervisors in the Radio Room and we had to put an extra supervisor on each tour to handle. 311 has extended their hours and that has helped tremendously and they do not receive many overnight calls through 311.
- 22.** Protocol 36/Field Triage Protocol- Took a lot a tremendous amount of work by Nate and his staff and Greg and his staff to get that up and running. We looked at it from the mental standpoint. Just like EMTs in the field, dispatch is the same in that usually people who call for an ambulance get an ambulance and dispatchers aren't used to telling people "no, you don't meet the protocol." EMTs are not used to driving away from people and saying "No, you don't meet the protocol. Here is this piece of paper and callback if you meet these guidelines." No one is used to that. It does have a mental health component so we reached out to the mental health providers from the Medical Reserve Corp and set up the availability of one on one consultation for any dispatchers or first responders that felt they need it and it was received well. I believe it is underutilized because, as first responders, we may not know when we need to talk, but it is there sure.
- 23.** Hospital deliveries and coordination of PPE is an ongoing project and sometimes happens multiple times a day.
- 24.** I would like to shout out to Tom Donnelly who staffs a position in our Planning Section every single day as well as Rudy Sunderman. We know these guys are legislators, but we knew these guys before they were elected officials and they are true first responders and their heart and soul are with us and they actually worry about us everyday and are

at FRES working with us everyday. I can't thank them enough and when this is all over I will give them a proclamation in the horseshoe.

- **Chairman Silverman:** Thank you Commissioner. Does anyone have any questions for the Commissioner?
- **Legislator Cilmi:** I just wanted to say a big thank you to Commissioner Jordan and his staff and certainly to Rudy and Tom. One of the things we were most worried about in the Legislature was the ability of our hospital system to maintain available capacity, particularly of ICU beds, and just hospital beds in general. You all, to the extent that you have helped to increase the capacity at our hospitals, have done an extraordinary job and no doubt saved lives so I just wanted to say thank you.
- **Chairman Silverman:** We are going to turn it over to our partners in EMS.

EMS report submitted and presented by D. Wayrich

EMS Division Report 4/22/2020

Dina Wayrich EMT-P, CIC

Deputy Chief of Education and Training, SCEMS

Current Classes:

- EMT-O: HCFAS, Southold, Holbrook, HBVAC, Three Village, St Anthony's, West Islip, Copiague, and Commack.
- EMT-R: Ronkonkoma
- Medic-R: Shirley

Certification Information

- NYS BEMS&T has added one (1) year to all **current** certifications (CFR, EMT, AEMT, EMT-CC & EMT-P). NYS BEMS&T has also reinstated formerly certified providers whose certifications expired between 9/1/2019 and 3/31/2020 One (1) year has been added to those providers original expiration date (for example, a provider who expired December 31, 2019 now has a renewed certification expiring December 31, 2020). These providers do not need to take any additional action.
- NYS BEMS&T is also offering reinstatement of certification to formerly certified providers who expired between 1/1/2019 and 8/31/2019. These providers need to go to <https://apps.health.ny.gov/pubpal/builder/survey/expired-verification> and apply for reinstatement. If there are no issues, the person will be re-instated at their last level of certification. Their new certification will be valid through 12/31/2020. New York State will be printing and mailing new certification cards as soon as possible, but this may take a while due to current circumstances.
- If a provider's certification expired between 1/1/2015 and 12/31/2018 then the provider needs to go to <https://apps.health.ny.gov/pubpal/builder/survey/expired-verification> and apply for re-instatement. If there are no issues then the provider will be re-instated as an EMT-Basic even if their prior certification was at a higher level. CFRs will be reinstated at the CFR level. These new certifications will be valid through 12/31/2020. Again, new cards will be mailed as soon as possible, but this may take a while due to current circumstances.

CME

- We will begin to transition to the new CME classes effective May 2020, in light of the one (1) year extension on all providers certifications. With this one (1) year extension, providers should have ample opportunity to complete the requirements for the new CME Program.
- We met with all the current agency CME coordinators in March to update them to the new NYS BEMS&T CME Program.

Reminder

- **NYS State and Agency Based Requirement:**
 - Each provider at every level (CFR, EMT, AEMT, EMT-CC, and EMT-P) must complete the NYS BLS Update. This can be found at the NYS BEMS&T Learning Management System (LMS) Vital Signs Academy. The website is www.vitalsignsacademy.com.
 - Instructions to sign up and navigate the Learning Management System are located at [http://www.suffolkremsco.com/clientuploads/Protocols/BLS%20Protocol/2019/Instructions for the 2019 BLS Roll Out.pdf](http://www.suffolkremsco.com/clientuploads/Protocols/BLS%20Protocol/2019/Instructions%20for%20the%202019%20BLS%20Roll%20Out.pdf);
 - All BLS and ALS (CFR, Basic, AEMT, Critical Care and Paramedics) providers are expected to participate in an agency-based skills verification, with attestation of completion by agency leadership in consultation with the Agency Medical Director.
 - This will be approved for hour-for-hour, Non-Core CME, as per the NYS BEMS&T.
 - The Skills video, verification form and skill sheets can be found at <http://www.suffolkremsco.com/news/2019/10/15/advisories/nys-bls-adult-and-pediatric-treatment-protocols-update>.
- **BLS Regional Credentialing Requirement:**
 - The Suffolk REMSCO has not extended the March 31, 2020 requirement for BLS Providers to be regionally credentialed. The credentialing course is an online course and can be done at any time by your current BLS providers that have not completed it. This online credentialing course will continue going forward for any new BLS providers in your agency.
 - Just a reminder that all NYS certified EMS providers in the Suffolk County 911 System will need to be REMAC credentialed as either a BLS or ALS provider. Not both...
 - The BLS Credentialing course can be found at <http://elearn.suffolkremsco.com/>.

Corona virus:

- As this is a dynamic situation that changes almost daily, we have been utilizing the Suffolk REMSCO website "Infectious Disease Updates" tab, blast emails

through the Suffolk REMSCO website, WebX's as well as weekly Zoom meetings to disseminate information as well as get feedback from our EMS Providers.

- We encourage Suffolk Residents to text COVIDSUFFOLK to 67283
- We encourage Suffolk Emergency Responders to text SIGNAL19 to 67283
- Please also go to www.sjtraining.com to keep you informed on the latest developments, guidelines, and recommendations.
- Every Friday at 1900 there is a Zoom meeting to provide First Responders with updated accurate information, receive feedback from the providers, support those in the field, and disseminate a unified message. Meeting ID: 563 265 986 Password: 804246 or by phone: 1-929-436-2866, 563 265 986
- Reminder, while out in public as well as in your FD or VAC you must be wearing a face covering. Ear loops must be placed on all patients on all calls. Ear loops must be worn by all providers on all calls unless it's a suspected COVID, then the provider wears an N95.
- Any emergency vehicle that requires decontamination after transporting a suspected COVID patient, please contact the Suffolk EMS division, we have an Aeroclave. It takes appx 30 minutes to complete the process.

Thank you, be safe.

- **Chairman Silverman:** Any questions?
- **Reilly:** I have one. This edict that came down from Albany about the no resuscitation /CPR of people with no pulse. Pushback from local squads about adhering to that. City sent a letter that they are not going to do it and are going to try to resuscitate for the 20 mins as usual. What's happening with that? Any comments?
Director Nathaniel Bialek: Currently NYS is reevaluating that policy and there will be further guidance coming out, most likely tomorrow morning. As soon as it gets pushed out it will be evaluated and will be pushed out to the system. What I am guessing is going to happen is they are going to back off on current policy and give it to regions to implement as they see it to be necessary. NYC is backing off on their own policy as is the REMO area. NYS pushed policy out and made it protocol; therefore, every region in the state had to follow. Us, NYC, the REMO area and a couple other areas all have given pushback because of the type of policy it is. You should see some changes in the next 24-48 hours.
Reilly: Great news. There is a lot of pushback locally, good they are evaluating.
Director Bialek: I can tell you, coming out of the County, coming from us, there has been a lot of pushback. We have the ability to make certain decisions locally and other decisions from the State we are mandated to implement, but there has been a lot of dialogue between the County and the State. From what I understand, they will be issuing something out over the next 24 hours.
- **Director Bialek:** One more thing: As most of you know, there is the ability to have a vehicle sanitized at S.C. EMS. We have multiple staff members from 9:00 a.m.-10:00p.m. during the week and on the weekend 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and if necessary can still do after that.
Chairman Silverman: How long is the process?
Director Bialek: About 30 minutes.

Deputy Commissioner's Report: A. Gehres in attendance

Fire Marshal's Report: D. Lynch

OEM Report: E. Schneyer

Communications Report: G. Miniutti in attendance

Fire Academy: R. Holley/E. Johnston

R. Barz(VEEB Board):

- We have been maintaining/updating our records and are hoping to open up soon. Want to thank the Commissioner for the contract which I believe has been signed.
- **Commissioner Jordan:** - Just wanted to let everyone know that Eddie Johnston has been at FA everyday. Donation reception area is at the Fire Academy, host think tank meetings at FA and the building is accessible to us. The field guys have been rotating in and out at POD location. I have had several meetings with Eddie and just yesterday met with Eddie and Bob. There is always one secretary in the building. Online training is fully functional and I was just discussing with Bob on a plan to reopen with social distancing /temperature taking in mind as well as working on a plan to add online training so quota at the end of the year will be the same. The Fire Academy is very much operational in many respects. Thanks to VEEB Board for their continued support.

SCPD – Special Patrol Bureau: Sgt. P. Kalin

Commissioner Jordan:

I spoke to Pat and Bob and they had some other things scheduled tonight.

EMS: Nathaniel Bialek and Dina Wayrich in attendance (Please see previous report)

Budget Committee: D. Silverman in attendance

Arson Task Force: T. Duckham in attendance

Combined Radio Committee: N. Reilly in attendance

- **Reilly** - There is some movement on Tband and progress on federal level.
Chairman Silverman- From my understanding, they were talking about attaching it to the Compensation Bill.
Chief Miniutti-I have nothing further than what you said. I did disseminate what Myles Quinn had provided from his visit to Washington and that's the last credible info I have.

Buildings & Grounds: E. Tully

Legislation & Standards: E. Tully

Codes & Prevention: V. Bologna

EMS & REMSCO: B. Prosek in attendance

Burn Center: J. Coughlin in attendance

- **Coughlin:** We had a call last night and voted to suspend the fundraiser for the remainder of the year. Recognition Day is cancelled. Website should be up and running in the next week.

Recruitment & Retention: G. Turza in attendance

Suffolk Chiefs: J. Coughlin in attendance

- **Coughlin:** May 8th meeting cancellation is posted on the website. The board remains available for all agencies or departments for assistance.

Fire District Officers: J. Egan/E. Tully

Suffolk County Ambulance Chiefs : B. Prosek in attendance

- **Prosek:** Had last meeting by ZOOM and I would anticipate we will do the same thing in May. Nothing else to report that hasn't already been discussed.

Suffolk County Volunteer Firemen's Association: A. Sullo in attendance

- **Sullo:** Memorial Service in beginning of May and May meeting is cancelled.

Fire Marshals Association of Suffolk County: V. Bologna, Jr.

Township Chief Councils:

Babylon- A. Laferrera

- No. Babylon had two passings, two past presidents, and I will forward the names to Carolyn. Currently in the Town of Babylon, it's been tough. There are four ex-chiefs fighting the virus. Two are still in the hospital, two have been released. I would like to say that the Town of Babylon stepped up professionally and with the utmost respect to patients. Kudos to them and kudos to the County and everybody at this meeting. Everyone stay safe.

Chairman Silverman: How is DFC Campbell?

Laferrera: He is off the vent and getting better.

Chairman Silverman: Please give him our best and wish him a speedy recovery.

Huntington- J. Hoffmann

- Got a report from one of my assistants about the asset reports being sent to Legislator Sunderman. Maybe Tom could reach out. My coordinator said that they weren't being filed. I know they are being sent in on the required date and I'm not sure if there was a glitch or if it was sent to spam. Just curious if anyone else is having an issue with sending in forms.
Legislator Donnelly: I will check in with Rudy tomorrow. I know you guys popped up as not having returned the forms. The surveys have been going pretty well so if you get a follow up call it's because we have been doing a tremendous amount of outreach. As the Commissioner said, the Incident Management Assistant Team was spun up on March 12 and Legislator Sunderman and myself were brought in as planning specialists as part of the resource group. I will follow up and check it out Chief.

Islip- F. Bonventre

- Nothing to report. Be safe.

Smithtown- T. Duckham

- Our last meeting was cancelled, but active chiefs have been communicating in reference to different resources each have and some ideas back and forth. To reiterate what everyone else has said, thanks to County for everything.

Brookhaven: Vice Chairman K. Markott

- I will forward email and send it to Carolyn also. As most of you are aware, there was a fire fighter from Middle Island injured at the brush fire this week. They are doing some fundraising for him, so I will send that out so everyone can get it.

Riverhead: L. Brown

- To follow up on where Kyle left off, we were pretty much the main on that brush fire. It was on the Lab property and was 400-500 acres and an area that burned eight years ago, but the undergrowth was four feet high. We have issues in there and it has been going on with the County parks for a while. I know some things are going on behind the scenes now, but you can't drive a brush truck through there and it's an obstacle course. You are climbing over twelve inch trees lying down and tops of trees fallen. Our department lost five tires and 3 while I was driving. In all, probably 11-15 tires were lost from all the mutual aid. I was looking for this council to send the County Executive a letter asking for some of these trails cleared for the safety of the public and first responders.

Chairman Silverman- Hopefully, you will contact Legislators Cilmi, Donnelly and Sunderman from the FRES Committee so we hopefully we can get some movement of cleanup for those areas that you described.

Southampton- E. McGrath

- Hope everyone is well. Last week's Town Chiefs meeting was held via Zoom. We discussed best practices for mutual aid requests and also discussed sanitization of vehicles after any incidences. For the next 6 weeks ending May 31, every Sunday at 1900 hours, departments in the 7th division will sound sirens for to honor first responders and recognize the great job of these overworked healthcare providers.

Southold – N. Reilly

- All chiefs are working close together with mutual aid and equipment.

East Hampton- G. Turza

- They did not dismantle Shinnecock Bridge this morning so I was happy about that. We have been inundated with city residents which complicate things for us greatly out here. Thankfully, call volume on EMS going down drastically. On the fire side it is going up. All 9th division chiefs conference call every other day with fire coordinators and emergency preparedness people in the township so everyone is on the same page and to discuss best practices. We have adopted procedure and protocol to limit the amount of resources coming in on mutual aids. We are also doing the 7 o'clock siren on Sundays. Also on Friday nights at 7:30 p.m., at their request, we do a drive by at Southampton Hospital and Nursing Homes primarily for the residents.
- Getting back to what Chief Brown was saying about the County parklands, we had that a few years ago in East Hampton / Amagansett and also at Cedar Point Park. I had reached out to the last administration and they put me in touch with some County Legislators and the County Parks Commissioner which went nowhere. I ended up going down to the local County Parks Manager and we worked out a little thing where we would do some brush truck training. We would go in with his crews, ride the trails and pick out what we needed to be cut and if his crews had the time they would thin out the trails that we deemed appropriate. A couple years ago when Tim Crafts was Chairman, he helped point us in the right direction, the County Parks Commissioner said they just

didn't have the time or resources. I brought up the problem we had in Flanders several years ago with nothing getting cut, but basically it is because of resources and budgets.

Chairman Silverman: Legislator Cilmi, maybe you could follow up with the FRES Committee or go through the Parks Department when things quiet down with the COVID crisis, obviously, maybe we could get some movement on this in regards to cleaning up the parkland trails?

Legislator Cilmi: Yes, absolutely. If someone could shoot me an email with a little bit of descriptive information, that would be helpful. I'll get in touch with Commissioner Berdolt and make sure that gets taken care of.

Chairman Silverman: Can Chief Brown from Riverhead and Chief Turza from East Hampton please follow up on this please and describe exactly what the problems are.

Legislator Cilmi: That would be perfect.

Brown: I know, since the fire Thursday and the Middle Island firefighter getting hurt, there has been some talk already. Rudy has been involved and Legislator Donnelly has been involved. There are things going on. I was looking that maybe we could send a letter to push it a little more. I know they are starting to work on it due to the injury and vast amounts of truck breakdowns the other day that just can't keep happening everytime we go into the woods.

Chairman Silverman: If you guys send a letter please copy me on it and if necessary I will write a letter as well as Chairman of the Commission just so we can get some movement so we don't have any problems, loss of life or property if we get any fires out there again.

Coughlin: Drew, do you need a motion for a letter from us.

Chairman Silverman: No, I don't think we need a motion for that.

Legislator Cilmi: Tom Donnelly and I will speak to Rudy Sunderman as well about it.

Coughlin: I have more thing. Ronny Barz mentioned McDonalds for first responders. Can you or the Legislator expand on that? It was a memo?

Chairman Silverman: I think Legislator Cilmi sent an email about that.

Legislator Cilmi: Yes. Yesterday, I received an email from McDonald's corporate, their regional office, about a free meal program that all local McDonald's are taking part in. Basically, today through May 5 they are offering a free meal, breakfast, lunch or dinner. You go through the drive through and present your ID and first responders or healthcare professionals will get a free meal. I sent an email and there is a link in that goes into more detail about what's included. I asked about participation issue and, apparently, there are 14,000 restaurants in the country and all are participating.

Shelter Island: A. Bloom

- We are traditionally "sheltered" and blessed with low activity on all our agencies. However, as Chief Turza pointed out, we have been, the word overwhelmed is an understatement, with people from the city who own a second house out here. They are behaving themselves, but there is a ton of them. In terms of tactics, the fire department, on any call, again luckily 95% of our calls are either unfounded, CO detectors or smoke on the stove. So tactically, we have one engine on the ramp with one chauffeur. We have interior firefighters packed up, but they stand on the ramp and don't get in the vehicle unless they are absolutely needed and called by the Chief who is the first responder for these calls. Luckily, as we normally do this time of year, we have very low activity. The ambulance service has three ambulances. One is dedicated to FC calls and, again, members go to the scene in their own vehicles and stand by in the driveway. One or two members of EMS squad go inside to evaluate patient. Normally, our worst day in terms of activity is the July 4 weekend when we get five or six calls a day. This

time of year we generally have one or two calls a day, but we have been getting two, three, four calls a day. It's ramped down a little, but at least one or two calls a day. It's the influx of people causing it, but by and large, they are behaving themselves.

Old Business: N/A

New Business:

Reilly:

- There was a Newsday article about LOSAP program. Is Tony or anyone connected with state associations working on that problem? Seems that there are problems with a lot of members being told they can't go the calls, older guys or whatever. Is anything happening with that?

Laferrera: The only organization that has put out any information on that is FASNY. You can go to the FASNY website and it will give information about it and ideas about online training. Also, it will be up to each individual department how they want to handle it with their provider who is providing the awards service. My recommendation is start with the FASNY website and the recommendation and guidelines they are giving everybody to go on.

Coughlin: Deer Park has instituted an online train program to address LOSAP program. I believe that is in line with what Tony just said. Be guided by what the FASNY website has to say, but your department can probably come up with a plan whether they will accept the online training.

Leg. Donnelly:

- Rudy and I are both members of Planning Section at FRES working under FM Brett Martinez who is the Planning Section Chief. I just had a couple odd ball items that I had texted the Commissioner about that I wanted to mention to the group.
- County Executive Command Staff which includes the FRES Commissioner, Health Department Commissioner and County Executive Staff, are trying to capture countywide data. We have been pushing the use of the MEDCOM radio on all signal 16 because it's really the one mechanism we have in the County to capture real time data. If you just gently pass the word along to any agency you may bump into along the way about the critical importance of the use of the MEDCOM frequency on all signal 16.
- Secondly, relative to the supply chain that the Commissioner referenced. On the FRES website there is a link to use to order supplies. This is what most agencies are doing. If you run into any snafus along the way certainly give wither Legislator Sunderman or myself a call. My cell phone is 631-926-5226 or call the Planning Section landline at 631-852-4821.
- Also, tomorrow we are doing the second in a wave of district webinars. We have a bunch of different folks who come on and talk about FRES operations, some fire district issues, particularly insurance. It went really well last time so we are going to doing another one next Monday @ 11:00 a.m. We can push that information out to you if you are interested.
- Relative to the survey- I just texted Rudy Sunderman. The next survey is due at 1400 tomorrow. Distribution went out through different messaging platforms including the FC group as well as FRES blast. Asking each department to respond. It allows the planning section to collate info and send it to the command staff. Individually, we try to do outreach to different agencies that might be stressed or if they need assistance or don't need assistance. On whole, I think the Commissioner and I both responded to this, the 36 card was pulled, but the current system, all 109 agencies, is fully functioning. It is a

credit to every member of service from Melville to Montauk that the system as it is, is functioning. We don't have mutual aid ambulances in from any other parts of the country and we are getting the job done in Suffolk County on our own. Any questions feel free to give me shout.

- **Director Bialek:** Can I piggyback on Legislator Donnelly? His request for people to contact MEDCOM is absolutely essential for us to have a visual of how people are responding and turnaround time at the hospital. It doesn't have to just be MEDCOM. I understand some people have issues with touching MEDCOM, so FIRECOM is also an option as long as you are communicating with FRES in some form or fashion.
- **Legislator Donnelly:** Thanks Nate. That's really important. The Commissioner had mentioned this at several meetings. Some departments don't even have MEDCOM frequency so you can just raise FRES dispatcher on air when signal 2 or 21. It's really important, as Nate said, for his team and the County Executive team to capture information. We are in uncharted waters, this is a global pandemic and something none of us ever thought we would see in our lives so trying to capture this information is mission critical. I don't know if Chief Miniutti is still on the line, but that was one of the tasks the planning section was assigned.
- **Coughlin:** What do you do if the department reports to a private agency on signal 2 and 21 and there are only two people on the ambulance and MEDCOM radio is in the rear?
- **Legislator Donnelly:** It's tough, people are out of their comfort zone and it is not stuff they are used to, but we are asking for cooperation. There are MEDCOM portables that Chief Miniutti has been able to get out to agencies. I'm not sure what our cache looks like. He could give a better synopsis of that. I have just been tasked with trying to reach out to agencies. Many have heard from me. They all know my cell phone number. It's all good. Somedays compliance is awesome. Other days, we just have to continue to give gentle reminders. It's really the one mechanism that gives Suffolk EMS, FRES and the CE office something to look at real time data.
- **Chief Miniutti:** I am here Legislator Donnelly and Chief Silverman and I agree 100%. I don't want to belabor the point, but at the moment the transmissions to MEDCOM or FIRECOM really are the only mechanisms we have. We have distributed a lot of portable radios and we still have more. If you have an agency that has a particular difficulty, we would be happy to get it out them. In a longer term, we are looking with SCM and Alpine, which are the two major services that the different fire departments use, to see if we can build in some automated process so that going forward, we don't have to put that additional responsibility on you. Right now, it is the only way to get real time information.
- **Deputy Commissioner Gehres:** Part of that notification is bolstering our case for additional resources from the state and county procurement for PPE because we are basing out burn rates on call volume. If we don't know you had a call, we can't replace PPE for a call that didn't exist. So that is important for us when we present our case to the state for additional resources.
- **Chairman Silverman:** Ok. Any other new business? Carolyn, are you still here?
Alles: Yes.
Chairman Silverman: Has the Commission received any correspondence that needs to be brought up?
Alles: No, nothing.
Silverman: Ok. I just wanted to thank Carolyn and Chief Miniutti for setting up the meeting tonight. I think it went well. Technology is amazing. Next meeting is Wednesday, May 27 and it is TBD whether it will be live or via ZOOM again depending if

social distancing is relaxed, but we will have another meeting next month. Thank you for participating. If anyone needs anything, please feel free to contact me. Stay safe.

Public Comment: N/A

A motion was made to adjourn meeting by J.Coughlin and seconded by E. McGrath. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Members Present	Staff Present	Guests Present
Arthur Bloom	John G. Jordan, Sr.	Nathaniel Bialek
Jon Hoffmann	Albert Gehres	Dina Wayrich
Anthony Sullo	Gregory Miniutti	Leg. T. Donnelly
Frank Bonventre		Leg. T. Cilmi
Drew Silverman		
John Coughlin		
Gerard Turza, Jr.		
Ronald Barz		
Bryan Prosek		
Edward McGrath		
Norman Reilly, Jr.		
Anthony Laferrera		
Kyle Markott		
Timothy Duckham		
Alternates Present		
Lawrence Brown, Jr.	-	

NEXT MEETING	Wednesday, May 27 , 2020
TIME	7:30 pm
LOCATION	TBD
REFRESHMENTS	