



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

MINUTES OF  
October 28, 2020 MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE MEETING

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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:

Ex Chief Daniel Wolff - Holbrook Fire Department

Ex Chief Kenneth Geldert - Brentwood Fire Department

Ex Chief George Leggio – Brentwood Fire Department

Honorary Chief Nicholas Campson – Sayville Fire Department

Ex Chief William Rowse – Patchogue Fire Department

Ex Chief Peter Grattan – Southold Fire Department

Ex Ass't Chief and former FRES Communications Supervisor Jeffrey Nirenberg – Melville Fire Department

Ex Ass't Chief Carol Wissner – Huntington Community First Aid Squad

**Report of Officers:** D. Silverman / K. Markott

**Chairman Silverman:** Welcome everybody. Hope you are all doing well and staying safe.

Unfortunately, as you can see we are still doing the meeting via ZOOM and, unfortunately, there has been a slight uptick of COVID 19 responses in the County, at least in my area, the Town of Huntington, I've noticed an uptick. Just to be safe and protect any of our Commission members that have underlying health conditions, we will continue to have ZOOM meeting until further notice. (**Attendance conducted.**

**Please see last page)** I spoke with the County Executive several weeks ago and he updated me about the 2021 County budget situation. He is still hopeful that the federal government will agree, sometime in the near future, on a fiscal solution and that the moneys will eventually funnel into the states and then from the states into the counties. I'm sure Commissioner Jordan will report on any further development concerning the budget situation. Changing gears, I am pleased to report there has been significant progress concerning cleanup efforts for the fire access trails in Manorville Fire District. I congratulate all involved with special acknowledgement to the FRES Commission members that were part of the task force and Legislators Sunderman, Donnelly, Hahn, Cilmi and Krupski for their assistance and coordinating this effort with the other county agencies.

**Vice Chairman Markott:** Hope everyone is doing good. One thing I just wanted to share is we tried to order gloves through where I am at Islip Fire District and, I don't know if JayJay can share on this too, it seems like there is a run on medical gloves, just so you guys are aware. We tried to order from Hammer Medical and they were completely out. We ended up getting them from Medical Warehouse, but they are saying the prices are outrageous and they are and there seems to be a shortage. I don't know if JayJay has any further information on that. Just so you guys are aware, if you need gloves I would order them sooner than later. **Commissioner Jordan:** All PPE is at primary now. The county does have lists of vetted vendors that we could supply to anyone that asks. They can be emailed and we will send the list. There are several vendors that still have stock, but like you said, it's a premium and everything is expensive. Things were out of control when New York was the hotspot in the country. Now, the country is the hotspot and New York is not, so the ask and the need is exponentially much bigger and the shortage is greater. There is stuff available; it's just going to cost you a lot of money.

**Acceptance of Minutes:**

**Chairman Silverman:** Do I have a motion to accept the minutes from the September 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting minutes? Chief McGrath and Turza on the motions. All in favor? Anyone opposed?

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

**Correspondence:**

**Chairman Silverman:** Carolyn wants me to remind those members whose terms are expiring at the end of the year. Carolyn received letters for Arthur Bloom, Shelter Island Fire Department, and Edward McGrath Southampton Town Fire Chiefs Council and the paperwork was submitted. She is still waiting for letters from Suffolk County Fire Marshals Association for Vincent Bologna, Suffolk County Fire Chiefs Council for John Coughlin and Smithtown Town Fire Chiefs Council for Timothy Duckham. Gentleman, please try to expedite these letters for your reappointment. The sooner the better so Carolyn can process them through.

**Treasurer's Report:** F. Bonventre in attendance.

**Report presented by F. Bonventre-** Opening balance of \$5588.04 with \$200 deposit from Babylon Town and Shelter Island for dues. Interest earned \$.14 and no expenses. Ending balance \$5788.18. Considering all the COVID stuff going on we are doing well. Brookhaven Town Chiefs, Southampton Town Chiefs, Suffolk Chiefs, Riverhead Chiefs, Southold Chiefs and East Hampton Chiefs have not paid.

**Coughlin:** Can you send me another voucher? **Bonventre:** Yes **Coughlin:** Motion to accept

Treasurer's report. **McGrath:** Seconded. Frank. What are the dues, \$100? **Bonventre:** Yes. **Chairman**

**Silverman:** All in favor on the motion? Motion carried. Dues are \$100. Any associations or chief councils that are outstanding, if you could get us the checks that would be great because before you know it, Frank will be sending out notices for 2021. **Bonventre:** Drew, if any agencies want to pay 2021 also, I'll take it because I will be sending out dues notices shortly. Some agencies have paid both years.

**Coughlin:** When I see you I'll give you both. **McGrath:** Is Southampton in arrears for this year?

**Bonventre:** Yes. **McGrath:** So we owe you \$100 for this year and another for 2021. Thank you.

**Commissioner's Report:** J. Jordan

**Commissioner Jordan:** Good evening everybody. My report is five pages long, so I'll make sure Carolyn adds it to the minutes and I'm not going to go through it line by line like we normally do in the interest of time.

- The big topic is, one of the big topics, is the budget. The recommended budget for FRES has been submitted by the County Executive to the Legislature. The Budget Review Office has reviewed it and weighed in on it. I did speak to Drew last week to set up a meeting with our budget folks at FRES to go over things with the Commission's Budget Committee. Drew will let you know who needs to attend that once it is set up. Unfortunately, with the situation with the County and the County Executive himself has called Al Groveman, Bob Holley and Drew. I have spoken to him and the Fire Academy has suffered a cut in the recommended budget of 10%, \$209,000. Most other contract agencies suffered a 50% cut so we appreciate that the County recognizes the importance of the Fire Academy and the great work they do and only cut 10%. If we do realize a relief from the federal government, there will be some sort of restoration there. If there's a percentage, there will be a percentage restoration. If we receive complete restoration from the federal government, the Fire Academy will receive full restoration. That cut will take effect in July 2021. So we have a good amount of time between now and then to negotiate with the state and feds to get some relief as a result of the COVID crisis. That's an ongoing discussion.
- Our EMO is still operating Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and still staffed with about five agencies. Our POD is still operational two days a week. The guidance on what the County can supply has drastically changed. Kyle Markott brought up that gloves are hard to come by, but they are still available at certain places. We sent out a memo to all First Responder Agencies basically saying if you request the stuff you also have to provide supporting

documentation why you can't get it. The fact that it is expensive is just not good enough anymore. We supplied over 7 million pieces of PPE throughout this crisis; free of charge, but, unfortunately, the situation is what it is from the federal government down, that's just not the case anymore. So if you can't get it, truly can't get it, if we have it, we will give it. But, if you're just having trouble getting it or don't want to pay for it, unfortunately, all the agencies and organizations that we have been supplying, that's all stopped except really extenuating circumstances. We project we have a projected six month supply of PPE in stock that is all county procured. There is nothing free that anyone gave us. The feds gave us some, not much; the state gave us even less, gave you guys even less. They gave us really almost nothing to give to the first responders. They really concentrated supplying hospitals, nursing homes and things like that. First responders did not get a lot from the state. We did get some from the feds through Congressman Zeldin which was very much appreciated, but most of the stuff you guys got was County funded.

- County is up to 2019 fatalities due to COVID. Have not had a fatality in a couple of weeks which is good, but we are seeing a daily uptick in cases. CityMD is doing a lot more testing than most places. Still in range of 1.5% of all tested, still in a great place, but we are seeing an uptick. Hospitalizations are only in the mid-thirties, we were much higher. So, we are in a great place, but we would like to be at zero, we would like to be done with this. We are watching the trends and seeing an uptick, but it is still manageable.
- We are meeting bi weekly with the County Department of Health and others to discuss vaccination pods and what FRES's role will be in that once we formally have a vaccination. We have been talking to the state as well on that and again, what our role would be in that. Also discussing future roles and virtual aspects of emergency operations center, our OEM, what our partnership with you guys will be moving forward when we were in a state of normalcy what we did and now reimagining FRES, reimagining what our roles and responsibilities would be and how we are going to deliver our normal work. We remain hopefully optimistic for federal relief to the County for COVID 19 crisis and the effects thereof.
- We, as County employees, are not attending meetings, gatherings, events, etc, in excess of 50 people. I have been requested for different events, different town chiefs meetings, the County Chiefs meeting next Friday and my first question is "Is there going to be more than 50 people?" and most times chiefs councils can't say. They say, "I don't know." So if you can't guarantee there is going to be less than 50 people, unfortunately, I can't attend as a County representative. If you guys have a virtual aspect, a ZOOM call in or something like that, I'd be more than happy to call in and give a report or call in to be part of your meeting, but I can't physically be present and neither can any FRES employees unfortunately at this time. I did send out guidance on that very topic, maximum attendance. The Governor has very, very strict orders and what's happening is they are going around and enforcing and they are forcing the County to enforce. Yesterday the County Executive had a press conference on a couple of places that we are fining. Basically, what the state has said is if you do not fine, we will fine you. So, I certainly can't attend an event that has more than 50 people and not take action. So be cognizant of that when you are planning events. I know people are restless and want this over and to return to normalcy, but if you have an event and it's more than 50 people, the fire service is not exempt from those fines. If you have any questions or want to run anything by someone, we have instructed Chief Fire Marshal Lynch and he is learning all of the COVID related orders and parameters. Much like their counterparts in Nassau County they will taking a bigger role, hopefully not in enforcement, we want to avoid that, but we want to educate. So if anyone has any questions we will either direct them to the town marshals or, obviously, Don will spearhead and do his best to answer any questions anyone might have.
- Tropical Storm Isaias - We were successful in getting a federal declaration and the President signed off on that. I believe it is currently at \$35 million, but it will go up. So any agencies that you guys represent have already been contacted multiple times, but if anybody who has a claim and might be having difficulty with the public assistance claim, they can certainly reach out to FRES and we will walk them through it.
- County Hazard Mitigation Plan has been submitted to DHSES for review. Once we receive it back from DHSES we will amend the document and forward it to FEMA for final approval. It's a

very important document and one of the things it is directly tied to is the \$400 million program with the County with respect to the septic system grants.

- Training and exercises are not where we would like them to be, but we are still participating, still hosting and coordinating events. The Fire Marshals have been attending online codes training which is something new for this year. Chief Fire Marshal Lynch spearheaded training, again outside the box thinking, with Nassau and Suffolk Accelerant Detection canines to get their annual recertification. They did that in partnership with several federal and local agencies. The ATF accepted that training as the 2020 recertification so we are happy about that.
- One of the many things we are doing with planning is I spoke to Chief Cameron at the police department. Many people in the media world and federally have some concerns about the potential of some civil unrest or some bad behavior as a result of the presidential election for one or more groups. Someone has to lose so some people are going to be unhappy. How they behave is a concern for all of us, but at this time Chief Cameron and myself feel the plans we have in place, we have no credible intelligence of any specific threat, and the plans we have in place right now and our All Hazards approach and how to handle things, we have determined we are mission capable and we are not concerned about any specific aspect of that.
- We had a meeting with the Red Cross and the community college with sheltering plans in post COVID world and we are confident we are mission capable in that area.
- PSEG- I don't think anybody in the county was happy whether a first response agency or resident. We have done a lot of work with PSEG post tropical storm. Chief Deputy County Executive and myself testified before the Senate Assembly and have met with the Public Safety Commission several times and we are working through. Joe Trzepizur, Acting Director of Emergency Management is spearheading our bi weekly meeting with PSEG to go over some of the shortfalls. Some of the topics are the Muni Portal, Make Safe to Clear, EOC liaisons, life support equipment customers and very importantly FD/PD hotline for them to take a lot more serious.
- October 20 was the Regional Hazmat Meeting; FMASCO hasn't had a monthly meeting in awhile. FELB has met twice since the pandemic in September and October which is good stuff. Fire Marshals have been attending some of the Girl Scout Holiday Light Show/Haunted Trail planning meetings.
- Drew, you touched on the Manorville Hills clean up FRES has spearheaded after concerns were brought up on this very call. We have met several times with Manorville and their Commissioner Dennis Hendrickson. I, myself, have been in the trails with the group and FRES has been supplying equipment, most recently a cache of radios last weekend. Team Rubicon was derailed because of COVID prohibiting them from working as a group. They took that restraint off and very rapidly managed to get everybody up and running. Manorville used it as a drill. Team Rubicon, Manorville, some FRES folks and some county Parks Department folks went out last weekend and had tremendous success. As a result of that success we are going to try to meet with Manorville November 12 at FRES and discuss the success and any non-successes from that day that I am unaware of. We are planning a second work session with team Rubicon in December. The Last week of November we are going to meet Team Rubicon at FRES to discuss plans moving forward and one of the things that I want to incorporate after December's work session is to include other towns and I want to start with East Hampton because I know you guys had some really valid concerns so we want to duplicate these efforts out there next and use this as an opportunity to train. Team Rubicon is willing to host some classes and that's something we were trying to do through the Fire Academy, but with the budget cuts this seems like a perfect marriage. We will get Eddie Johnston and his expertise involved and we will get some USAR guys involved and Team Rubicon and we are going to schedule some training and use various areas in the County as classrooms. I think we can do some good stuff with that. A lot of success to report with that event. It's ongoing and I will be reaching out to you Chief Turza to be included in a planning meeting with Team Rubicon to discuss the baseline of what we are facing to get those guys out there.
- We were successful and they are now, finally, after years in the making, in the 2021 proposed budget, we have created and Chief Vetter was instrumental and worked tirelessly on this for well over a year, we created a career ladder in emergency management finally to duplicate what we

see in Communications with respect to ESD 1, 2,3 or Fire Marshal 1, 2, Assistant Chief, etc. In OEM that didn't exist. There were various titles and no career path. So we created Emergency Preparedness Officer 1, 2, 3 and I believe up to 5 and then that will encompass the Assistant Director and Director. It's in the 2021 budget and as these titles become available or vacant we will fill them. All of the people in current titles now in some way shape or form, plug in with respect to promotional exams. It's all good stuff and finally happening after years and years of talking about it, it's finally in the budget and moving forward.

- As we said the 2021 budget has been submitted. The Budget Review Office reviewed it. We will have some hearings next week on all those things and they will make some recommendations. There was a lot of hub bub today with respect to some of the comments in the budget review with respect to the Fire Academy and so I met with Bob and Eddie personally today to discuss those things. I don't really know what to make of the Budget Review Offices comments. I instructed them to reach out, as they always do, to our legislative partners, express their concerns to them because they 100% control what happens as a result of the budget review. I will speak to Rudy, Tom and Tom Cilmi. I'm actually meeting with Rudy tomorrow at 7:30 a.m. on another topic and I will discuss with them. But I instructed them to bring that, it's the first time I saw it what Bob showed me today. I have no insight into it, where it came from, but they were not 100% informed if you will. They thought that was a County government document and it's a Budget Review Office document and comment. So we have to go back and forth further and truths test that if you will.
- EOC construction capital projects- Nothing was terminated or disapproved, some things were pushed down the road, but all the projects we had in the hopper are still in the hopper.
- SAFER grant period ends November 1 for applications deadline. If your agencies know they have young college age fire fighters or EMT's, now is the time to enroll.
- County was offered the opportunity to attend the ATF training for a second canine. We authorized the second canine as a County and made that decision in either 2019 or late 18. There was nothing available and we missed the deadline last year and unfortunately, due to COVID and Front Royal, Virginia being the location where they train. Virginia briefly came off the list, but went right back on, so because of that location the County policy prevents us from sending employees to a COVID positive state or any state that's on, so we had to pass on the opportunity for 2020. Brett's dog just got recertified so we see no problem with that dog. I know Brett is eligible for retirement, but he has not made any announcements so we have a dog right now that works. We have a mutual aid plan in position with respect to Nassau County. So basically it's one of those things; risk vs. reward. It violated County policy and that's why the decision was made. There are a lot of rumors flying. I'm not entertaining nonsense. Those are the reasons very simply and essentially, non-negotiable. Decisions were made based on County policy and it's unfortunate. It was my recommendation during the brief period of Virginia coming off the list, I made the recommendation to approve the travel contingent on Virginia staying off the list and within 36 hours they went right back on the list.
- County building inspections are being conducted and it is a huge endeavor as there are over 1200 County buildings and with COVID annihilating more than half of the year's time. Chief Lynch is spearheading an unbelievable effort and on top of that, the fire marshals are taken out of their normal assignments for several weeks to inspect schools and although we won't have 100% success, he is doing great prioritizing and hats off to the guys in the office doing those County building inspections. They are really making progress. We are hopeful the majority is done before the end of the year.
- Any questions? **McConville:** I just want to go back to this PPE. Are we supposed to pay whatever they want to charge? As Kyle said the prices are going up, so how do we deal with this? We're just going to let them charge us whatever they want to charge us. 109 districts are supposed to fight against each other to purchase this stuff or what? **Commissioner Jordan:** No, it's not 109 districts Bob; it's the entire world at this point right? There's still price gouging laws and things like that so if you feel you are being price gouged, we have always instructed and we sent out guidance early on and can resend if necessary, contact the District Attorney's Office. Price gouging is still illegal, but as an industry the prices have gone up and it's one of those things where we have to protect our people. So, as long as the stuff is readily available, we are

prevented, by policy, from just giving it away. **McConville:** I don't think they are looking for free. They just want to pay the regular price. You know what I'm saying? **Commissioner Jordan:** I agree with you 100%. **McConville:** Not looking for free or to get a discount, we are looking to pay what it's worth, but we certainly don't want to bid against each other. **Commissioner Jordan:** I agree. Again, any situation that you uncover that you think you are being price gouged you should absolutely contact the District Attorney's Office. We contacted the District Attorney's Office and I personally was involved in no less than five DA investigations with respect to PPE myself. We actually have the DA's office imbedded in our procurement team to vet the vendors so when they send us something or are offering us PPE at a certain rate, the DA's Office is front and center in vetting them. The list we gave you has already been vetted by the DA's office. That doesn't mean it's not expensive. It is expensive. The price of everything has gone up. At one time we saw the price of ear loop masks costing a nickel and they were being sold for a dollar. I mean it's ridiculous, but now ear loop masks are plentiful and being sold on supermarket shelves. The prices are not where they were, but close to where they were. N95's are, unfortunately, extremely expensive because there's not a lot of them. And again, we saw the prices go through the roof when New York was the hot spot. The entire country is a hot spot now and New York is maintaining a relatively low infection rate, so all I can say is if you have specific issues, give me a call. I will help you get in touch with the DA's office or if anyone is having trouble getting something or you can't get it, that's what we are here for. But we are precluded from just giving it away when it's available. **McConville:** Thank you for the information. That was a great explanation for me, thank you. **Commissioner Jordan:** No problem. If you need us, just give us a call.

(Please see attached submitted report below)  
Commissioner's FRES Commission Report

### October 28, 2020

#### **COVID-19 Response:**

- EOC is still open Monday – Friday, 8am-4pm for COVID support.
- Currently the POD is operational 2 days/week, Tuesdays & Thursdays
- To date we have distributed over 7.3 million pieces of PPE
- 2,019 County Resident fatalities due to COVID.
- Meeting bi-weekly with Suffolk County Department of Health to discuss vaccination pod plans and roles of OEM in the vaccination process.
- Discussing future roles of virtual aspects of OEM and representatives.
- Optimistically hopeful for federal relief to County for COVID19-related effects.

#### **Tropical Storm Isaias Response:**

- On October 2, 2020, the State of New York, specifically Nassau and Suffolk Counties, received a Major Disaster Declaration FEMA-4567-DR from President Trump for Tropical Storm Isaias. The incident period was August 4, 2020.
- The declaration (currently at \$35 million) authorizes public assistance for all Categories of Work. The Office of Disaster Recovery at the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services has scheduled virtual Applicants Briefs for October 23rd – October 26, 2020 via WebEx.
  - FRES/OEM made multiple announcements to all potential stakeholders and staff has been assisting applicants through the Public Assistance process.

#### **Hazard Mitigation Plan:**

- We have submitted the plan to NYS DHSES for review. Once we receive comments back from DHSES, we will amend the document and forward it to the FEMA.

#### **TRAINING & EXERCISES:**

- 10/1/20 – attended MGT-462 Community Planning for Economic Recovery (virtual)

- 10/21/20 – attended MGT-902- Emergency Communications Methods (virtual)
- CFM Lynch and members of the SC Crime Lab conducted training for the Nassau and Suffolk canines. This included video recording of different evolutions to be provided to the ATF acceptance as 2020 recertification.
- Online codes, fire investigation and Haz-mat training is being taken by all the marshals to meet the yearly requirements to maintain all those certifications. All FM's have made progress toward the yearly requirements.

**PLANNING:**

- Commissioner Jordan spoke with SCPD Chief Cameron over Election Day concerns referencing the possibility of civil unrest.
  - No credible threats have been determined at this time.
  - Determined we are mission capable through policies and procedures that are currently in place.
- We meet with the ESF8 group bimonthly.
- We have been meeting with the American Red Cross and Suffolk County Community College to review sheltering plans and update MOU's, including post-COVID scenarios.
- We continue to meet with PSEG bimonthly to review progress made after identifying a few restoration response areas were identified as needing improvement. Some of the progress reviewed: Muni Portal, Make Safe to Clear, EOC Liaisons, Life Support Equipment customers and FD/PD hotline.
- We continue to meet weekly with Health Department management to review ongoing Covid rates and response.
- OEM and Health department staff meets weekly to review Covid planning. This includes Covid vaccination distribution planning.
- 9/23/20 – Urban Area Work Group (UAWG) meeting
- 10/5/20 - NYS DHSES Monthly Inter-Agency Conference Call (NYS, Suffolk, Nassau)
- 10/22/20 – Town Emergency Managers Quarterly Meeting
- 10/27/20 - Urban Area Work Group (UAWG) Meeting
- FMASCO has still not held a monthly meeting.
- 10/20– Regional Haz-mat meeting
- 10/15- FELB regular meeting
- 10/14- Girl Scout Holiday Light show planning meeting held at Smith's Point Park
- 10/02- Haunted Trail inspection finalized and approved Southaven Park

**RESPONSE & SUPPORT:**

- Deployed Light Towers to SC Parks for use at Halloween Events held at parks during the month of October.
- 10/3/20 - Assisted with staff and resources at memorial services for Flanders Ambulance Ex-Chief George Worthington.
- 10/18 – 10/20/20 - Assisted planning and resources for Patchogue Ex-Chief Bill Rowse.
- Facilitated Manorville Hills trail clearing project between Manorville FD, SC Parks and Team Rubicon. Teams cleared fire trails on 10/24 and 10/25. Also supplied crews with radio cache and gators. The event was successful and much progress was made. Commissioner Jordan will meet with Manorville Fire District and SC OEM in November to review the progress that was made. FRES plans to welcome Team Rubicon back to complete the trail clearing sometime in early December. We will be meeting with Team Rubicon leadership after and stakeholders afterwards to discuss future assignments and training, including with East Hampton early next year.

**Personnel:**

- In the process of promoting 2 ESD IIs and hiring 3 ESD I (interviews scheduled). We are also in the process of hiring an RMO provisionally.
- EPOI, II, and III earmark titles included in the 2021 budget process

**Communications & Technology**

- Jointly building out EMS telemetry App E-Bridge. Encourage agencies to contact us for rollout. Language line integrated.
- Jointly building out Fire/EMS Elite Image Trend Site. Encourage agencies to contact us for Overview.
- Agencies who are in need of reoccurring Zoom events should contact Chief Vetter for event build out.
- Daily Briefs, COVID reports and Watchop reports are being sent via secured email.
- No change in tband law yet.
- Still on track to decommission low band in Western Suffolk beginning in January.
- Some movement on east end paging
- Starting 911 phone system upgrade to be completed by spring
- Finishing up UL certification of our automatic alarm system
- Continuing to onboard alarm companies and dispatch agencies through ASAP TO PSAP.

**Budget & Capital Projects**

- 2021 Proposed Budget has been submitted.
- Commissioner Jordan and Drew are in process of scheduling a meeting with Commission's budget committee to discuss. Date of meeting TBA.
- Finalizing Grant Building EOC construction phase plans.
- Capital Projects PO's:
  - Aux PD Ballistic vests & PPE
  - HazMat Meters
  - Multiple PO for Fire Academy
  - Submitting SEQRA short form for re: Garden Apartment
- Resolutions starting process for 2020 adopted capital projects

**Grants & Contracts**

- Safer Grant application period ends November 1st. Sending announcements to Fire Department.

**General Information Related to Fire Marshal's Office:**

- County was offered opportunity to attend ATF training in Virginia for the 2<sup>nd</sup> canine. While we are approved for the second dog, it was determined we were unable to participate in 2020 due to COVID-19 county and state policies.
- NFIRS Reporting –Tracking 2020 reporting & will be reaching out to departments regarding deficiencies.
- ERG book distribution is continuing. You must have an appointment to pick up books. At least 18 fire departments and 4 ambulance corps still need to pick up. Please call CFM Lynch to schedule a pickup.
- Information regarding NYS COVID-19 mass gathering law has been distributed to all FD/EMS agencies. Contact CFM Lynch with any questions.
- FELB - Conducting live meetings following all NYS guidelines for masks and social distancing. Amendments to the law are currently being worked on to close some discovered loopholes and update some items to meet now codes and standards. Streamlining the process to free up time spent on FELB paperwork is being looked into.
- County building inspections are being conducted, which includes more than 1,200 facilities.
- Juvenile Fire Setters: One new referral received within last two weeks.

**Equipment & Vehicles**

- High Water Vehicle out of engine rebuild
- Bids for Release:
  - UV Cleaning Machine
  - Decontamination equipment

**Report from Deputy Commissioner Re: SC Fire Academy**

- Pump House Control Fan, vender is currently in Cape May. When he returns he is going to arrange to have contracted vendor instructed how to program. Pump Test continues.
- Second water supply Hydro-pump requires \$4,262.65 in parts. (DPW to perform labor) (Funding needed for parts).
- Upgrades to support Digital Fire Simulator being done.
- Exploring options for LIRR train cars. Repairs, electric, safety items and platform.
- Taxpayer doors and windows being upgraded.
- Gas line testing occurring to make way for New Car Fire Prop, awaiting quote for car fire prop based on fire academy needs.
- Trench rescue construction underway.
- SO as of this report all requested capital monies have been approved via PO for work to be completed.
- Total in PO improvements approved for construction- \$187,643

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

**Deputy Commissioner Gehres:** A lot of good stuff at the Fire Academy which will ultimately help to better train the firefighters of Suffolk County. Pump house has gotten a new fan system put in and control panel. Currently, we are waiting for the vendor to provide, I guess what you would call, an electronic engineer to program the panel so it works functionally. Pump tests do continue to be done with the existing system and I really recommend that everybody takes advantage of that if you are a Suffolk County fire department so the revenue sources come directly back to them so that they can work on developing additional training stuff. Is anyone knows how the fire grounds work as far as water feeds for apparatus; the secondary hydro pump is broken. With the help of Chief Vetter, I was able to get DPW to perform all the labor. Right now we are trying to identify a funding source for the \$4200 cost of parts that are needed to fix that so they have two pumps available should the one fail that is currently functioning. Upgrades are going on in multiple props for digital fire simulators. We are identifying where the outlets need to be so we can get an electrician in and get those installed so that they can start using the digital fire simulator as well as exploring options for the LIRR car and putting the digital fire system in there. Having repairs made to them so they are least close to functional so people can train on them realistically and providing additional safety items. We have also discussed putting a platform along that train so that members can practice extricating people or accessing the trains via a platform and not just from the track bed. The taxpayer building has its doors being upgraded right now and their identifying the need for window replacements on that building so that will be completely renovated for training purposes. Gas line testing is about to occur for the propane fed system which included the fire prop. There are moneys available to build a new car fire prop and I've asked the Fire Academy to come up with their dream list for that prop so we can build it to their specifications since they are the actual training facility. I'm happy to announce that the \$154,000 was allocated this week for the trench rescue construction. They are going to build a trench rescue simulator. It will be three Conex boxes with a platform of steel over the top of it and it will afford our members to perform those tasks. Right now we have a request out to bring in RCA to put down a nice bed underneath it that will prolong the life of the Conex boxes so that they are not sitting directly on the ground. That is supposed to happen next week. So, in all, the capital moneys that have been allocated in my short tenure here at FRES come to \$187, 643 which are enhancements to all the training facilities there and taking the recommendations of the Fire Academy staff in building all the items they want has been a real pleasure. Questions?

**Fire Marshal's Report:** D. Lynch

**Chief of Fire Rescue's Report:** J. Vetter in attendance

**Chief Vetter:** Commissioner Jordan covered everything. Just one thing on the PPE issues; we can resend out the contracts that have been negotiated on the County side. There are several County vendors that the process requires them to honor pre COVID numbers and a couple of them are much larger vendors that would probably be able to have those supplies. We will send that back out to the districts and VACs tomorrow via email.

**Commissioner Jordan:** Off the PPE topic, I just want to give a shout out...I'm going to promote this because I think it's a great thing. Coordinator Ray Harden 9-0-2 in East Hampton, in his normal life is a great guy. He owns a construction company and he dedicated his entire work crew to build a house for a first responder through Habitat for Humanity. We know how hard it is for the east end, especially East Hampton to get first responders to be able to buy a house. This guy built a house for a first responder and his wife in Springs. That alone gets kudos in my book, but when I spoke to Chief Turza earlier today I heard hoe when he was working, and I don't remember specifics I apologize, but essentially a friend of his went into cardiac arrest and he did CPR. The guy wasn't looking good for awhile and was on life support, but fortunately left the hospital and is alive today because of 9-0-2 Ray Harden. I am going to definitely recognize him and am going to encourage the County Executive to recognize him, I just don't know to what level, but I think hats off to him. I'm going to personally call him tomorrow and thank him. I wanted to acknowledge him here. And you guys, when you are giving your FRES reports throughout the county if you could give a shout out. We don't thank the coordinators enough for all the work they do for sure. That should be line one on every FRES report every month because those guys are out there tirelessly and we owe them a great deal. This story is above and beyond and apparently this guy is above and beyond on a normal day so my hat's off to him. I will thank him personally tomorrow. I wanted to make it a matter of record for these minutes and I will tell the County Executive about this guy and see how we can honor him. **Chairman Silverman:** It seems like I haven't seen any press releases about this but it sounds like something that would be great for either the local or regional media covering it. **Turza:** We are going to be doing something about it. **Commissioner Jordan:** I believe tomorrow morning, when I tell the County Executive about it, he and his communications team will want more info for sure. I'll reach out to you Gerry and speak to Chief Harden personally and thank him for a job well done. **Chairman Silverman:** That's terrific.

**OEM Report:** J. Trzepizur**Communications Report:** G. Miniutti in attendance

**Chief Miniutti:** Just a couple of quick things. We are presently interviewing for two communications supervisors positions to fill vacancies and processing for three new dispatcher positions, two left from the supervisor promotions and one additional one that was open as well. No change in the T-Band Law as of yet. Multiple attempts to get something through, but nothing has gotten through Congress and then presidential approval yet. We are on track to begin decommissioning low band sites on the west end of the county beginning right after the first of the year. We did send out certified letters to all of the west end agencies reminding them that we won't be able to support them on low band come January. For the most part we have gotten pretty good results and traction has picked up lately as the deadline drawers nearer and departments make the move over. In terms of the east end, we are still grappling with the FCC on the license and until we really firmly have the license in hand and are able to do some initial testing to make sure it's viable, we won't be putting anything more out on that. We did take delivery and we are going to start our 911 phone system upgrade right after the first of the year. Not only at FRES, but all the PSAPs will be undergoing that. We are finishing up our UL certification for our automatic alarm system so that we are comparable with commercial entities that process and receive automatic alarms. We are continuing to onboard alarm companies and dispatch agencies through ASAP to PSAP. I know just last week we brought on ADT which has tens of thousands of customers in the county. **Bonventre:** Regarding water rescues, this is coming from my chief's council. PD 911 is not notifying FRES dispatch of water rescues on the south shore and on the north shore it seems like they are getting dispatched PD and Fire simultaneously. How can we get this problem corrected on the south shore? **Chief Miniutti:** First thing I would say is we have a policy in place that 100% of water rescues that we receive we either activate the department or we put a marine assist and let the chief know so they can make that determination. As to what we don't know about, that's a harder nut to crack and first, it's always helpful if

we can get specific examples, an instance as close to real time as possible of when it didn't occur and we can work through either I through the communications section or through Commission Jordan and Chief Cameron to try and close that loop as to what happened in those particular situations. **Bonventre**: Okay, I will gather info and give you a call. **Chief Miniutti**: Okay, feel free to reach out.

**Fire Academy**: R. Holley/E. Johnston

**Barz reporting**: Not much to report. The Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner covered all the info I was going to report.

**EMS**: M. Masterson in attendance.

**Masterson**: Good evening. Happy First Responder Day and congrats to everyone. I want to apologize; apparently an email went out from me for a FRES meeting tied to a ZOOM announcement. County IT narrowed it down to a spam ZOOM, but it wasn't from me. I can assure you I won't be sending out FRES Commission meeting notices, but I apologize. The activity has been very busy, so I won't recap everything that the Commissioner has already described. We are participating in vaccine pods, EOC, ESF8, all those activities are ongoing. Only thing new is we are recredentialing all our medics on our online platform. This is an achievement from years ago when we used to have to go around and do the classes. We have EMT courses in every one of the nine towns in the county. We are following the Governor's rules and have been all along. It's burdensome. Classes close quickly. There are restrictions on the number of students and the activities that can be done in the classroom.

**SCPD – Special Patrol Bureau**: Deputy Inspector Vincent Maronski

**Budget Committee**: D. Silverman in attendance

**Chairman Silverman**: Budget Committee will be meeting in short order to go over the numbers and everything else. As explained, it is still a fluid situation.

**Arson Task Force**: T. Duckham

**Combined Radio Committee**: N. Reilly in attendance

**Reilly**: Have not had a meeting, but Chief Miniutti gave a great report. Things are happening and going along good.

**Buildings & Grounds**: E. Tully

**Legislation & Standards**: A. Laferrera in attendance

**Chairman Silverman**: Chief Laferrera had to drop out of the call, but he asked me to remind everyone that it's time for each department to prepare and renew their Cancer Care Policy. Please contact Anthony if you have any questions.

**Codes & Prevention**: V. Bologna in attendance

**Bologna**: The Fire Marshals haven't had a meeting since January like JayJay mentioned. All are taking codes classes online in bits and pieces and, hopefully, will be done by the end of the year.

**REMSCO**: B. Prosek

**Burn Center**: J. Coughlin in attendance.

**Coughlin**: Along with fundraising efforts, they suspended their meetings for the rest of the year.

**Recruitment & Retention**: G. Turza in attendance

**Turza**: No report.

**Suffolk Chiefs**: J. Coughlin in attendance

**Coughlin**: Next meeting will be November 11, I think, in Bohemia not in Hauppauge because of pandemic reasons. It's our election meeting, but it's not being held that night. Elections are being done

by mail only. Contact Greg Anderson for ballot. His info is on the website. Have to be returned by November 12. **Correction, meeting is on November 13.** New slate will be Tom Kerr as President form Happauge, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President is Nick Luparella from Riverhead, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President is myself, Sgt. At Arms is Mike Barry from Medford, Recording Secretary is between Kevin Fitzpatrick from Smithtown or Jeff Bailes from Selden. We also have Irene Bodkin as Treasurer and Bob Crane as Corresponding Secretary.

**Fire District Officers:** J. Egan/E. Tully

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

**Chairman Silverman:** We have been doing a live or ZOOM meetings as a combined method. No other report.

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

**Sullo:** Eugene Perry from Patchogue got voted in as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of FASNY. Have not had meetings, but will have meetings in 2021. **Chairman Silverman:** Congratulations to Eugene.

**Township Chief Councils:**

**Babylon-** A. Laferrera in attendance

**Chairman Silverman:** Anthony had to step out.

**Huntington-** J. Hoffmann in attendance

**Hoffmann:** No report

**Islip-** F. Bonventre in attendance

**Bonventre:** No report

**Smithtown-** T. Duckham

**Brookhaven:** Vice Chairman K. Markott

**Markott:** Nothing from Brookhaven.

**Riverhead:** L. Brown

**Southampton-** E. McGrath in attendance

**McGrath:** No report

**Southold –** N. Reilly in attendance

**Reilly:** We had a meeting last Monday and the next one in December will be in Greenport.

**East Hampton-** G. Turza in attendance

**Turza:** No report

**Shelter Island:** A. Bloom in attendance.

**Bloom:** No report

**Old Business:** N/A

**New Business:**

**Masterson:** I just wanted to report on the REMSCO if you don't mind. Reviewing the EBridge mobile app, telemedicine, some info will be going out on that. Formalizing a letter that is going out about holding the REMSCO awards. Were able to secure a location to possibly do an outdoor on November 15. Going to do the 12 CPR saves also. The letter will be coming from Chairman Phil Cameron and Secretary James McDonald shortly. Expect a lot of information about EPCR and mobile app.

**Public Comment: N/A**

**Silverman:** Last bit of business will be the meeting date. Right now it is scheduled for November 25 via ZOOM. That's the night before Thanksgiving. Does anyone have a problem with keeping that meeting or do we need to push the meeting back a week to December 2. **Bologna:** Which way have we done it in the past? I think we always pushed it back. **Coughlin:** We always pushed it back to the first week of December. **Chairman Silverman:** I was just thinking because we are doing it on ZOOM, it would be less of an inconvenience, but whatever the membership wants to do. I have no problem with either date, so if you guys want to move it to the following Wednesday, December 2. I'll just let Carolyn and the rest of the staff know about the change. Everybody is in favor? Okay, so next meeting is Wednesday, December 2. I'll entertain a motion to adjourn. **Coughlin:** Motion to adjourn and Happy Thanksgiving everyone. **Chairman Silverman:** Happy Thanksgiving everyone.

Members Present	Staff Present	Guests Present
D. Silverman	Comm. Jordan	M. Masterson
K. Markott	<b>Dep. Comm. Gehres</b>	
F. Bonventre	Chief Vetter	
A. Bloom	Chief Miniutti	
V. Bologna, Jr.		
J. Coughlin		
J. Hoffmann		
A. Laferrera		
R. McConville		
A. Sullo		
N. Reilly, Jr.		
G Turza, Jr.		
E. McGrath		
R. Barz		
<b>Alternates Present</b>		

<b>NEXT MEETING</b>	Wednesday, December 2, 2020
<b>TIME</b>	7:30 pm
<b>LOCATION</b>	ZOOM
<b>REFRESHMENTS</b>	