



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

MINUTES OF
September 23, 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:

Joseph Callari – Past Commissioner, Selden Fire Department

Wayne Kaifler, Sr. – Current Commissioner, Ex Chief, East Northport Fire Department

George Worthington and his wife- Ex Chief, Flanders Northampton Ambulance

Kevin Duckham- Smithtown Fire Department

Report of Officers: D. Silverman / K. Markott

Chairman Silverman:

- Welcome everybody to the September Commission meeting. Hope everybody had a good summer and a safe summer. I know it goes fast. Just need to do some housecleaning.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Chairman Silverman: I will entertain a motion to accept the June 24 meeting that was held via Zoom.

Barz: I'll make a motion. **Turza:** Second the motion.

Chairman Silverman: All in favor and no one opposing, the motion carried.

Correspondence:

No correspondence received or sent since last meeting

Treasurer's Report: F. Bonventre in attendance.

Report presented by F. Bonventre.

Opening balance \$5587.90, Deposit of \$100 due from Islip Town Fire Chiefs, Expense of \$100 for gift for Ed Schneyer, Interest earned \$0.14, Total Deposits \$100.14, Ending balance \$5588.04.

Chairman Silverman: Did you receive the envelope I mailed you?

Bonventre: I received Shelter Island and Babylon Chiefs today and will deposit probably next Monday. We have five paid dues and not paid is Brookhaven Chiefs, Suffolk County Chiefs, Suffolk County Fire Marshal, Suffolk County Districts, Huntington Chiefs, Riverhead Chiefs, Southold Chiefs, East Hampton Chiefs, Southampton Chiefs and Smithtown Chiefs. I sent everybody an email about a month or two months ago. I don't know if you received it. I could resend it or mail one of the dues notices to whoever didn't get it.

Silverman: I see Gerry Turza waving a check. Do you need the address?

Turza: I've had the check for about five months. I keep forgetting to get a hold of you Frank. I'll get with you after.

Chairman Silverman: I'll entertain a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. **Coughlin:** I'll make a motion. **Sullo:** I'll second the motion. **Silverman:** All in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman Silverman: Have to jump back and do the roll call. Carolyn is not on the meeting, but this is being recorded obviously. (See attendance on last page)

Chairman Silverman: I see we have Steven Moss on the Zoom. Is he our guest Commissioner?

Commissioner Jordan: Yes

Chairman Silverman: If it pleases the membership, we are going to dispense with the regular order of business to allow Commissioner Jordan to present our guest tonight who will address the Commission for ten to fifteen minutes.

Commissioner Jordan: Thank you for taking the time to allow Rabbi Moss to speak. Rabbi Moss comes to us with decades of experience and dedication. He is the former Chairman of the Human Rights Commission for Suffolk County and in light of recent events, everybody is aware of what happened in Brookhaven with the flag, Rabbi Moss and the folks at the Human Rights Commission have been working with the leadership in the Brookhaven Fire Department to get some training out to their members. On the county level, discussions were had and we felt that it's probably a good idea to offer training and help to the fire service specifically focusing on symbolism. For some of our members, what some people take pride in may be offensive to others and symbols mean different things to different folks. So we talked about some paths forward and the legislators had a conference call or a meeting with the leadership of Brookhaven FD and the Human Rights Commission is going to be doing some training with them specifically. What we talked about doing, Rabbi Moss will expand, is maybe doing some "train the trainer" type of things for the fire service. All departments could send a representative and then get the message and the training out to our members and the leadership in the fire service about how sometimes what we don't know is actually offensive to others. A simple misunderstanding for one could be totally offensive and upsetting to others. With no mal-intent necessarily meant, it still could cause a very bad day for someone else. So with no further delay, I'd like to allow Rabbi Moss to takeover. He's really an expert on this stuff and he can talk a little bit to us and then we can bring these messages back to our respective councils and organizations and, hopefully, create a path forward.

Rabbi Steven Moss: Thank you John. I must say, it's my great honor to address this group. I must tell you how much I admire all of you and your firefighters that you are willing to place your lives on the line, literally, every time you go out on a call to save lives, homes and buildings of others is really extraordinary and I want to offer my prayer for all of you and your firefighters that you should be blessed by God with good health and well-being, courage and strength and to continue to put out the fires to bring safety to your community, to our community to my community as well. I am a resident of Holbrook. In addition to what John said, I was Rabbi, I'm now retired, for forty seven years at B'nai Israel Reform Temple in Oakdale. In addition to twenty eight years as Chair of the Human Rights Commission, I also was chair and one of the founders of the County's, and thereby the towns, Anti-Bias Task Force which some of you might be familiar and also a program called " Stop Bias" which I'll talk about a little later on. Two or so weeks ago I received a call from the County Executive's Office and that's how I first met John. We began to discuss the incident, particularly what occurred at the Brookhaven Fire House. The question always is, "What can be done?" in regards to this. As John did say, symbols are very, very powerful. Symbols of course can do what? They can inspire. On the other hand, they can do the opposite. So take for instance a few moments ago we stood and saluted the American flag. I'm quite sure, for all of us here, for most Americans, that is a symbol of which we offer our patriotism and in many cases our lives. On the other hand, I'm sure you can understand when I say, that in other parts of the world, it means something very different. A number of years ago, the Human Rights Commission was called to a place of business and it was discovered that in the employee lunchroom two of the employees took a rope and made a thing and a knot and whatever. An African American went to lunch that day and he saw it as a noose. We were brought in and were eventually able to speak to the people who made this rope and knot and we asked them, "What is this? Did you make a noose?" meaning, of course, a symbol of hate regarding the African American community and I would like to think all Americans based upon the history of a noose in this country. The two gentlemen said "No. We were just practicing knots. How to make knots." Well, whether one believes it or not doesn't make a bit of difference. The fact is, symbols can be highly, of course, inflammatory and whether one thinks they should be or shouldn't be it really doesn't matter. So in regards to the situation at Brookhaven Fire Department is that the Confederate flag that was shown. It's not for me right now to go into what I heard was the reason that it was on display that day. It really doesn't matter. However, it has been brought to our attention that the showing of a Confederate flag, particularly by some of the fire house teams for competitions, I think I heard Lynda Perdomo-Ayala, who is the Chair now of the Human Rights Commission, who took over after for me after

my retirement from that, I think she saw a fire truck with a Confederate flag going back to 1940 something somewhere here in the county. But the fact is, or not the fact as such, but perception by some, they see this as offensive. We're all going to make mistakes obviously. We say things we do things and afterwards say, "Oh my God, I shouldn't have." But the question becomes how can we raise sensitivity and specifically speaking to all of you and your firefighters in your fire houses, how can we raise an awareness of what we say and what we do does make a difference. In my Stop Bias program that I established almost 30 years ago, we had over 550 defendants come through the program. Every person, before there was a hate crimes law, who committed any kind of crime at all in Suffolk County, was arrested as such, juvenile as well as adult, was sent into the program if there was an aspect of bias to their action by word or deed. With the hate crimes law in New York State it became another situation because many of those who are convicted of a hate crime were convicted of a felony. But, what I've pointed out in the program which is made up of two parts and basically what we are going to be offering at Brookhaven Firehouse on October 7th at 7:30 p.m. and in a sense offering to all of you as a possible program, is taking the Stop Bias program and expanding it. In the first part of the program using videos and other methods of getting across a very specific message and that is, guess what? Unlike the adage going back to our childhood, "Sticks and stones might break my bones, but names will never harm me," is not true. Quite often, I will tell the story that I don't know personally, thankfully, but I read about it years ago in Brooklyn of a first grader, a seven year old, who everyday went to school to first grade. The boy was very overweight, obese, and there were kids in that first grade class that made fun of him every single day so he hated going to school. He wasn't a good student. He had problems with his parents, problems with his teachers. This is probably at least twenty five years ago. He was able to get a gun and came to school one day and shot in the head and killed the other first grader who was calling him the names most often. Names do hurt. Words do hurt. We have to be, to the best of our ability, mindful of this. By the way, tonight I am representing the Commission, I just left the meeting, this is the night we have our monthly fourth Wednesday of the month. Our Executive Director Dawn Lott and Chair Lynda Perdomo- Ayala give their regards to you and will definitely be involved in this program as it moves along. So as John was saying, we had this discussion with the County Executive office and then I became a part of a meeting with Legislator Calarco, as I believe the Brookhaven Firehouse is in his district, as well as other persons from that firehouse as well. On October 7 we are going to be doing a mini, I would call it, a Stop Bias program. Unfortunately, because it is going to be in the evening, which is not the ideal time to do this and it was supposed to have been 7 o'clock but due to something else it's going to be at 7:30 p.m. and we can't go to late so, therefore, it's going to be approximately two hours from 7:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. In the first part of the program we are going to show in part, it's a very limited amount of time to say the least to do all of this, but we are going to show a program, a video rather, that is called "Shadow of Hate" which is a marvelous documentary which basically describes actions and words of hate in this country as they were expressed by not only average people, but by our government, by people in positions of power in politics and government. I think one is a senator and another is Henry Ford who is definitely anti-Semitic. It chooses different communities. So there's a segment on African Americans, another on Latino and sets them all up. There's a part about skin heads and neo Nazis, but it really gets across in a very, very good way the idea that, guess what? No community is immune from hatred and we have to be vigilant in regards to this. Hate does hurt. And then what we are going to do is, we didn't really want to focus solely on the Confederate flag issue and the African American communities' sensitivities to that particular type of flag as well as other people in the community, because Stop Bias doesn't only deal with racial incidents, but across the board bias, hatred and prejudice. Out of those five hundred and fifty defendants who we had, by the way, the youngest was ten years old and the oldest was sixty four years old. As you can imagine, there wasn't one community that wasn't exempt from words or actions of bias and prejudice. However, what I was hoping to do, but unfortunately during this time it probably won't work, we are going to have a gentleman from the African American community speak about what it means to an African American to see a Confederate flag, what does it mean to see a noose, these symbols of hate for the African American Community. I'm hoping, but I'm not sure we will have the time being we have a two hour limit, to have a Holocaust survivor who's going to speak about the symbols, such as a swastika, and what does it engender in a person of the Jewish faith certainly as the person is a Holocaust survivor. The point is to raise awareness of this so that, hopefully, in the firehouse when someone does put up something and let's hope and pray it's not intentional but it's just done. We had a situation in one of the towns in the county where a garage worker where the various trucks are

brought in from the town every night, it was Halloween, but he actually hung from the ceiling a stuffed figure, but guess what? He put a black face on it; not a good thing to do to say the least, He said, "It's Halloween. What do you want?" Well this caused quite an uproar in this town to say the least. The beauty is we as a community can always do something so we ended up developing sensitivity program for the citizens of that town. So we are going to be doing this program on October 7 at Brookhaven Firehouse. I would say you are all invited, however, because it's going to be indoors, number one, number two masks are required and, therefore, we are kind of limited to the number of people who can be there. However, what we are hoping to do and this is what John was talking about, if this is something that FRES and all of you and your fire departments under your care and tutelage and leadership are willing to take on, we could do a half day possibly during the day because we would need a couple of hours, like three to four ideally speaking, or we can do this in two parts if you are limited to nighttime and limited to the hours we could do this in two parts. So we would take the program I described and expand it. As a matter of fact Suffolk Community College, of which I am a past Chair as well of the Center for Social Justice and Human Understanding, we have a whole segment on the power of symbols, of symbols of hate. And so we would have a general presentation about this as I am describing, how what we say and do does make a difference to others and then we would have members of various communities come in and talk about what these symbols mean to those communities obviously with an interaction. An evening or a program like this would basically be a "train the trainer." In other words, the hope would be that the possibility is to identify one person from every single firehouse in the county to attend some kind of meeting to get together like this and we would like to develop some kind of trainer booklet to bring back with them from the all of this in order to bring them back to their houses to train the people there. The point is this and I'm just going to talk one second about what happened in Brookhaven and then I'm going to end and any questions or comments or whatever. That is not only are the firefighters that put the flag up, that's one thing, but on the other hand was there anyone else in that firehouse who could have said "You know, that's not a good idea and maybe we shouldn't do this." And I understand from my little bit of appreciation of firehouses and the little that I know about them and what you do, you are like a family in a firehouse. It's not easy for a family member to call out another family member, but sometimes it is necessary. I think this effort would be very much appreciated by your communities to let them know, guess what? We not only put out the fire, the literal physical fires, all fires that occur, but also we are working on putting out the fires of bias prejudice that sometimes arise in the hearts of all human beings and thankfully, most of the time, unintentionally. So thank you everybody. I hope this makes sense to you and any comments, questions, whatever?

Chairman Silverman: Thank you Rabbi. Does any Commission member have any questions for the Rabbi? Thank you sir for your time.

Rabbi Moss: Let me say this, is that the Human Rights Commission is able to put together this kind of program. The one in Brookhaven they wanted to do as quickly as possible and, obviously, we are doing that. However, this would take some work to put together and, by the way, we know there are other programs that are available and would be glad to help you get access to one of those as well which we are willing to do if you don't want to do this one. By the way, everyone should know, there is no cost which I know quite often becomes a consideration. Thank you everyone and God bless you and keep up your wonderful work.

Commissioner Jordan: Thank you Rabbi.

Chairman Silverman: Going back to the regular order of business of the meeting. Just briefly, the only thing I have to report is myself and I believe a few other members of the Commission attended the walk out ceremony for Ed Schneyer at FRES. It was a nice occasion. Commissioner Jordan you put together a nice program and there were a lot of people there. It was my first venture out to FRES since we had our last meeting there back in February, so it was nice to see everybody face to face and we wished Ed well in his retirement and I'm sure we will still be seeing him around. Vice Chairman Markott have you checked into the meeting? Okay, he has not checked in. Going to turn the floor back over to Commissioner Jordan. I know he has a lot to report.

Commissioner's Report: J. Jordan

Commissioner Jordan: Thanks for listening to Rabbi Moss. We appreciate that and, obviously, everyone is taking what happened very seriously. The goal is to prevent things like that happening again, so I would ask everyone bring back to their councils and organizations the opportunity to number one,

attend the training, the interest in attending the training and also the interest in attending future trainings to educate all the firefighters in our respective jurisdictions and EMTs, first responders and even families. It's limitless who we can bring to the table for this. Let us know if you guys want this. We are going to continue to follow up on it and schedule some opportunities for folks to come to trainings and things like that so just let us know.

Thank you for your kind words Drew on Ed Schneyer's walk out. We are just sorry COVID and the situation prevented Ed from getting a party because he really did deserve it. He had close to thirty five years with FRES in many capacities. He has worked in all divisions and was a supervisor in two of the three divisions and Ed really left his mark and his are big shoes to fill and we miss him already. Thank you to all those who attended. He and his family appreciated it and we certainly did. I have seven or eight pages of report and I'm not going to go through everything. I'm going to try to glance over the important things. I will email you Drew and Carolyn will include those in the official mailing.

Snapshot of COVID where we are: Operating on COVID since February 19 starting with conference calls then March 14 transitioned to daily calls. We activated EOC March 12 with many agencies being represented there. EOC still open forty hours a week. Pod is still open two days a week. Still distribute PPE two days a week. To date distributed over 7.2 million pieces of PPE, filled over 7200 requests for PPE and various other equipment. Still busy with COVID. As of September 20, 2011 County residents have died due to COVID. Very sad number. I believe that if not for all the work of our first responders and healthcare workers that number could have been much greater. Speaking of COVID, there is a little known fact. Legislator Donnelly is on the call. I don't believe Legislator Sunderman is, but I personally want to thank them and we will do it more formally at another time. For those of you that don't know, Legislators Donnelly and Sunderman both worked actively in the EOC and as part of the Planning Section and even doing some operational stuff as well. Those folks were there eight hours a day, I can't tell you for how long, I have it written down somewhere else, for months. They weren't being paid to work there and they were still handling their legislative office business and both are still active members in their fire departments. So hats off to those guys. We appreciate their help and selflessness. Thank you Tom and Rudy if you are on the call.

Tropical Storm Isaias- On July 30 we activated 120 hour timeline. There's a lot of work that went into that storm, a lot of briefings and meetings. As a result of the storm we conducted preliminary damage assessments and went through a lot of rigmarole with PSEG. I personally participated in two different meetings with PSEG with the Chair and then, obviously, the hearing that I was on the conference call with for I think fifteen or sixteen hours. So we did preliminary damage assessments and the County threshold is six million dollars, 5.7 or 5.9, and the state threshold is around 27 million dollars for damages. Suffolk County alone had 37 million dollars in damage that was vetted. So we requested a Presidential declaration. The Governor wrote the letter to President Trump for the State. The County of Suffolk met the State threshold which doesn't happen very often. The last time that happened was Hurricane Sandy. We are still waiting for a response from the President for that. Letter was sent September 3.

Hazard Mitigation Plan: Is finished and in review with our partners in the towns and village level. That's on our website to review and the deadline is next month. We spent a couple hundred thousand dollars to do that plan and we are required by the Federal government to do that plan every five years so this is our five year renewal.

Training and Exercises: Took a hit because of COVID, but we are still active doing Hurricane Preparedness stuff. Meeting/exercises virtually, Hurrevac training. USAR team held several drills and they held three mobilizations exercises not last weekend, but the three weekends prior to that at FRES with different scenarios. It was a very well received drill. That team is really tireless. Hats off to Brett Martinez. He is like the energizer bunny and a smart guy. When he finally decided to retire, and he's been eligible, it will be a hole in that team and a hole in FRES for sure. FM Ryan Fischer completed his Fire Investigation training. FM Martinez will not be attending the canine recertification in 2020. ATF has tried to reschedule several times but has been unable to due to pandemic. Don Lynch is spearheading a kind of regional training, inviting people with ATF dogs in the regions to come to Suffolk County and we are going to do our own and the ATF, I believe to this point, has committed to accept that training as recertification. It's a stop gap measure, but it's going to work out for us. In reference to additional ATF dog: We as a County had approved the second dog well over a year ago but because of training and lining up schedules, there wasn't a class available last year. The ATF has just announced to us last week that there is training available in Front Royal, Virginia starting in November or October. Waiting until the

last minute due to the Governor's travel restrictions as it is a COVID positive state. If it goes off the list we will approve, but if not we will have to wait until next year. Fire Marshalls are doing online codes, fire investigation, HAZMAT training and they are meeting their yearly requirements and we are finally catching up to normal business. Most of the staff is still actively engaged in, if not daily, then several times a week in COVID operation, but specifically the Fire Marshalls and OEM. We still have daily conference calls with the County Executive and some County Executive staff, Commissioner of Health and some Health Department staff, the Police Chief and some FRES staff; Al Gehres, Greg Miniutti, Joe Trzepizur and myself. It was seven times a week, but now five times a week. FELB meeting was in person on September 12 at the Fire Academy. We think we blew the engine in the High Water Vehicle, not sure if it's been officially diagnosed, but it is out of service and will be for some time.

Personnel: Ed Schneyer has retired and fortunately Joe T has stepped up and is Acting Director until we can get the civil service process to make it official. We are fortunate Ed had time to transition Joe and we have all the confidence in the world. Joe has proven himself through the COVID crisis. He is tireless and we are happy to have him.. Hired a new RMO, Bowman Prendergast, on August 24 and hoping to hire a new RMO in the next couple of weeks. Hired new Training Officer on September 21 who meets all the qualifications. In process of hiring two ESD II supervisors. Some dispatchers have left and resigned. Trying to bunch the ESD IIs and then we will hire three ESD Is, but we are trying to group them all together so they can train together. It's a bit of a process. The County Executive (CE) and myself will be hosting a small employee recognition tomorrow at FRES. CE wants to say thank you. We are keeping the group small due to COVID and social distancing. We are expecting twenty six employees present. CE will speak and every employee is receiving a proclamation whether present or not. CE will take photo with group. I will do something separate to honor folks. I also want to include all the staff, PD, Sheriffs, Probation, DPW and Parks. A lot of other employees were present for months of dedication and real professionalism went into this effort so I want to recognize them. And we are not done; we are still working. Greg will go into UHF paging and technology pieces.

Budget: has not been finalized yet and that should come by the end of the month. Capital program is finalized and submitted. Still have some Fire Academy projects that remain highly active and CAD Radio system remains active. We do have half a million dollars to purchase HAZMAT detection equipment and should happen this quarter. Also purchasing additional PPE. Al please get into the detail with the Fire Academy staff.

General Fire Marshall Office Info: NIFRS reports we got to 98% thanks to Don Lynch following up with a lot of departments that weren't reporting. Nearly at the top of where we can be. Don has been handing out Emergency Response Guidebooks so let your departments and agencies know to get in touch with him. County building inspections are going on. Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program and Arson Task is what it is supposed to be.

(Please see attached submitted report below)

Commissioner's FRES Commission Report

September 23, 2020

COVID-19 Response:

- Weekly coronavirus calls with Executive Staff began on February 19. By March 14, the calls transitioned to daily.
- EOC was activated on March 12.
 - ESF 3, ESF 5, ESF 7, ESF 8, ESF13, and SC Sheriffs representatives staffing the EOC.
 - Originally, EOC was open 7 days/week and recently transitioned to 5 days/week.
- First request for PPE came in on March 7, and a few days later we established a supply POD.
 - POD was operational 7 days/week.
 - Currently the POD is operational 2 days/week, Tuesdays & Thursdays
- Currently we have processed over 7,200 requests for PPE and distributed over 7.2 million pieces of PPE.
- As of 9/20, 2,011 County resident fatalities due to COVID.

Tropical Storm Isaias Response:

- Thursday, July 30, 2020
 - activated the 120 Hour Hurricane Activation Timeline
- Monday, August 3, 2020
 - Pre-storm briefing with County Executive staff, DPW, SCPD and SC Parks.
 - Organized a pre-storm briefing with Town Emergency Managers.
 - Organized pre-storm briefing with Fire Island Ferries and Fire Island Working Group
 - Pre-storm briefing with Suffolk County Legislature
 - Final NWS pre-storm briefing via webinar
- August 4-13,2020
 - EOC activated for TS Isaias at modified level 2
 - Daily briefing of CE, daily coordination calls with Towns and NYS, multiple restoration calls daily with PSEG.
- Monday, August 10, 2020
 - Requested Preliminary Damage Assessment from all municipalities and County Departments.
- August 17th-September 2, 2020
 - Joint DHSES and FEMA review of Preliminary Damage assessments for Suffolk and NYS.
 - Joint agreement that damage thresholds have been met for application for disaster declaration.
- September 3, 2020
 - Governor Cuomo submitted letter to President Trump for Federal Disaster Declaration and assistance.

Hazard Mitigation Plan:

- Weekly, and at times, daily HMP conference calls and planning meetings with State, Towns and Villages.
- To date, we have facilitated and participated in more than 115 meetings.
- We have been able to stay on schedule with our HMP timeline throughout the COVID-19.
- We have completed the Draft Plan and it has been up for public review since 9/1. The official review period will end on 9/30. At this time, we will conduct a Steering Committee Meeting to review the public feedback. OEM has submitted the draft plan maintenance section for preliminary review to NYS DHSES, their response and commentary has been positive.
- Website can be viewed by visiting <https://fres.suffolkcountyny.gov/respond/> and clicking on 'HMP Story Map'

TRAINING & EXERCISES:

- OEM 7/8/20 – NWS Hurricane Season Preparedness
- OEM 8/17/20 – AWR-343 Hurricane Awareness Course
- OEM 9/15/20 – HURREVAC Training

- FM USAR team held several small scale training drills – involved water operations & Search and Rescue. Equipment is being maintained and serviced as needed.
- FM Assisted the SC Sheriff's Office with Operation Shield.
- FM Fischer completed Fire Investigator training and is currently working on compiling the hours needed for final certification. Several towns and villages have offered to allow his attendance to help satisfy these hours.
- FM Martinez will not be attending K9 recertification in 2020. The ATF has tried on several occasions to complete this task however changes to restrictions and travel have made it difficult. Chief Lynch will set up training for the K9's in the Tristate region which will be recorded and forwarded to the ATF as a stopgap until normal operations can resume.
- Online codes, fire investigation and Haz-mat training is being taken by all marshals to meet the yearly requirements to maintain all those certifications.

PLANNING:

- 7/7/20 – ESF8 Meeting
- 7/21/20 - UAWG Logistics Subcommittee Quarterly Meeting
- 7/21/20 – ESF8 Meeting
- 7/22/20 – SLOSH Map Update Briefing w/ National Hurricane Center & NYS DHSES
- 7/28/20 – UAWG Principals Meeting
- 7/27/20 – Meeting with PSEG to review storm response (Make Safe to Clear Program and Life Support Equipment response)
- 7/31/20 – Facilitated meeting with Manorville Fire District and Suffolk County Parks in regards to clearing fire trails in Manorville Hills.
- 8/4/20 – ESF8 Meeting
- 8/13/20 – Met with American Red Cross and SCDOH to discuss sheltering needs in post COVID world.
- 8/18/20 – ESF8 Meeting
- 9/1/20 – ESF8 Meeting
- 9/10/20 – PSEG Meeting to review storm response/restoration improvements post TS Isaias
- 9/10/20 – Call with FI fire service to review TS Isaias response
- 9/15/20 – ESF8 Meeting
- 9/16/20 – Suffolk County Traffic Safety Board Meeting
- 9/16/20 – Call with FI Chiefs & PSEG to review TS Isaias restoration response.
- 9/23/20 – PSEG bi-weekly meeting to review response/restoration improvements

- FMASCO has still not held a monthly meeting.
- 9/12 – FELB regular meeting held at SCFA
- 9/5 & 9/13 USAR drills held. All safety guidelines will be adhered to where possible and applicable.
- Haunted Trail meeting at Southaven Park to be held on 9/23

RESPONSE & SUPPORT:

- 7/11/20 – MERV requested for firefighter rehab for a structure fire at Northport Power Station
- 7/20/20 - MERV requested for firefighter rehab at overturned propane truck in Hampton Bays.
- 8/4/20 through 8/13/20 - 10 day EOC activation for TS Isaias.
 - Daily briefing of CE, daily coordination calls with Towns and NYS, multiple restoration calls daily with PSEG.

Personnel:

- Ed Schneyer retired as Director of Emergency Preparedness in September; Joe Trzepizur serving as Acting Director.
- New Resources Management Officer – Bowman Prendergast, started 8/24/20
- New Training Officer – Allision Aievoli, started 9/21/20
- In the process of hiring:
 - 2 Emergency Services Dispatcher IIs
 - 1 Emergency Services Dispatcher I
 - Resources Management Officer
- County Executive and Commissioner Jordan will host an employee recognition ceremony honoring FRES personnel for COVID response work on 9/24.

Communications & Technology

- UHF paging West- We are on track to begin turning down low band resources on the west end of the county by January 1st 2020. We have been actively working on getting any remaining agencies over. Certified letters to the Board of Fire Commissioners, insuring they are aware of our actions sent to any departments that have been non-responsive.
- UHF paging East - Coordinated a new frequency with FCC, working with Motorola to return to engineering, installation and implementation of east end sites. More to follow.
- Ipaws integration into Rave Alert is on track for October
- Directly phone data Load Rave is under review and should be loaded for October
- KML Files will be created and uploaded into Rave Alert
- Emergency Management App Nearing Completion
- FRES EVENT Nearing Completion
- Mutual Link
- Pulsepoint Upgrade is complete.
- ASAP to PSAP Is active and live.
- Netviewer: remain rolling out to FD & EMS with in house dispatch services that are processed through FRES.
- Carepoint / Ebridge: Remain onboarding of EMS transporting agencies and hospitals
- Fire and EMS outlook is up and running.
- Image Trend: Starting rollout and beta testing of system and services.
- Hexagon CAD mobile app: Remain enrolling FD & EMS services that are processed through FRES.

- Active Fax: Upgrade is under way secondary to window10 issue. Updates should be sent to electronically.
- FRES DIRECTORY: Updates should be sent to electronically to Brianne.Minden@suffolkcountyny.gov
- Hyperwall support bid for development
- Crestron support bid for development
- Base Station Radio Service and Support bid for development

Budget & Capital Projects

- Attached below is the direct link to the Proposed Capital Program 2021-2023: <https://suffolkcountyny.gov/Portals/0/formsdocs/countyeexecutive/budgets/2021-2023%20Proposed%20Capital%20Budget%20Final%20Print%20Shop%201220pm.pdf>
- Current Capital Projects:
 - 3405 Fire Academy: Remains Highly Active
 - 3416 FRES CAD Radio: Remains Active
 - 3418 FRES Building: In Planning
 - 3423 Haz Mat detection Equipment: \$500,000 to purchasing in this quarter
 - 3518 PPE: Purchasing development phase

Fire Academy Projects:

- Affordable Scaffold/Coastal completed installation of three props to enhance high angle rescue training, high rise and elevator operations – \$254,000.
- Currently constructing a Rescue training simulator for collapse/trench rescue operations, modifications to existing props to improve capability and safety of trainings – \$205,000.
- We are working with LIRR to improve/correct Train prop for familiarization drills. Ongoing preliminary discussions of erecting a train platform to enhance training options of train props.
- Process of relocating the supply storage from the pump house so that the revenue stream is reestablished while providing the ability of the Fire Academy to conduct pump tests.

Grants & Contracts

- In an effort to obtain both adequate supply and best pricing for the term of the contracts, Suffolk County has entered into a number of vendor contracts after completing the competitive bidding. Suffolk County has entered into a series of contracts with providers of several categories of Emergency Response Equipment & Supplies that may be piggybacked and used by all municipalities and districts.
<https://dpw.suffolkcountyny.gov/contractsearch/contractsearch.aspx>
 - These categories include:
 - Portable Barricades
 - Bleeding Control Supplies
 - Emergency Medical Training Equipment & Supplies
 - Food Shelf Stable Meals

- Gas Detection Equipment
- LSP Products and parts
- Medical Supplies
- Odor Control Equipment – FDA Hydroxyl Generator
- Satellite Phone Services
- Surface Drysuits
- Radios & Pagers (see attachment)
- COVID-LEMPG Supplement going through IR process.
- Radiological calibration unit is in place and we are currently working on a business model for assisting outside agencies with their radiological equipment. It will also allow us to save money by calibrating our own radiological equipment and equipment assigned to other agencies through FRES.

General Information from Fire Marshal's Office:

- NFIRS Reporting –98% reporting rate in Suffolk for 2019. Two departments failed to report anything, and one department was missing 2 months. All other departments were 100%. We have begun tracking the 2020 reporting. Encourage departments to enter reports in a timely manner.
- ERG books are being distributed. Please call (631)852-4855 and set up a pick up time. They are being distributed on Tuesdays & Thursdays between 8-10 a.m.
- FELB has begun conducting live meetings. These meetings proceed following guidelines for facial covering and social distancing. New and renewed licenses are being processed and testing has resumed. Work has begun on updating the law, Rules and Regulations as well as the By-laws.
- County building inspections are being conducted. County park inspections are current. As COVID-19 operations have pared down, inspection numbers are increasing.
- Juvenile Fire Setters: Referrals have been quiet but several have been received in the last month.
- Arson Task Force - ADA handling Arson cases has changed. Still in discussion about format to follow that is comfortable for all parties providing information.

Equipment & Vehicles

- Bottle trailer currently being tested bi-weekly to assure readiness. All required inspections and servicing is being maintained as needed during this event.
- USAR/ WMD Trailer had new security doors installed minor finish work remains. Window bars have been installed.

Deputy Commissioner's Report: A. Gehres in attendance.

Deputy Commissioner Gehres: We were able to get three props for the high angle rescue training. Also have an elevator simulator in it. There is the ability to flow water to the props and will enhance the Fire Academy ability to train members in things they previously didn't have. There's about \$200,000 worth of improvements that are going to go on in the next few months. A lot of it is upgrading to enhance training as well as improved safety in the arena over there.

Fire Marshal's Report: D. Lynch

Chief of Fire Rescue's Report: J. Vetter

OEM Report: J. Trzepizur

Communications Report: G. Miniutti in attendance

Chief Miniutti: First on the list, UHF west frequency we are on target to start on the west end of the county. Decommissioning all of our low band equipment. There are a few outlier agencies that have some dependency on FRES and we are working closely with them to make sure they get over by the first of the year. We did hit the tipping point the other day. We do have more departments that we are activating on UHF than low band so we are making progress in that regard.

On the east end, we are expecting our new frequency within the next couple of days from the FCC. It was coordinated and basically has their unwritten approval at this point and then we will start to light up the sites that exist on the east end and continue to work to build out the remaining sites that are not yet existent for a variety of reasons. We have ASAP to PSAP. We continue to onboard more and more of the alarm companies. The other day we just brought on ADT which has tens of thousands of accounts. We continue to continue to push all our departments off faxing and onto emailing as a more productive way to get in touch with agencies to share vital information. We did get word this evening that HR451 which is the TBand repeal act did pass the House of Representatives. That does not mean it pass the Senate. Certainly, there are some hurdles, but that is a good sign that the stand alone legislation which had they attempted to bury in other legislation that did go anywhere a couple of time this year, has moved forward. It isn't without its catches though in that it is in the legislation, in some way shape or form and I don't profess to understand the legalese in it, requires that states do not divert their 911 funds. So there has to be a buy in from the state that all the 911 surcharge money is collected and goes back into the 911 system, or related components and that does not happen in NY, NJ or Connecticut. So that is something that the state is going to have to buy in on. But there is certainly progress. The only other caveat there is some of you are aware that we have been the victim of tropospheric ducting of late which is an atmospheric condition that brings interference from out of the area. It is unforeseen and you can't do too much about it. However, the digital TV stations have begun repacking down into the TBand so even if we get to keep the TBand we are going to have to combat the interference that these other stations put out. Although the stations are in Scranton, Pennsylvania and Syracuse, New York and places like that, while we operate at 100-120 watts, these stations operate at fifteen kilowatts which is 15000 watts so their ability to overpower us is tremendous.

Chairman Silverman: Greg, did you want to mention the switchover from Verizon in the way you text out there?

Chief Miniutti: Sure. Really the only thing providers would notice is that if you get text paging reference your departments alarms from us, it's not going to come from paging @SCFRES.com anymore which if you were a Verizon customer was a vtext.com STMP message and it's actually going to come out through an enterprise solution that was put in effect today and that is a much more robust ,reliable and faster way we can deliver these messages to you. We have done it with Verizon which is overwhelming majority of providers we serve and now we are going to work on AT&T and some of the smaller carriers. But it should be very helpful to all of you to get those messages quicker.

Chairman Silverman: Is this going to affect the notification texts that go to the Coordinators?

Chief Miniutti: No, those go out through RAVE and will continue to go out through RAVE. **Chairman**

Silverman: And the new radios that the Coordinators are being issued. Is everything distributed out now? **Chief Miniutti:** No, not at all. There is a bit of a balancing act that has to happen there since we have to get back the radios from some of the Coordinators that have them so we can get those reprogrammed and give the, out to the Coordinators again. That process will go on for probably another sixty to ninety days before every Coordinator's radio is touched and reissued back.

Chairman Silverman: Questions for Commissioner or staff?

McGrath: Commissioner Jordan, have you guys done any planning at all in regards to a potential second wave of this Coronavirus in this fall?

Commissioner Jordan: Sure we did. It's not a daily conversation right now. It was for a long time and we have a ninety day supply of PPE in stock that the County purchased and we have that at our warehouse. We did vacate, finally, and I apologize to the Fire Academy that we had to use it for so long, but we did vacate it and finished vacating the Pump House yesterday so they could start pump testing again. The positive parts of that are two things; the pumps that were delayed in getting tested for the fire departments are getting tested and the Fire Academy gets revenue generation for that. We have moved our operation around. We are still engaged. We only reduced the POD distribution to two days because that is all it requires. It doesn't really need two days, but we wanted it available at least two days because we don't want someone putting in a request on Tuesday and having to wait until the following Tuesday to get stuff. We don't want people to wait seven days. And that's why we still have two days. But for the most part it's not necessary. We are distributing much less than we did. We are at the ready. We have changed certain things. The other day I met with Dr. Winslow who is the Medical Director, for those of you who don't know, Dr. Pigott, Al Gehres, and several members of staff met with several members of the Health Department and we talked about storage, moving things around, moving forward. We have engaged all of our partners we have been dealing with in respect to the ESF8 group, Emergency Support Function Group, which includes all of our healthcare partners, hospital emergency managers, hospitals and the like. We have engaged the conversation, with no disrespect, ad nauseam. I would like to never, ever say COVID 19 again, but unfortunately, we are still talking about it. The topic now is we have trained for years and when Bob Delagi was here he was an innovator and a pioneer in certain areas. Big shoes to fill. Some of the plans that Bob was instrumental in writing and some of the drills that Bob held with respect to Flu Pods and things like that, we are taking those plans now, we are tweaking them in certain ways and having conversations with EMS several times a week. We are discussing with Dr. Winslow and his staff and Mike has been involved, to talk about inoculation pods and what that's going to look like; pre identifying locations and making sure we have the right equipment to run those things. We fully expect that when the vaccine becomes available it's going to be another fulltime, full blown, monotonous effort to get that done and inoculate the 1.6 million people in the County or at least those that want it. To answer your question, yes, we have been discussing it and planning for awhile.

McGrath: Thank you John.

Chairman Silverman: Thank you John for your in depth report.

Fire Academy: R. Holley/E. Johnston

Barz reporting: As the Commissioner mentioned the Pump House has been reopened. We are scheduling pump testing for engines and fire departments and we have gotten requests already. There's a story going around, and it is a fact, due to COVID 19 the months of March, April and May we did not have any classes at the Academy. The Suffolk County Finance Board took away the \$100,000 we had that had been surplus. This has nothing to do with FRES. This came from the Budget Surplus Office. They wanted the money and it was a surplus of \$100,000 that we didn't use so they took it to use it. The other thing is most of the chiefs got a letter already in reference to scheduling for next year. The letter went out with five scheduled classes. We are waiting to see what we get in our budget for 2021 and if it goes back to how it was five years ago, then we will put the extra two classes back in and give the availability to the departments.

EMS: M. Masterson in attendance.

Masterson: Nathaniel Bialek has left the Suffolk County EMS Division and has taken a job in South Carolina. Thank him for his service and wish him well in his endeavors. As Commissioner Jordan mentioned, Dr. Winslow has taken over Public Health Preparedness Director position. WE also lost one of our secretaries, Joanne Palasek. We interviewed a few people, hoping to get a SCIN released for that. We apologize for any waiting on the phone that you have experienced, but hopefully we will have that filled soon.

In reference to courses I'm not going to list them all. They are on the Suffolk County REMSCO website. We do have twelve original classes running and three refreshers. There are some more originals available on the site and two more refreshers that are open on the website at this time. We are running three bridge classes, CC to Paramedic bridges. The class three will be testing in October and November and we will be starting Cohort 5 shortly after that. New innovator classes that we are doing, we have done a lot of hybrid classes, and we continue to do those and continue to have applications to all our

classes. As you know, we ran right through January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August and September. We are one of the few training centers in the state. In this region we certified 250 providers up until June. Trying to replenish the EMS folks going out there. As you know there is a quick turnaround rate on those guys. We are thankful to our staff and per diem instructors with all the new rules. They have done a great job.

At this time we have had two more agencies added to the RSI list, Huntington and Medford that were just credentialed by REMAC. That brings the total to twenty two agencies countywide and about 150 medics that are RSI credentialed. During COVID we were having a hard time credentialing so the Suffolk county EMS division worked tirelessly to create an online refresher course with the help of division staff and RSI subcommittee. That will be going online probably next week. All providers will have to take that recredentialing before December 31 to get recredentialed.

Operationally we continue to support OEM at EMS desk and continue to support USAR and play a role in that. This month we did have the loss of veteran member George Worthington and his wife and shortly after his father had passed away from Flanders. Our office Staff, Tom, did a great job with going out and helping them with coverage and an IAB. Also involved with Joe Trzepizur from OEM to assist them at the funeral which will be the 3rd of October.

A lot of providers don't realize you can get credentialed on line. Every provider in Suffolk County is credentialed whether it is CFR, EMT, CC or Paramedic. Our numbers continue to grow which is good. We have 2500 EMT's credentialed, 335 CC's and 724 Paramedics. We only have 15 CFRs. There are a lot of agencies that have a first response agency, but we only have 15 CFRs that are credentialed. If you have any questions about credentialing, it is required for all levels of providers in Suffolk County, go to Suffolk County REMSCO web page under credentialing. Take the course, the agency has the code. You can do it all on your phone or Ipad or at their home. To date we have about 4674 credentialed in the system.

SCPD – Special Patrol Bureau: Deputy Inspector Vincent Maronski

Sgt. Kalan reporting: Inspector Maronski asked me to send his regards as he had a prior commitment tonight. I checked with aviation and they have all their helicopters in service and along with other units, we have staff assigned to the EOC at this time also.

Vice Chair Report: K. Markott in attendance.

Markott: Sorry I was late. I hope you had a good summer. I have nothing to report.

Budget Committee: D. Silverman in attendance

Chairman Silverman: I have nothing because it hasn't been finalized. We will be working on that as soon as the FRES Operating Budget is released.

Arson Task Force: T. Duckham

Combined Radio Committee: N. Reilly in attendance

Reilly: We haven't had a meeting, but Chief Miniutti did a really good job reporting on all the aspects of what's going on. So, I would like to thank him for doing that.

Buildings & Grounds: E. Tully

Legislation & Standards: A. Laferrera

Codes & Prevention: V. Bologna, Jr. in attendance

Bologna: We haven't had a meeting since January due to the virus. Even our Stony Brook class was cancelled back in March for recertification. We've been taking them online. Hopefully, everybody will be done by the end of October so we can get recertified.

REMSCO: B. Prosek in attendance

Chairman Silverman: Chief Prosek had to sign off. Nothing to report.

Burn Center: J. Coughlin in attendance.

Barz reporting for this month: Meeting was just going over general topics and was uneventful.

Coughlin reporting for last meeting he did attend: All fundraising has been suspended until 2021.

Recruitment & Retention: G. Turza in attendance

Turza: We haven't met. No report.

Suffolk Chiefs: J. Coughlin in attendance

Coughlin: Had meeting last Friday at Sag Harbor. Would like to thank them for a great meeting that they put on for us. In light of the pandemic, we had a very productive meeting. First, we are in a moving up phase of our organization. WE had nominations. Tom Kriklava will be moving up to President, Nick Luparella to First Vice President. I will be moving up to Second Vice President and Mike Barry will be filling for Sergeant at Arms. We have three members up for Secretary's position; Kevin Fitzpatrick from Smithtown, Jeff Bayles from Selden and the last name slips my mind from Brookhaven.

We discussed a number of items, but the most important was meetings for next year and how we're going to move forward. Right now we have tentatively scheduled for Eastport in January and in May, North Babylon. Our Seminar will be Friday, March 19 and right now it looks like we are going to have it at Suffolk Community College. We have been in conversation with the staff over there. One of our members is a director over there and he's on our committee and he's going to sponsor us and, hopefully, we can get it for nothing. We'll see.

Fire District Officers: J. Egan/E. Tully

Suffolk County Ambulance Chiefs : D. Silverman in attendance/B. Prosek in attendance

Chairman Silverman: Nothing to report other than they had a Zoom meeting last week.

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

Sullo: All meeting cancelled until 2021.

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

Township Chief Councils:

Babylon- A. Laferrera

Huntington- J. Hoffmann in attendance

Hoffmann: Negative. We will be meeting Monday. Elections. We haven't met in some time.

Chairman Silverman: ZOOM or face to face on Monday

Hoffmann: Face to face as of now. IT will be at our headquarters at Huntington Manor. Obviously, everyone keeping their social distance and we'll see what happens.

Islip- F. Bonventre in attendance

Bonventre: Nothing to report.

Smithtown- T. Duckham in attendance

Duckham: Began in person meetings again over the summer. Everyone seems to be doing well. Nothing other than that to report.

Brookhaven: Vice Chairman K. Markott

Markott: Nothing to report.

Riverhead: L. Brown in attendance

Brown: Nothing. Haven't met since January. May meet in November. We will wait and see how everything goes.

Southampton- E. McGrath in attendance

McGrath: Last week we had a meeting via Zoom. Everybody is well and complaining about the influx of summer residents. Many of them don't realize that we are a volunteer department and if we aren't there within the two or three minutes, they freak out but that's a different story. The 9/11 ceremony event went very well throughout the town and, hopefully, we can expand that next year to other townships and other divisions. Also, at the next town Chief's Zoom meeting we are hoping to have in person and will be at Southampton Town on October 15.

Southold – N. Reilly in attendance

Reilly: August meeting was in person. 9/11 ceremony was well attended. Next meeting is in Mattituck in person with dinner on October 19.

East Hampton- G. Turza in attendance

Turza: We had a meeting in person over the summer. Next one will be October 6 in Springs with dinner. Other than that, business as usual.

Shelter Island: A. Bloom in attendance.

Bloom: Good evening gentlemen. Pleasure to be on Shelter Island. We had a very small 9/11 ceremony. A couple of the school teachers walked a couple of classes down the road from the school to the firehouse and explained why we have a piece of the Towers and a little monument and a little plaque. I wasn't there to hear the remarks, but I'm told the teachers did a very tasteful and not scary kind of dissertation to the little kids explaining to them, basically, the values of volunteerism. I would also like to announce that one of our members, Fred Ogar, has retired from Shelter Island Fire Department after sixty five years of active service and when I say active I mean a few months ago he was still jumping on an engine. He is an Ex Chief, Ex Commissioner former Deputy County Coordinator and a former Shelter Island Fire Inspector. He, of course, got cheated out of receiving a whole bunch of plaques from a whole bunch of important people at the Pridwin Hotel because we didn't have an Installation Dinner this year, but, hopefully, we will try to honor him next year with the suitable proclamations and plaques. That's Fred Ogar if you want to put that in the minutes. That's all I have to report.

Chairman Silverman: Congratulations to Chief Ogar and his sixty five years of service and his retirement. I am sure it will be a big loss to you guys over there.

Bloom: Yes, sir. He was one of those men who was quiet and determined and always a mentor to kids who were sixty years younger than him. He was always willing to show people how pumps work and how to get to the fire and how to get it out.

Old Business: N/A

New Business:

Coughlin: In my report I failed to mention that we read off names of 23-24 Ex Chiefs who had passed away during the pandemic time when we were not able to meet and we were not able to honor them correctly because of the pandemic. I'm sure there will be a time and a place when we can give these gentlemen their due respect. The second thing is to all the Chiefs Councils out there. Could you please get to me either the new president's name or the current president's name. We are trying to update our records for the County Chiefs, I need to know who the new or current president is because we have to come up with the Chief of the Year and we are looking for anybody from any of the Councils who was the Chief of the Year.

Commissioner Jordan: I did want to ask, I heard a lot of meeting announced. I wrote a lot down. WE would like to attend. Obviously, as County employees we are not supposed to attend events with a lot of people, but as long as we are masking and social distancing and it sounds like a lot of these meetings are. I have no organized list of the meetings. I know Joe used to get emails, he used to get postcards from some organization, phone calls from others. In the past I have gone to the County Chiefs website for lists, but that's not always up to date if there's a specific council that doesn't prioritize putting meetings on there. So if everyone could go back to their Chief Councils and ask them to add FRES or add me to their mailing list or Callingpost or whatever they do to notify everybody. We would like to make a better effort by the end of this year, certainly 2021, with attending meeting and at least having a representative there if Al or I cannot attend. That's my ask if everybody could do that please

Coughlin: Next meeting will be in Hauppauge. That's our election meeting on November 13. Commissioner if you go on the website, we have all the meetings for all the councils on there and their locations. We update monthly.

Commissioner Jordan: I used to do that, but it's not as easy and there were duplicates the last time I looked. I haven't looked in a while. I asked Carolyn, but she was kind of lost. I'll revisit.

Coughlin: Have Carolyn sign up so she can access it herself as a member. I'll put her on as a member. And anybody else that's not on the website or wants to be on the website just go to the website, fill out the application. One of us will acknowledge you. I'm usually pretty quick on it.

Chairman Silverman: While we are talking meetings Commissioner. Given if there is no uptick in the COVID, the Commission would like to resume having face to face meetings possible for next month. Is that possible under County policy or we're not there yet?

Commissioner Jordan: As long as the group is less than fifty and we can practice social distancing. Obviously, we don't have the space at FRES so we would have to reach out to Bob and Eddie and reserve a room at the Fire Academy.

Barz: I want to thank the Commissioner for all the work he has done for us at the Academy. For the upgrades to the tower and the work I have seen in the past four months. The Commissioner should be well thanked for the amount of work that was done over there.

Commissioner Jordan: Obviously, we have help. Al has taken the lead with the Capital projects at the Academy since he has come in. Both Al and I are over there, obviously since things have slowed down, but we are over there a couple times a week. But Al has been really spearheading that effort. So, Al should take all the credit for that stuff.

Barz: Given the current state of the County fiscal environment what do you envision as far as your 2021 budget?

Commissioner Jordan: So this is what I've been saying. A while ago the County Budget Director gave us instructions and said cut whatever the percentage was. So we went through the budget and we cut that percentage. And then they came back and said cut this percentage and we cut that percentage. And then they came back with additional cuts. Basically, what I'm saying is the cuts, based on if we do not get federal relief from COVID, the cuts are catastrophic. There is no such thing as business as usual. We will have to reimagine FRES. We will have to reduce our footprint in some areas. Things that we are not contractually obligated to do, we will probably no longer do. Hopefully, it's temporary but the revenue shortfalls for the County, you know it's difficult, because County of Suffolk's budgets are revenue based. They are not really taxed based. Everybody knows their tax line. Listen, the police budget is the police budget. I don't want to talk about the police budget. Sorry Pat. They have their own line. Unfortunately, we don't and the County's tax line is very small. So it's revenue based and when the economy takes a hit, the County takes a hit. What happened to the economy was catastrophic and if the federal government doesn't do what they normally do when we see natural disasters, the effects of that are going to be catastrophic to FRES and everything we touch including the Fire Academy. It's one of these things where the money is just not there. What I've asked is any cuts that we do make or any cuts that they make...So basically I stopped looking line by line and I said listen you just tell us what our budget is and we are going to do what we can and we're going to put the money where it's the most important like to maintain the CAD so we can add some 911 calls. We've talked about miniscule things like suspending uniforms for a year because we're not going to have a uniform budget, things like that. So the dispatchers will have a dress code but we're not going to be issuing uniforms for a year maybe. I've asked that we can prioritize the cuts that do finally appear in the budget if we do prioritize those cuts for restoration if we do get federal relief. If we're \$1.5 billion dollars, let's say, I don't think it's that drastic, but it potentially could get that because the trickle effect and the domino effect but let's say we are a billion dollars short and the federal government gives us 600 million so that leaves us 400 million short as a county. Well, I would like the budget restored or have restoration priorities so that we don't find a flood of money going into other departments and not FRES. We would like to say, these are our priorities and if they restore this much money, this gets restored and this gets restored and things like that. If that happens then I think we'll be alright. I don't see how the government cannot give us federal relief. I just don't see how they can't. I know it's a unique situation. It's nothing we have ever trained for, nothing we have ever discussed that there would be a natural disaster that would affect every single county in this country let alone the state, the country. Every county, every town, every village has been effected in this

country. No one has ever planned for this, so I don't know what it going to mean, but it's not good. That's for sure.

Unknown speaker: Well Commissioner, thank you for your honest and clear assessment of the situation.

Public Comment: N/A

Chairman Silverman: Any other new business or questions before we close the meeting? Our next meeting is October 28. May be Zoom or face to face. Will let you know. Take care and be safe. Motion to adjourn.

Members Present	Staff Present	Guests Present
Drew Silverman	John Jordan, Sr.	M. Masterson
Kyle Markott	Albert Gehres	Sgt. P. Kalan
Frank Bonventre	Gregory Miniutti	Legislator Donnelly
Arthur Bloom		
Ronald Barz		
Vincent Bologna, Jr.		
John Coughlin		
Jon Hoffmann		
Lawrence Brown		
Robert McConville		
Bryan Prosek		
Norman Reilly, Jr.		
Anthony Sullo		
Gerard Turza, Jr.		
Edward McGrath		
Timothy Duckham		
Alternates Present		

NEXT MEETING	Wednesday, October 28 , 2020
TIME	7:30 pm
LOCATION	TBD
REFRESHMENTS	