



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

MINUTES OF
December 2, 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:

Chairman Silverman: Welcome and hope all had a great Thanksgiving. Hopefully, this will be a brief meeting since it is the last one of the year. Carolyn is not on call, but we will do roll call now.
(Attendance conducted. Please see last page)

Acceptance of Minutes:

Chairman Silverman: Everyone received the minutes from the October 28th meeting. Motion to accept. Motion by Coughlin, seconded by Turza. All in favor. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

Chairman Silverman: Carolyn sent me an email and is still waiting for reappointment letters for Vincent Bologna, Jr. from the Fire Marshals Association and a letter from Smithtown Chiefs for Tim Duckham. She did receive a resume for Tom Kriklava who will be replacing John Coughlin, but is still waiting for the nomination letter from Fire Chiefs Council.

Coughlin: If I may I'm stepping down from the FRES Commission because I will be back and forth to Florida. I bought a house down there and will remain 2nd VP of Suffolk Chiefs and be active, but I would not be able to give my 100% effort to the FRES Commission. I believe the FRES Commission is very important and Tom Kriklava will be taking my place. Wishing everybody well, this will be my last meeting.

Chairman Silverman: John has been an outstanding member of the Commission. I've known Chief Coughlin for many years. He is a knowledgeable man. He's been in the service for many years. When we needed a secretary because we ran into some issues with the County authorizing overtime for the secretary, John stepped up immediately and he did it for three years or so and I am grateful. We will miss you on the Commission Chief. You have been outstanding.

Coughlin: Thank you Drew. I want to wish everyone well. It's been a great experience getting to know everyone. I'll keep in touch as I will be continuing with Suffolk County Fire Chiefs.

Treasurer's Report: F. Bonventre in attendance.

Report presented by F. Bonventre- Opening balance of \$5788.18 with \$200 deposit from East Hampton dues for 2020 and 2021. Interest earned \$.15 and no expenses. Total deposits \$200.15. Ending balance \$5988.33. Still have not received dues from Brookhaven, Southampton, Suffolk Chiefs, Southold.

Chairman Silverman: Just to let you know Frank. I have a check from SC Fire Chiefs that I will mail you.

Coughlin: Motion to accept.

Chairman Silverman: All in favor, the motion carried. Frank you are looking good. Hope you are feeling better.

Bonventre: Feeling and doing a lot better.

Report of Officers: D. Silverman in attendance / K. Markott in attendance

Chairman Silverman: I spoke to the County Executive right before the election. He was updating me on the status of the budget situation. He was anticipating the proposition passing during the election that would allow him to use funds to fill in budget gaps. Other than that, I have nothing.

Vice Chairman Markott: I have nothing else except to wish everyone a happy holiday season and reiterate thanking John for doing the minutes. He got me out of doing the minutes a number of times.

Commissioner's Report: J. Jordan

(Please see attached submitted report below)

Commissioner's FRES Commission Report presented by Deputy Commissioner Gehres.

December 2, 2020

COVID-19 Response:

- EOC is still open Monday – Friday, 8am-4pm for COVID support.
- Currently the POD is operational 1 day/week on Wednesdays.
- To date we have distributed over 7.4 million pieces of PPE
- 2,049 County Resident fatalities due to COVID.
- OEM staff has been assisting applicants and stakeholders through the Public Assistance process.
- We have been assisting the Health Department and Towns with logistical support such as tents, CERT and PPE at the multiple COVID testing sites throughout Suffolk County.

TRAINING & EXERCISES:

- 11/5/20 – participated in active shooter TTX -Suffolk County Jail in Yaphank.
- 11/16-17/20 – attended MGT-460- Planning for Emergency Debris Management (virtual)
- 11/23-24/20 – AWR-331 Winter Weather Hazards: Science and Preparedness (Virtual)
- Online codes, fire investigation and Haz-mat training are being taken by all the Fire Marshals to meet the yearly requirements to maintain all those certifications. All FMs have made progress toward the yearly requirements.

PLANNING:

- 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
- We continue to meet with PSEG bimonthly to review improvements to Muni Portal, Make Safe to Clear, EOC Liaisons, Life Support Equipment customers.
- We continue to meet weekly with Health Department management to review ongoing COVID rates and response.
- OEM Training Officers have been actively working with Health Department to reorganize the Medical Reserve Corp. The plan is to use the MRC to assist with contact tracing and vaccinations.
- OEM and Health department staff meets weekly to review COVID planning. This includes COVID vaccination distribution planning.
- Hazard Mitigation Plan – We have submitted the plan to NYS DHSES for review. We have received a few preliminary comments from NYS but are still waiting for their final review. After we receive the NYS review we will submit to plan to FEMA for approval.
- 11/10/20 – THIRA/SPR workshop with NYCEM, FRES, SCSO, SCPD, HEALTH/EMS
- 11/10/20 - NYS OEM Monthly Inter-Agency Conference Call (NYS, Suffolk, Nassau)

- 11/12/20 – Meeting with Manorville Fire District to review to progress made during fire trail clearing in October. Mission was successful and remainder of trails were scheduled to be cleared this week but have been put on hold due to COVID. Meeting with Team Rubicon tomorrow (12/3) to discuss future drill sites and planning.
- 11/12/20 – LI MacArthur Airport (LIMA) FAA Drill Planning Meeting.
- 11/20/20 – VOAD Meeting
- 11/04- IAAI Chapter 23 NY meeting was attended by CFM Lynch via zoom
- 11/10 - FMASCO monthly meeting was held in person and via zoom. Limit of 18 in person.
- 11/19- FELB regular meeting held at SCFA
- 11/30- Central Pine Barrens zoom meeting held regarding future burning

RESPONSE & SUPPORT:

- 11/8/20 – EOC monitoring of seismic activity at Millstone Power Station and Fishers Island
- 11/22/20- LIMA FAA Drill

Personnel:

- Two dispatchers were recently promoted to Emergency Services Dispatcher IIs. (Joseph Pucci and John Hallock)
- We have 1 signed SCIN for an ESD I that we are currently in the process of canvassing/testing.
- There are an additional 2 ESD I SCINs awaiting approval.
- On Monday, November 30, Brenden Rogers started as a Resources Management Officer.

Initiatives and Internal Communications

- Built SuffolksBravest e-bulletin board: <http://www.suffolksbravest.com/bulletin-board.html>
- Items submitted through FRESFAX@suffolkcountyny.gov
- E-bridge is up and running
- Image trend (Suffolk County Fire & EMS elite) approved as state local site for EPCR and NFIRS.

Communications & Technology

- Remain on track to decommission all our low band resources in the 4 western towns by the end of the year. Working to move over the last of the agencies FRES is responsible for (there are a number of agencies) that despite our efforts have been resistant to coordinate FRES as a backup.
- Still waiting on UHF East FCC coordination finalization
- Still working on East end site build out
- No change in legislation on TBAND give back scheduled for February 2021; not likely to have any movement in the current congressional session.
- Background investigations underway for new hirer ESD I candidates, likely to interview around the holidays
- 911 phone upgrade – work in progress
- VHF radio system upgrade – work in progress
- Bi-directional CAD interface – work in progress
- CAD upgrade in progress
- System moved back to Pandemic Level 1 out of surveillance mode, which means that ESDs/PSAPs will be triaging the low priority influenza-like patients and referring them to their

doctor. Low priority patients will not be getting an ambulance response. ***Rescinded on 12/2. All PSAPs notified.***

- SCPD radio shop going around department-to-department to reprogram any remaining trunked radio equipment.

Budget & Capital Projects

- Capital PO issued for Fire Academy
- 2020 Capital Resolution for Fire Academy and FRES CAD/UHF project working through the cycle

Grants & Contracts

- No updates

General Information Related to Fire Marshal's Office:

- All FM's are involved in COVID enforcement in conjunction with the Department of Consumer Affairs. Since November 9, FMs have been working with the Dept. of Consumer Affairs to visit businesses and advise them of the latest mandates in NYS to stop the spread of COVID-19.
- FELB is conducting live meetings following NYS guidelines for masks and social distancing. License testing is being administered and proficiency exams are being conducted. Business inspections are being conducted for new facilities
- County building inspections are being conducted.

Equipment & Vehicles

- no updates

Report from Deputy Commissioner Re: SC Fire Academy

- **LIRR Train Platform and Digital Fire Fighting system**- Provides FIRE suppression and tactics using digital fire simulator, provides training prop for rescue of entrapped victims from under train.
- **Pump House**- Awaiting Bright Electrical to connect and program the new exhaust fan system.
- **Car Fire Prop**- Awaiting final design from vendor to submit for PO.
- **PVT Dwelling**- Awaiting estimate from electrical vendor for outlet installation for digital fire simulator to submit for PO.
- **Tower**- Metal fabrication of ceilings completed, all doors and windows replaced.
- PO for Window and Door replacement issued to vendor work to begin asap.
- **Trench Rescue Prop**- All materials delivered and vendor is to begin work this week.
- Discussions on Kidde maintenance contract ongoing.

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

Deputy Commissioner Gehres: See section in above report.

Chairman Silverman: Any questions for the Deputy Commissioner?

Deputy Commissioner Gehres: Everybody have a happy, safe and healthy holiday.

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

Chief Vetter: No report

Fire Marshal's Report: D. Lynch in attendance

Chief Fire Marshal Lynch: Just want to touch on a couple of things the Deputy Commissioner spoke on. First, I heard mention of Vinnie Bologna before. We had the first FMASCO meeting since the COVID

thing started just last month, some was virtual. Only attended by eighteen people. There really wasn't much to cover. Everybody was just trying to get their feet back underneath them. There wouldn't be much in that report anyway.

In reference to COVID enforcement, just to clarify with you guys. Basically, we are going out with members of Consumer Affairs and it's strictly education on the NYS guidelines. I have cleared this with every Town Chief Fire Marshal. They are fully aware of the fact that we are not doing any code or fire marshal type enforcement. They have all been notified and I've spoken to each one of them and every one of them is fine with it. They understand exactly what it is we are doing. This is more of a public health thing that we are doing. The thought process being that perhaps if a uniform went in with a Consumer Affairs individual, we could stress the severity and importance of them following the rules because the last thing any of us want is another shutdown. Most of them can't afford that at this point. You heard something quick about the burning in the Central Pine Barrens. There's not much to that right now yet. We had a meeting the other day, but they will be doing some back burning, some spot burning. We are overdue for something big and what we need to do is we need to get in there and burn out some of these areas so it will make it a little easier for us to fight them. So, I will keep you updated as to what's going on with that as it progresses forward and where the burns will be. Certainly, the fire departments in those areas will know what is going to be going on. We will make sure that there are no surprises for anybody. This is pretty standard. They do it all over the state. The DEC does it all over the place. It's time for us to start doing it down here. They did receive a grant so that's how they will be paying for it, but like I said, it was just the first meeting the other day. As that moves forward I will report what the progress is and what county properties will be involved. Most will be the states, but there will be some county properties involved. Happy Holidays to everyone. Be safe.

OEM Report: J. Trzepizur

Communications Report: G. Miniutti in attendance

Chief Miniutti: Deputy Commissioner covered everything. Only real concern I have is that there has not been any movement of the Tband give back which is supposed to take place in February 2021.

Chairman Silverman: Let me know if you need us to write another letter or anything like that.

Chief Miniutti: It just seems more, respectfully, of the dysfunctionality of the federal government at this point that standing in its way.

Chairman Silverman: Just one question I am getting from people...the PD side of communications- is there an anticipated date when they are flipping the switch and going to full digital P25 mode and abandoning the analog system?

Chief Miniutti: I don't know if Sgt. Kalan has any info on that, but that is still a ways away. There are still a tremendous amount of radios that need to be programmed between all fire and EMS equipment, the existing PD equipment and then all the ancillary agencies. I wouldn't anticipate that before June of next year and that would be a guess.

Chairman Silverman: I guess some people are under the assumption they are switching over in January and they were concerned. They wanted to get new scanning monitors so they could still monitor the police department.

Chief Miniutti: At least six months. It's been a herculean effort to get all these radios out there and get them reprogrammed. We are making great strides, but it will take time.

Fire Academy: R. Holley/E. Johnston

Barz reporting: First of all, the Board and the directors want to thank the Deputy Commissioner for all the work he has done for the Fire Academy. He has done an outstanding job helping to fix a lot of problems we had there I have to give kudos to him. This comes from the full Board, Mr. Al Groveman, the Presiding Officer right now and the rest of the board. The only other thing I have is, as everybody knows, we have all taken cuts this year for next year and the Academy was cut \$209,000. It was given out how we are going to work it next year. If we do have open classes, contact us and we will be more than happy to try to put you in some more classes. On behalf of the Board and the Fire Academy everyone have a safe and happy holiday season.

Deputy Commissioner Gehres: Thank you for the accolades. It was a pleasure working with them.

Chairman Silverman: I'm very happy to hear everything has been going well between FRES and the Fire Academy. Hopefully, we can get past this budget situation because of COVID.

McConville: Could Chief Barz just repeat that number that was cut from their budget? **Barz:** \$209,000.

EMS: M. Masterson in attendance.

Masterson: Update on EMS staff: Mike Stark is out with an injury. Hope to have him back in the coming weeks. If you are not getting a response from Mark, please forward any message to front staff. I have provided care all my life and, unfortunately, became a patient a couple weeks ago. Many didn't know, but I should be back around the holidays. Was out for a while, but with the help of my right arm, Raegin, Dr. Winslow and the entire EMS staff, they were able to keep the ball rolling on my responsibilities in the EMS community. For now, I'm happy to be back and doing well. We were able to replace Joanne who left for a different job. Welcome Lynn Horn onboard. Running EMS courses through this difficult time even with the strict guidelines. Currently they are nine EMT classes running and two refreshers that will end this week. Currently running an online RSI credentialing course. This is the first time we have recredentialed our RSI medics in the county. There are about 150 of them. Should finish up by December 31. EMS division also completed another AHA ELS instructor course. Thank you Ellen. She got twenty to thirty more instructors out there as well as updating the CPR instructors. New EMT original course opening up in January in the 2nd division. Also offering EMT B refresher in the 4th division sometime in late January. Also working on a hybrid difficult airway course. Working on an online didactic and then they will come in for skills lab so we could get providers in the difficult/advanced airway. Cohort 3 just completed the New York State practical. Currently scheduled to take written exam. Cohort 4 and 5 are still running. Cohort 6 registration in the spring. Bridge program will not be ending. Will be open for registration twice a year in March and September. We have probably forty-fifty CCs transitioning to medics in the county and they are providing care in the county. CME just completed the schedule for 2021. Look for that to be posted soon with locations, dates and times. Remember: REMSCO website was updated. A lot of people are not aware that it has changed back in June. If you have any questions, everything that is needed is on the web page. Still offering ACLS and PEPS every other month. That is now a requirement for CCs and paramedics. Class is posted for December. Division still continues to staff the EOC, EFS8 desk and EMS desk along with assisting the health department and FRES and other agencies with reporting activities. Division also assisted the county health department with various COVID testing sites. I'd like to thank our EMS staff for their continued work in all areas. Fortunate to have EMS staff with many skill sets. Reminder that the infectious disease control page is still up. Click on the infectious disease tab and all policies are listed chronologically. Reminder that Tom Feeley will be sending out the 2021 EMS contact list to agencies. Please look for it. It is an important contact list. The division needs to have all the contacts/titles on file and up to date for each agency. Update on regional credentialing: as of 12/1: 15 CFRs, 3655 EMTs 1000 are law enforcement, 330 CCs, 735 paramedics for a total of 4735. I am the representation for our region on the New York State Council. Online meeting will be on Monday December 7 for committees and then council meeting via Zoom or Webex on December 8 and 9. COVID is still out there, policies in place. Reminder to all our first responders to be vigilant. It's a little bit different than when we started. Need to assume all patients are COVID positive and treat as such. Be vigilant on PPE.

SCPD – Special Patrol Bureau: Deputy Inspector Vincent Maronski

Sgt. Kalan: Aviation section reports all four helicopters in service as of today. PD is continuing to monitor the COVID situation and still staffing the EOC as it has since March 12.

Chairman Silverman: I saw the news report about the big party they broke up in Brookhaven town.

Sgt. Kalan: Yes, the police department is still responding to calls or complaints of that nature.

Budget Committee: D. Silverman in attendance

Chairman Silverman: Budget was covered last month.

Arson Task Force: T. Duckham in attendance

Combined Radio Committee: N. Reilly in attendance

Reilly: I have no report. Chief Miniutti anything? (see report under Communications report above)

Buildings & Grounds: E. Tully**Legislation & Standards:** A. Laferrera in attendance

Chairman Silverman: Chief Laferrera is on the call and relays there is no new legislation. State lawmakers went back yesterday and are concluding their session for this year.

Codes & Prevention: V. Bologna**REMSCO:** B. Prosek in attendance

Prosek: Met on November 10. Discussion on PSAP accountability, REMSCO policies (unintelligible due to background noise) Great River Fire Department was approved to be a first responder agency again. Bayport Fire Department will no longer be a first responder agency. That was coordinated with Community Ambulance. NYS Vital Signs online academy have a CME every week and as Mike mentioned, assume every patient is COVID related so keep wearing PPE on everything.

Masterson: Do you want me to give the elections:

Prosek: Sure

Masterson: REMSCO held elections for 2021. New Chairman is Anthony Pellicone from South Shore University Hospital, New Vice Chair will be John Manzi whom you may know from Districts or West Babylon and Mike Zender is the Treasurer for another term.

Burn Center: J. Coughlin in attendance.

Coughlin: Had an executive board phone call. Other than that, no report.

Recruitment & Retention: G. Turza in attendance

Turza: Assemblyman Thiele got a bill passed by the governor for a blue ribbon committee on recruitment and retention to address some of the issues. Much to the surprise of all the fire service in Suffolk County, none of us were ever consulted and it wasn't discussed to see what our specific needs are here. I had a conversation with Chief Vetter on it with emails back and forth to confirm no one locally was contacted. In any event, the county recruitment and retention will be looking to do some stuff online to focus some things locally instead of the cookie cutter approach that we've been using to address local issues in the coming year. We don't know what the new legislation will mean for us.

Chairman Silverman: The press release was a surprise to everyone. Hopefully some good will come out of it. It would have been nice if he spoke to someone out on your end and in his district.

Suffolk Chiefs: J. Coughlin in attendance

Coughlin: Happy Holidays from the executive board. Election results are Tom Kriklava as President, 1st Vice President is Nick Luparella from Riverhead, 2nd Vice President is myself, Sgt at Arms is Mike Barry from Medford, Recording Secretary is Kevin Fitzpatrick from Smithtown, Treasurer is Irene Bodkin from Ocean Bay Park and Corresponding Secretary is Robert Crane from St. James. We had a virtual meeting and virtual election.

Fire District Officers: J. Egan/E. Tully**Suffolk County Ambulance Chiefs :** D. Silverman in attendance/B. Prosek in attendance

Prosek: No meeting. We had a Zoom meeting on the last one. There will be another meeting in January.

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

McConville: With the passing of Bill Rouse from Patchogue we are looking for a new financial secretary. Bill was the financial secretary for thirty eight years. On state level, Gene Perry is now the 2nd vice president for FASNY and Frank Guarino from Hagerman is taking his place to finish out Gene's term

Township Chief Councils:

Babylon- A. Laferrera in attendance

Laferrera: Happy Holidays and Happy New Year. Everyone and their families stay safe and healthy.

Huntington- J. Hoffmann

Islip- F. Bonventre in attendance

Bonventre: Happy Holidays from Islip Town Chiefs.

Smithtown- T. Duckham in attendance

Duckham: Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. I want to thank the Commission and everyone from the county who reached out on the untimely passing of my father. It was very appreciated. The fire service is undoubtedly a family and anytime something like this happens you learn that and I just want to thank everyone and wish everyone a good holiday season.

Brookhaven: Vice Chairman K. Markott in attendance

Markott: Happy Holidays from Brookhaven Chiefs.

Riverhead: L. Brown

Southampton- E. McGrath in attendance

McGrath: There have been discussions in various departments in the 7th Division in regards to another blanket of protection to members and families by voluntarily joining COVID Alert NY. It's a free app download from the state DOH. Tracks you and anyone else who has the app. Everything is kept anonymous. They will notify you to let you know in case anyone gets infected and you may have had contact with someone. My department has had a few isolated cases of COVID. I have suggested and they are still deliberating. If our department voluntarily joins as a group, we protect each other. If one of us is in contact through work or family association and is exposed to COVID, the rest of the body would be notified of such an instance. Just wanted to let you know that it is available and it's another protection for all our members. Wishing everyone a healthy, happy holiday and remember that we are one day closer to the end of this.

Chairman Silverman: Sounds Interesting and probably very helpful to the service.

Southold – N. Reilly in attendance

Reilly: We had an in person meeting in Mattituck, just the executive board, chiefs and assistant chiefs. Next meeting in Greenport December 14; same thing. Have a good holiday.

East Hampton- G. Turza in attendance

Turza: Glad Frank and Mike are on the mend. Just want to thank John for his service and his assistance over the last several years. Happy Holidays from the 9th Division.

Shelter Island: A. Bloom in attendance.

Bloom: Happy Holidays!

Old Business: N/A

New Business:

Chairman Silverman: I hope and pray that we turn the corner soon as can go back to our normal like and have normal meetings and socialize. It has taken its toll on everyone. Personally, I have a small family business and it has affected our business. It's not good for people and the economy. Hope we see some light with the new vaccine in the coming months.

This is the time of the year that we normally have our nominations for next year's officers. Speaking to Kyle and Frank we were of the notion with everything going on with the COVID situation with your permission as the Commission, we are willing to stay on in our current positions into the next year.

Coughlin: As my last act as a Commission member I would like to have the secretary cast one ballot for each of you to stay on for another year.

McGrath: Seconded.

Chairman Silverman: Does anybody have any objections? If not, I'll entertain a motion? Sounds unanimous. All in favor. Motion carried. I appreciate everyone vote of confidence. Speaking on behalf of Kyle and Frank we are going to do our best and continue to lead and make the FRES Commission better and try to proceed with the agenda that we started off with. I'm thankful that we have a great relationship with our partners at FRES, EMS and PD. I'm confident we will all get through the COVID crisis together.

McGrath: It's good we have a little bit of continuity and stability in this crazy time.

Coughlin: Thank you to everyone and if anyone needs anything I am always available .

Barz: Thank you for the calls when I was sick. Happy Holidays.

Reilly: Motion to provide lunch for FRES for all they do for the service.

Chairman Silverman: All in favor. Motion carried. I will coordinate with the department. Wishing everyone continued good health and stay safe. Next meeting is via ZOOM January 27. Have a great holiday!

Public Comment: N/A

Members Present	Staff Present	Guests Present
D. Silverman	Dep. Comm. Gehres	M. Masterson
K. Markott	Chief Vetter	
F. Bonventre	Chief FM Lynch	
A. Bloom	Chief Miniutti	
J. Coughlin		
R. McConville		
A. Sullo		
N. Reilly, Jr.		
G Turza, Jr.		
E. McGrath		
R. Barz		
B. Prosek		
A. Laferrera		
T. Duckham		
Alternates Present		

NEXT MEETING	Wednesday, January 27, 2021
TIME	7:30 pm
LOCATION	ZOOM
REFRESHMENTS	