



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

MINUTES OF
January 27, 2021 MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE MEETING

Chairman Silverman opened the meeting at 7:32 p.m., followed by the Salute to the Flag and a moment of silence for sick and departed members:

- Ex Chief Allan “Tuffy” Dickerson – Mattituck Fire Department
- Firefighter Matt Rolle - Cutchogue Fire Department
- Ex Chief Hank Seuling- Hauppauge FD
- Chief Tom Hannon- Medford Ambulance

Chairman Silverman: Welcome and happy new year. Hope everyone is staying safe and well during this second phase of COVID. Once again, I want to commend the job that FRES is doing in the dissemination of the information that is coming out via emails and texts. Same with the EMS division. I hear a lot of positivity and everyone is doing a great job getting the information out. I know it’s a very stressful time for everyone, but I want to let all know, myself and this Commission definitely notice the job that everybody is doing. Keep up the good work and, hopefully, we will get through this in another few months or so.
(Attendance conducted. Please see last page)

Acceptance of Minutes:

Chairman Silverman: Everyone received the minutes from the December 2, 2020 meeting. Motion to accept. Motion by Barz, seconded by McGrath. All in favor. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

Chairman Silverman: No correspondence. Carolyn wants to check into the meeting. I believe she has a personal message to give us.

Alles: Hi gentlemen, it’s nice to see everybody, albeit virtually. I just wanted to wish everybody a happy new year and a healthy new year. I wanted to thank you for thinking of me so kindly at Christmas and I wish everybody health. Stay safe and we’ll get through this together. I just wanted to say hello and say thank you.

McGrath: I have a question for Carol.

Alles: For Carolyn? Okay, go ahead.

McGrath: My appointment expired December 2020 and I was renominated by the town chief’s council. Any action on that?

Alles: It’s done. When you are reappointed you don’t go in front of the legislature. That’s only when it’s your first appointment. So, once I get the nomination letter and I have your resume, then I do the paperwork and it goes from there. If there was a problem, you would hear it.

McGrath: Ok, thank you very much.

Alles: No problem.

Chairman Silverman: Our pleasure and join us anytime.

Treasurer’s Report: F. Bonventre in attendance.

Report presented by F. Bonventre- Open balance of \$5,988.33. Deposit of \$300.00 from dues paid by Southold Chiefs for 2020 and 2021 and Suffolk Chiefs for 2020. Expenses were \$850.00 for FRES holiday lunch and Carolyn's gift. Interest was \$.16 for an ending balance of \$5438.49.

Chairman Silverman: Do I have a motion to accept the Treasurer's report? Motion by McConville, seconded by McGrath. All in favor. Motion carried.

Bonventre: Drew, I want to get the dues out for 2021. I'm hoping to get an updated email list for everyone. I'm not sure if these are accurate. Can I give you a call tomorrow?

Chairman Silverman: Okay, are all the organizations paid up for this past calendar year?

Bonventre: I just have three that haven't; Brookhaven, Southampton and Riverhead.

Chairman Silverman: If those delegates who are representing those organizations, if you could go back to your respective boards and follow up with them and this way we can get 2020 off the books and Frank can move onto 2021.

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

Chairman Silverman: I have an item that I will bring up later under new business.

Vice Chairman Markott. I have nothing Drew, thank you.

Commissioner's Report: J. Jordan

Chairman Silverman: There is a new face on the ZOOM meeting. Commissioner Jordan is on another ZOOM and may or may not join later, so I will do the introduction of the new Deputy Commissioner of Fire Rescue put in place after the new year. I believe this is the first time I'm meeting him. I'm not sure if I met him in the past. I may or may not have. Before this position with the County, he was the Regional Director for NYS Office of Emergency Management. He's done a lot of work here in Suffolk County with recovery and several federal declarations and he's always been a friend to FRES. It's a pleasure to introduce Patrick Beckley.

Deputy Commissioner Beckley: It's a pleasure to be with all of you tonight. I'm very excited to be part of Suffolk County Fire Rescue. As you said, I have worked with them very closely since 2012. It kicked off with Sandy and then Nemo. It seems like we have had every bad little disaster to hit us culminating into COVID-19 now. We are going to get through it together and, Drew, I just want to echo your comments. I appreciate those kind words at the beginning. I think Commissioner Jordan and Chief Vetter have done a tremendous job trying to be as transparent as possible in getting the information out to the fire departments and EMS departments on testing and vaccinations. I'm glad to be part of the team and I do have some talking points to report on tonight.

(Please see attached submitted report below)

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

January 27, 2021

COVID-19 Response:

- EOC is still open Monday – Friday, 8am-4pm for COVID support.
- Currently, the County's PPE POD is operational 1 day/week on Wednesdays.
- To date we have distributed over 7.4 million pieces of PPE
- 2,723 County Resident fatalities due to COVID as of 1/26/21.
- OEM staff continues to assist applicants and stakeholders through the Public Assistance process
 - DR-4480 COVID-19
 - DR-4567 Tropical Storm Isaias
- Ongoing Testing Initiatives:
 - First Responder Testing –
 - Since December 2020, FRES & DOH have partnered to operate Rapid Testing Sites on weekends at various Fire Departments throughout the country, ranging from the West End to the East End.
 - Seven consecutive weekends, 14 total events to date.
 - Ranging from 80-150 tests per event.

- These are now open to first responders, veterans and their families.
- Those eligible who are interested in a test are encouraged to text SuffolkVFR to 67283.
- Suffolk County Employee Testing –
 - Suffolk County has launched a Self-Administered COVID19 Employee Testing Program through Applied DNA.
 - Suffolk County FRES has been designated as a host testing site, Monday-Thursday mornings, since December 2020.
 - More than 400 Suffolk County employees visit the FRES testing site each week.
 - 1/5: SCFA was the host of COVID Drive-Through Testing for County Employees, Retirees and Dependents – more than 600 tested.
 - 2/2: SCFA will host a 2nd Drive-Through Testing for Employees, Retirees & Dependents.
- Vaccination PODs –
 - Since early January 2021, FRES has assisted with the logistics, organization and support of a Community Vaccination Site at Suffolk County Community College in Brentwood.
 - FRES additionally worked with the County and SCPD to provide vaccinations to more than 680 fire fighters and first responders at a First Responder Vaccination Pod on January 23.
 - Future First Responder Vaccination POD. will be held this Saturday, 1/30, same location. Reservations will be recorded through FRES.
 - This week, on Thursday and Friday, an additional County Vaccination Site will be established on the Suffolk County Community College Riverhead Campus.
 - We also operated a few closed vaccination pods in locations determined by our Health Equity Task Force.
 - First site: Bellport Boys & Girls Club on MLK Day.
 - Additional responsibilities include logistical planning and site visits with various County staff, including the Office of the County Executive, Department of Information Technology, Department of Health Service and Division of Emergency Medical Services; the assembling and break downs of vaccination sites and the coordination of CERT and MRC.
 - A site visit for a potential third vaccination pod was conducted this week at SCCC-Selden campus.
- CERT and Medical Reserve Corp
 - The CERT and MRC have been a major support in our testing and vaccination missions.
 - FRES continues to canvass the CERT and MRC on a daily basis to gauge availability for a variety of roles, including:
 - flow control
 - registration
 - administering vaccinations
 - administering COVID-19 rapid and PCR tests
 - pharmaceutical support

TRAINING & EXERCISES:

- HSEEP on February 8-11 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM
- K2300 Intermediate EOC Operations is scheduled for February 22-26 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM for whoever we put into it

- K2300 Intermediate EOC Operations is scheduled for March 8-12 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM for Suffolk County we have 30 seats
- K2300 Intermediate EOC Operations is scheduled for March 22-26 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM for those who can't get into the other offerings
- A Virtual ICS-300 course is scheduled for April 27-29 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM primarily for East Hampton PD but we can put a few into the class.
- Courses OEM or FRES personnel have taken recently are:
 - AWR-331 Winter Weather Hazards 11/24/2020 and 1/12/2021
 - ICS-300 1/6-8/2021
 - HSEEP 11/16-19
 - MGT-346 EOC Operation and Planning for All Hazards Events 12/2/2020
 - MGT-460 Planning for Disaster Debris Management 11/16/2020
 - Several other Independent Study courses were also completed as prerequisites for these and the K2300 Course.
- 2020 requirements for NYS Codes, fire investigation, Peace Officer and Haz-mat training were completed to maintain yearly certifications. 2021 classes and trainings have already begun.
- January 22: FRES hosted training for the FDNY K9 Unit at the SCFA.

PLANNING:

- Continuous planning and operations related to Vaccination and Testing PODs throughout the County.
- We continue to have weekly ESF8 meetings.
- 1/12: FMASCO monthly meeting was held in person and via zoom. Limit of 18 in person.

RESPONSE & SUPPORT:

- FRES responded to various incident scenes for K9, Priority 1, Sheltering and Investigations.

Personnel:

- New Deputy Commissioner Pat Beckley started on January 4, 2021.
- Four new ESD Is started on January 25, 2021.

Initiatives and Internal Communications

- Signal 19 texting group has been changed to SUFFOLKVFR. Text SuffolkVFR to 67283.
- Weekly Webinars Continue to be conducted for County fire & EMS personnel on relevant topics and information related to COVID-19 Vaccination Stages and Testing – Hosted by Commissioner Jordan and Chief Vetter
- For previous webinars, go to SuffolksBravest.com, under the 'Bulletin Board' tab.

Communications & Technology

- Continuing to operate at Pandemic Level 1 since 12/24/20, referring between 5-12% of calls daily.
- Communications personnel are assisting with Employee COVID Testing Program & COMU duties at Vaccination PODs.
- Aggressively moving agencies off low band. We have decommissioned the four western towns and anticipate moving West End of Brookhaven by March 1.

- East End frequency has been coordinated, working with Motorola to implement and test; anticipate being able to offer it in some areas as early as this Spring. Other areas require more infrastructure build out.
- 11th Hour Government Action Last Year, the TBand give back was repealed – agencies should be able to keep their TBand Spectrum UHF Channels
- The County is currently testing a county-wide UTAC System to support interoperable UHFJ Communications at large scale incidents and events.
- SCPD Shop continues its ‘round the island’ tour, programming existing
- Migrated from Code Red to RAVE for mass alerting. RAVE now provides complimenting service for Smart 911 profiles, mass notification, school panic alarms and emergency preparedness registry.
- CAD Upgrade still a work in progress.
- E911 upgrade still a work in progress.
- Radiological calibration unit is up and running. Plans are being worked out regarding calibration of outside agency meters.

Budget & Capital Projects

- Multiple field construction projects are underway at the Fire Academy
- Significant purchase orders (funding was appropriated, bonding needs to approved) – including one for \$500,000 for HazMat detection equipment.
- FRES currently working on resolutions for projects related to capital funds appropriated from last year and this year.
- Construction project at FRES – Office of Emergency Management underway

Grants & Contracts

- Suffolk County FRES and our grant partners are actively utilizing FY18 and FY19 SHSP and UASI funding for personnel, equipment, supplies, software maintenance, etc.
- County resolutions were approved to accept and appropriate funding for the FY20 SHSP, FY20 UASI, and FY20 LEMPG Grants.
 - We will begin to utilize these grant programs during the 1st quarter of 2021.
- We are in the process of completing and submitting all claims and progress reports for the 4th quarter of 2020.
- FY19 Technical Rescue/USAR grant has been submitted to NYS.
- FY19 Haz-mat grant has been submitted to NYS.

General Information Related to Fire Marshal’s Office:

- FELB continues to conduct live meetings following all state guidelines for masks and social distancing. Submission of license renewals has increased over the last several months. License testing and business inspections continue to be administered and performed. 1/21: FELB Regular Meeting Held at SCFA.
- School inspections begin on February 15 and run until March 31.

Equipment & Vehicles

- High Water Vehicle – engine replaced and back in service.
- Deployable Assets are being moved to alternate locations and sister facilities due to COVID-19.

Deputy Commissioner’s Report: P. Beckley in attendance.

Deputy Commissioner Beckley: In reference to training and exercises in the report; This is something I’m a big proponent of. When I took over as Regional Director after Sandy, my first mission was to

identify a lot of gaps we had on Long Island based on lessons learned from Sandy and we put an emphasis on training. To that end, I look, hopefully, with Commissioner Jordan, to continue to increase the knowledge and offer the courses that we need to give a good foundation to our first responders. Again, I appreciate the kind words that it's been noticed that we are trying to get the word out to first responders best we can. Joel is also trying to assist first responders who have gotten their first shot at pods that we have nothing to do with and trying to assist them to get answers, leveraging my contacts with the state, especially Stony Brook, for first responders that have gotten their first shot, but haven't heard anything yet. Trying to get their names to them so they can get the second shot on time. Again, hats off to Chief Vetter and all the work he is doing. I'm proud to be a member of this organization. That's all I have.

Chairman Silverman: Any questions for the Deputy Commissioner?

McGrath: I have a question for you Pat. Ed McGrath, Southampton Town Fire Chiefs. Is there anyway, because I get a lot of rumors and the only information I hear is after the fact at these meetings, that you could "cc" the members of this FRES Commission on the communication you send out to the fire departments particularly when it involves COVID vaccine and testing.

Deputy Commissioner Beckley: I will write it down and get you an answer.

McGrath: Because you're mentioning these sites and various fire departments that have access and are getting invited to go to the Brentwood Campus, I'm not aware of any of this and I fail to do my job and my fiduciary responsibility if I don't have this knowledge to pass onto the 7th division.

Vice Chairman Markott: Ed, do you guys have a point of contact?

McGrath: I guess it would be me for FRES unless...

Vice Chairman Markott: Each department in the beginning was supposed to send over who the point of contact was and you would get all of those emails and all those texts. You're not going to want them anymore.

McGrath: I understand, but what I'm saying to you is you can get great contacts for all of the departments, but what about a contact from me as a FRES Commission member so I am aware of the communications that are going on between the county and various fire departments. I have no exposure to that, so I'm not aware of what's going on, what's been said, what's been planned and what they hope for.

Chief Vetter: Mr. President, if you don't mind...So, we have made suggestions to staff, like yourself, that we could do one of two things. We could put you in under your agency specific group. Each agency, over a year and a half ago, we built secure emails to each agency directly. That can be found on the First Responders form underneath the Communications tab on the department website page. The other option, if they don't want to enroll you under your agency's email list for whatever reasons, we could take you and put you in the DFC group or one of the other groups. We cannot take individual people and place them because it's site specific. When we are sending something that's countywide one email goes to every agency in comparison to east end, west end, etc... along those lines. All other comments are texted so if you want to, enroll in the SuffolkVFR text group, old group Signal19 group which, when we were done with the webinar, it was announced through there and it's up on the bulletin board of the Suffolk Bravest saying the webinar has been posted or updated. If neither of those two ways work, I'm sure we could work out something of making a small list for the FRES Commission. The problem that's going to happen is you're going to get it multiple times. I can't fix that, to Kyle's point. He gets it for the agency he works for and for his home agency. People say, "I get it three or four times." That's because you are listed on three or four different groups.

McGrath: Well, the agency I work for is, I assume, the 7th division. You're telling me I have to get the 7th division to contact you or what?

Chief Vetter: No, what's your home agency?

McGrath: Quogue FD.

Chief Vetter: So Quogue, the chief...

McGrath: But in this capacity I represent the 7th division, I don't represent the Quogue FD. So I as a commission member would like to have exposure to the communications that are going on between the county, FRES and fire departments whether it's from the 7th Division president or it's the Chief of my department. How do I do that because, right now I have no communication. I'm not exposed to anything except at this meeting.

Chief Vetter: Afterwards, on a sidebar, I could talk to you about how to register for text messages. It takes seconds to auto enroll and you receive a lot of the communications and referral URLs. Moving forward, I will work with the commission and the President to pull in individual email groups. I would ask those that are not receiving it, but would like to, to reach out to Drew, so I am not double dipping. I don't want to hit Kyle with another dozen. If you need it, reach out to Drew. Drew will put out a list. I'll work with Carolyn and we will figure out a way of putting in for you. As for texts, give me a holler. It literally takes seconds.

McGrath: I'll reach out to you tomorrow. Thank you.

Chairman Silverman: It should be fairly easy to resolve this. I certainly have no problem. I was under the assumption the FRES Commission members were essentially getting everything that I am getting in regards to texts and emails. Obviously, I am mistaken. We will straighten this out. I understand Chief McGrath's point. It's incumbent that every member has the latest information, especially on the vaccinations because there is some confusion out there. It is not necessarily the County's fault, a lot of this is getting dictated by the State in regards to who's getting what first, who's getting the second vaccination, what the pecking order is, the locations. I know certain people who live all the way out in Brookhaven town and have to go to Jones Beach for a vaccination. Everybody is flying by the seat of their pants because we haven't been through something like this, a pandemic, in over 100 years. I'm certainly hopeful. There was a message, an email, that there were some issues in getting the data that the County was collecting over to the State and so forth. Each ZOOM meeting, I participate in, it seems like those problems are getting less and less. There are more pod locations being announced and, again, I certainly acknowledge the work the department of FRES and EMS division are doing with this. We'll make sure everybody that wants to be notified on this email or text list will certainly be added. Any other questions for Deputy Commissioner Beckley especially on vaccinations because this is your opportunity to get the most accurate information? Okay, Deputy Commissioner Beckley, thank you for your in depth report. Look forward to working with you and the rest of the staff out there.

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

Chief Vetter: Unless you have other questions, the Deputy Commissioner covered a lot of it.

Fire Marshal's Report: D. Lynch in attendance

Chief Fire Marshal Lynch: First off, I just want to wish everyone a happy and more importantly a healthy new year. Let's hope we can get through this pretty quick and get back to doing what we do best. Thank you for the Christmas lunch. It was very much appreciated. Just to continue with the accolades real quick, we have worked with the new Deputy Commissioner, Pat, for many years. This is a huge asset for us. He's easy to work with and the knowledge you bring is a very positive thing for us. Just so you know and I know you didn't hear much fire marshal, but all my guys are involved in not only COVID enforcement, but tracking, testing and now some of them are learning to give the vaccination themselves. So the fire marshals are very much up to their elbows with COVID. In addition, we got our schools starting next month. We have over twenty school districts to do. That's several million square feet of schools and there's a deadline for it. We will make it work. We always do, but we definitely have a new set of obstacles we have to overcome with all of this stuff. You heard about the RAD equipment that's outside. Just to touch on that a little more; we do have a device now and a very large radiological source. We are the only ones in this area that have the license for this in this area. New York City does not have it. Nassau County does not have it. We have it. Kevin Peterson worked many years to get this done. Joel was involved with Kevin and they finally made it happen. Chief Vetter can attest to how difficult and how long it took, but we got it and we are the only ones in this area to have it so it's kind of a kudo, a feather in our cap. We are looking to create some sort of a plan. While we can't charge to do meters for agencies, we want to make it easier for them because a lot of local agencies have to pack up the meters themselves, ship them to the manufacturer, spend several hundred dollars to get the meter calibrated and then pay the shipping to get them back. So by us having this unit, there's a very good possibility we save ourselves money and also help out our neighbors and other agencies including FDNY because they don't have it either. Kevin is working with that and we should have more on that. It was a long term project. It's installed and the Deputy Commissioner mentioned he, at some point, will go look at it. If anyone else wants to see it, it's not really impressive, but it is one of a kind for this area. As you heard, the FELB, for those of you that don't know, that's the Fire Extinguishing Licensing Board. Throughout all of this, a lot of

these businesses weren't working because the restaurants and bars and places weren't open. So, we were kind of slow, which was helping us get involved with COVID a little bit. Then all of a sudden, when things started opening back up, the flood gates opened and all the applications and requests came in at once. Ryan Fischer, one of my guys and Brianne Minden in our office have juggled those hot potatoes and we are caught up. On top of the training, my guys have to have twenty-four hours of codes training every year, twenty-four hours of Hazmat training, twenty-four hours of fire investigation training and recertification for their peace officer stuff. So, we all make it happen. We're gearing up this year. We are restructuring the way we do a few things to be able to get all that stuff in.

Chairman Silverman: Congratulations on your accomplishment.

Chief Fire Marshal Lynch: Thanks. Like I said, Chief Vetter and Kevin, it took a while, but we overcame it.

OEM Report: J. Trzepizur

Communications Report: G. Miniutti in attendance

Chief Miniutti: No Mr. Chairman, the Deputy Commissioner covered it.

Fire Academy: R. Holley/E. Johnston

Barz reporting: Welcome Pat Beckley as new Deputy Commissioner for FRES. Trench rescue prop is being worked on and will be ready in March, weather permitting. Taxpayer windows and doors are being replaced and will be ready in March. Chief Holley will be retiring as of April 1, 2021. Eddie Johnston was interviewed by the VEEB Board and will be taking over the position of Chief of Fire Academy on April 1, 2021. Interviewing for the Deputy Chief position in progress this week. VEEB Board has placed a job description in next month's Fire News for Mechanic 3 at the Fire Academy. One of our gentlemen is leaving. Forgive Chief Holley for not being here. Chief Holley is still getting over COVID and Chief Johnston is teaching at the Academy tonight.

EMS: M. Masterson in attendance.

Masterson: First of all, I'd like to welcome Pat. The states loss the county's gain.

EMS Division Report for FRES-Commission 1/27/2021

William Michael Masterton Chief of Education and Training and QA/QI, SCEMS

Update on Division Staff: Currently we have EMS Staff member Mark Stark out due to an injury, he is mending well and we hope to have him back in the coming weeks. Mike came back to normal hours around the holidays. He was out for a while but with the help of his right arm "Raegin" and Dr. Winslow and the entire EMS Staff, we were able to keep the ball rolling on his responsibilities.

Now for some good news, we are happy to announce the addition of our newest staff member Paul Marra, Paul has more than 20 years' experience as an ALS provider, an EMS leader, and as an EMS educator in the Suffolk County 911 System. Paul will serve the EMS Division as the Chief of EMS Operations and will be assigned EMS1 in the System effective 1/5/21. Also we have added Lynn Horn, Office Assistant. She will be assisting front office staff and we would like to welcome both of them to the team.

COVID-19: The EMS Division continues with the EMS Staff at the EOC for EFS8 and the EMS desk along with assisting the Health Department/Fres and other agencies with HERDS and other reporting activities. The Division Staff has also assisted the SC Health Department with various COVID Testing sites. Staff assigned to the County Vaccine POD at SCCC and other SC DOH Sites in providing support to the vaccination sites with medical observation, emergency medical care, and logistics support. We would like to thank our EMS Staff for their continuing EMS work along with assisting in many other areas during this pandemic. We are very fortunate to have EMS Staff with many skills sets and their continued efforts to constantly assist in the work needed.

***Vaccine for Phase 1A Agencies:** The NYS BEMS hosted a WebEx on 12/21/20 and sent out the Hospital CDMS links to the EMS Agency contacts that they had on file for hospital POD's. Dr. Winslow put out a guidance document for COVID Vaccine to the EMS System and asked agencies to identify a COVID Coordinator and send to Reagin. NYS BEMS asked SCEMS to help with getting the Hospital CDMS links to EMS Agency Leadership. SCEMS and FRES held an informational zoom meeting on 12/23/20. Reagin continued to send information from NYS BEMS to agency COVID Coordinators with updated information for Phase 1A as it was received from the BEMS. Attached is a copy of the most recent update, a letter from NYS DOH Commissioner "Dr. Zucker Letter to COVID Vaccine Program Providers" (Letter at end of minutes)*

Reminder, Infectious Disease page is constantly being updated with messages and policies. All previous COVID-19 notification are posted on that page and new ones posted on top.

The EMS Division Staff continues to work jointly with FRES on E-bridge, EPCR and other exciting online and mobile EMS applications.

Current Courses: We continue to run EMS Courses through-out the county as we have thought-out this difficult time with very strict guidelines for safety of our students and staff. We currently have eight Originals Courses running and have one Refreshers course just posted in the 4th Division. We currently have two additional Original Courses in the pipeline, one in the 3rd and 5th Division and a Refresher hopefully in the 5th Division. Please check the courses tab for a listing of all of the EMS courses offered in the county.

We are happy to announce that we have just completed our 1st online RSI Medic Re-credentialing Course to over 150 RSI Medic's in the system. All current RSI Medic's will expire on 12/31/21. We would like to thank Dr. Glantz, Dr Maloney and Dr. Winslow for their contributions on this project and also EMS Staff Members James D & Chris N for making this LMS work in such a short time frame. We would also like to thank Dr. Marshall and Shawn Edouard for working with the RSI Sub Committee. All RSI Medic's in the County are working under the same protocols and credentialing requirements.

AHA: The EMS Division completed another AHA BCLS original instructor Course as well as updating all of our current instructors over the last few months. Ellen will also be hosting a (TCF) Zoom session later in February.

New Courses: "Pandemic Triage Protocol Review Video" The Division identified through QA activities that there was some confusion on the NYS Pandemic Triage Protocol. SCEMS Staff developed its first "less than 10 minute video" reviewing the protocol and the required documentation. It can be located on the COVID page. Please feel free to share with your Folks. We would like to thank Dina, Patty and James D. for their work on this training video.

QA/QI: Though out the COVID Pandemic the Required Regional Reporting has fallen off a little. Just a Friendly reminder to agency to review the required Interventions Reporting. A guide for Interventions reporting requirements can be found on the "REMAC Protocols Tab" of the REMSCO webpage. Going forward the EMS Division will continue to work on produce these "short 10 minute training videos" in areas that are identified in our system QA/QI.

We are still working on a Hybrid Difficult Airway course and hopefully will have out in the coming weeks. It will be online didactic course and a required skills lab at the EMS Academy.

EMTP Bridge Courses: Bridge Cohort III completed their NYS Practical and Written Exam and they are currently credentialed as Medic's in SC System. Cohort IV is currently running with close to twenty students and Cohort VI will be open for registration in the spring. The Bridge Program registration is open twice a year for Courses starting in March and September every year. Please check the website for registration.

CME: we have started the schedule for the 2021 Monthly CME Core Classes with two changes, Kings Park will host the 4th Division BLS CME and Southampton Village Ambulance will host the 7th Division ALS Monthly CME. Please check the CME page on the REMSCO website for all Monthly CME's. The Division is still offering every other month ACLS & PEPP courses that are now required for EMT-CC & EMTP. We have a PEPP class posted on the website for later this month.

Just a reminder as the year has come to an end, a letter from Tom Fealey has been mailed out to EMS Agencies in Suffolk County for the 2021 EMS Agency Contact List. Please look out for this communication. This contact list is important as there are many contacts that the EMS Division needs to have on file (Medical Director, CS Agent, EMS Liaison, EPR and CME Coordinator, etc.) the days of contact the Chief are long gone...

Regional BLS & ALS Credentialing Requirement:

Current Numbers 1/1/2020 CFR – 15 BLS – 3,673 CC – 327 P – 746 Total = 4,761

Just a reminder that all NYS certified EMS providers in the Suffolk County 911 System need to be REMSCO/REMAC credentialed as either a BLS or ALS provider. Not both... All credentialing is online and info can be found on the credential tab. A reminder that BLS Providers receive the code for the BLS Credentialing from their Agency. These Agency codes due expire and the EMS Division will send the EMS Agency Leadership the new codes when needed.

NYS EMS Council: The State Council Meeting was finally held online December 12th & 13th and as the Suffolk REMSCO Regional Representative on the Council, I should have a report completed later this month. Here are some highlights:

In the upcoming year the initial certification of all paramedics in New York State will require a National Registry application and certification for the initial certification, then for recertification the National Registry will not be required.

The skills stations for the BLS PSE testing and the PSE Manual is still in development but will be out in spring 2021. It is moving from 6 required skills stations to 3 stations "real life scenarios."

North Shore Ambulance Suffolk CON matter "Article 78 hearing" SEMSCO Chairmen stated that was resolved in SEMSCO Favor; any questions are referred to the Department of Legal Affairs.

There is no extension on NYS Agency Renewal.

PCR will no longer be sent to Local Program Agency. Agencies will be uploading directly to BEMS on a portal, look for information to come out in early February 2021.

New Certification Cards "will make it through the wash once"

Vaccinator training is on Vital-Signs academy for EMT's that wish to become vaccinators. This is not required! It is a three step process (four online modules, Skills in-person training then go back on Vital signs academy to complete.

New, Any EMT course starting after August 2020, students will have three attempts at the NYS Written. Course Sponsor renewals that were due in June of 2020 have been extended to May of 2021. Course sponsor survey on "cost of running courses" was delayed will be going out this year. Added area of cost of PPE etc.

Changes to BLS Emergency Ambulance Service Vehicle and ALS 1st Response 800.24,25,26 “it will put it in the hands of the BEMS and SEMSCO policy rather than a direct regulator change in equipment. Approved by SEMSCO still needs to go through public comment, Health Commissioner, etc.

SCPD – Special Patrol Bureau: Deputy Inspector Vincent Maronski in attendance

Deputy inspector Maronski: Let me echo what everyone is saying about Pat Beckley. He is a huge asset for the whole County of Suffolk. I've known Pat for a few years and done some drills with him, some training exercises. Pat will be tremendous for the county. We definitely got a coup when we stole him from the state. So, welcome Pat. Regarding the police department: Since last March we have been involved with the EOC, planning team and supply pod over at FRES. And now, as was talked about, we have moved over to the vaccine pods. We did one last Saturday for first responders. There will be another one next Saturday using our Medcat personnel to administer the vaccines. The working relationship over the last year with FRES, EMS and the Health Department have actually been tremendous and the best I've ever seen in my twenty-five years with the county. I want to thank everyone for all their support and help and we couldn't be out there vaccinating out first responders without everyone putting it in together. All four helicopters are operational.

Budget Committee: D. Silverman in attendance

Chairman Silverman: No report

Arson Task Force: T. Duckham in attendance

Duckham:

Combined Radio Committee: N. Reilly in attendance

Reilly: No report

Buildings & Grounds: E. Tully

Legislation & Standards: A. Laferrera

Codes & Prevention: V. Bologna

REMSCO: B. Prosek

Burn Center:

Recruitment & Retention: G. Turza in attendance

Turza: No report. Held a ZOOM meeting on December 22 and I got a fire call, so I could not attend.

Suffolk Chiefs: R. Barz in attendance

Barz: No report

Fire District Officers: J. Egan/E. Tully

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

Chairman Silverman: Had our first ZOOM meeting last week. Trying to stick with our regular meeting schedule of third Wednesday of every month. Foresee them being virtual through the spring or early summer depending on what happens.

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

McConville: ZOOM meeting last night. First meeting since last January. Pretty quiet with the Vollies.

Township Chief Councils:

Babylon- A. Laferrera

Huntington- J. Hoffmann in attendance

Hoffmann: No report

Islip- F. Bonventre in attendance

Bonventre: No report

Smithtown- T. Duckham in attendance

Duckham: No report

Brookhaven: Vice Chairman K. Markott in attendance

Vice Chairman Markott: No report

Riverhead: L. Brown

Southampton- E. McGrath in attendance

McGrath: No report

Southold – N. Reilly in attendance

Reilly: Meeting in December in Greenport in person. Next meeting in February in Orient.

East Hampton- G. Turza in attendance

Turza: Thanks to everyone at FRES and EMS for managing this. You guys are doing a great job and we appreciate it out here. We are going to go to a ZOOM format from here on in with meetings. Meeting will be next Tuesday and virtual.

Shelter Island: A. Bloom in attendance.

Bloom: Nothing to report. Best wishes for the new year and hope you stay safe.

Old Business: N/A

New Business:

Chairman Silverman: I have one thing I want to bring to the attention of the FRES Commission. I'll try to keep it brief and to the point. I was notified approximately a week ago that the so called joint council is supposedly going to be reactivating. I'm not quite sure of the purpose of it or need for it. To remind everybody, just by the nature of the Suffolk County Charter, we are the de facto joint council just by the make-up of the FRES Commission. We obviously have representation on the commission of all the organizations and chief's councils and as per the charter, the FRES Commission, by its make-up of appointed members of all township fire chief's council and the five countywide firematic and EMS organizations, we are in fact the joint council and always have been. As per the Charter, we are the policy making body and an advisory oversight commission. We speak for the volunteer fire service and volunteer ambulance service on matters pertaining to firefighters and ambulance workers on programs and actions involving Suffolk County government and act as the liaison with the County Executive, County Legislature and the Commissioner of FRES. The system isn't broken and, in fact, it's the best I've seen it in years and everyone of you make that happen. Your participation, the open and transparent lines of communication that we have with the department of FRES and elected officials and the mutual respect we have for all involved. Speaking for myself, I'm not sure if everybody was aware of the past incidences with the joint council. To keep it brief, it may have started unofficially as a group of individuals who would talk about the topics of the day. Whatever was happening. Back then the wildfires. I remember when I was invited to this meeting when I was President of the County Ambulance Chiefs Association back in the 90s. They were talking about enhanced 911 and PSAPS when they were first formed. We were talking about other things like (unintelligible) and then it gradually moved onto police helicopters and memorandum of understanding when the police department through the Academy had the ambulance donated to them several years ago. Speaking for myself, I'm not exactly happy with the developments I heard the other day and I'm hoping that there's no conflict because we are the officially

recognized commission as per law, Suffolk County law and Suffolk County Charter. I spoke to Chief Kriklava about this four or five days ago about his intentions of starting it and went over some of the past problems and grievances and confusion that this so called joint council created within the county especially during those years where there were some individuals pushing an agenda to have Suffolk County take over the Fire Academy and getting rid of the Vocational Extension Board. It was something that people were speaking for that the fire service was in favor for when, in fact, the majority of the fire service was not in favor for. It created a lot of confusion with our elected officials. Some of the legislators didn't know any better that the joint council wasn't an officially sanctioned organization, but, in fact, the FRES Commission was. It's the last thing we need to deal with as a commission. There's so much other things going on right now with the pandemic and trying to get through this with first the testing phase and now the vaccination phase. I don't know what the agenda is on Tommy's side, I don't know what their mission statement or goals are and as far as I'm concerned, I see it as a duplication of what is already in place which is this commission and what we do, what we are sanctioned to do. We are a cohesive unit. We are all on the same page and have open lines of communication with Commissioner Jordan, with the new Deputy, with Chief Lynch and Chief Vetter, Chief Miniutti and the rest of the staff. Everything has been going really really well. A lot better than I've seen in the several years I've been on the commission and I felt obligated to get the information out to all of you that this was happening. Any comments or suggestions on how we should react? Should we react? What are your recommendations?

McGrath: I don't know the history of the joint council. I have no idea what it's function is. I don't know where it gets its charter from. Is it just a group of individuals that are creating an ad hoc committee that going to try to have a voice in what we as the FRES Commission does? As far as I'm concerned we are the body. I don't think we need another body to add confusion.

Reilly: For you newer members, I have been on this committee for thirty years and you can count the meetings I missed on one hand. It was a disaster when this group went off splintering years ago and that's not the way to go. I'm an east end guy, but I understand the guy that's spearheading this has also been appointed to be a member of this commission. You can't have it both ways. If you're going to be a member of this commission, you are going to join us and do the good work of the fire service of this county. If you're going to go off by yourself with a group of people and try to circumvent it, then that's wrong. So you got to decide. Is he going to be a member of us or go do his own thing? He can't be both.

Chairman Silverman: I appreciate that and as I was saying, I've been on this commission almost as long as Norm. I don't want to make it a we versus them, that's not my intention. My intention is we should all be on the same page. When I had my conversation with Chief Kriklava that's what was being thrown at me and I said we are on the same page. Everything is working great, I said. It's the best, I think in many years. We have the communication flowing back and forth, the cohesiveness, the transparency. We are going through a very difficult period right now. You may have some issues if it's who gets the vaccinations first or whatever. But everything in time is getting worked out. I would appreciate if anybody has any other input, opinions or a point of action. Maybe someone has an idea or whatever the case may be.

Turza: Obviously, I'm another east end guy. From the one name you dropped already, it seems that these guys are coming in with an agenda and they want to push their agenda. I remember a few years ago when I got on this commission you were having issues with them as well. Is it a matter of maybe going to the president of their association and have our reps say enough is enough? You got a chance for your voice to be heard several other ways and taking it up to the next level, can the public safety group of legislators also get involved and give us a little assistance and backing?

Chairman Silverman: Well, first of all, we would fall under the new FRES committee of the legislature. I certainly don't want to embarrass anyone publicly, that's not my intention. I know Chief Kriklava cleared his first hurdle yesterday with going through committee, but he still has to go through the vote of the full Legislature which I believe is next week Legislator Donnelly?

Legislator Donnelly: Yes, on Tuesday Drew.

Chairman Silverman: I called up Tom. I've known Tom for a long time. We had a good working relationship. I heard what he had to say and I told him my reasoning on why I believe it shouldn't happen. That there's no need for it to happen and the irony is he wants to be part of this Commission. To be blunt with him, I said you're not really exactly starting on the right foot. I look at the Commission not just as a Commission, but we're like family here. We're all brothers here and we all want the same thing. Nobody

has any secret agendas or anything. We are here for the benefit of the fire service and the ambulance service. Everything is working great and if there's a problem the Commission needs to hear about and address, it goes up the chain through the members to the delegates, everybody here. Everybody has an equal say of what they want to bring up and if anything needs to be brought to myself as the Commission Chairman and we work on the issue. If it's something simple, we get it done right away. If it's going to take a little time, we form an action plan. We move forward and work with our elected officials just like Legislator Donnelly. Like I said, I'm not looking to start any wars or confrontations. That's totally unnecessary especially in this time. We don't need any of that. I'm looking for guidance and suggestions from everyone of you before we take any action if there's any action we are going to take.

McGrath: Who or what determines membership on the FRES Commission?

Chairman Silverman: The way the commission works is, let's say yourself. You represent the Southampton Town Fire Chiefs. You're nominated through your council. Once they receive the nomination letter it goes through the process with your resume and it goes through two levels of the County Legislature. It goes through committee which usually requires you to attend the meeting or in these times you check in via ZOOM. They vote on moving to the full legislature. We are all, technically, non-compensated county officials so to speak. We do take an oath. You have to sign a notarized oath and mail it back. You go through committee, then from legislative committee it goes to full legislature.

McGrath: So what would give this party legitimacy to have a seat on the FRES Commission?

Chairman Silverman: First of all, Chief Kriklava would be coming on the FRES Commission as one of the two delegates from the Suffolk County Fire Chiefs Council. Ron Barz is the other delegate.

Barz: I'm the head delegate now, just to let you know. He backed off and I'm the delegate for Suffolk County Chiefs.

Chairman Silverman: Okay, is he withdrawing his nomination then?

Barz: No, he wants to be the alternate.

Chairman Silverman: Okay, whatever. That's your guy's decision. He's your council president and we don't get involved with that.

Barz: I'm not getting involved with this either.

Chairman Silverman: I know Tom is from your department and you go back a ways. As I told him on our telephone conversation. Listen, I'm not looking for any problems and I hear what you're trying to do or whatever, but it's really not necessary and I said I can't allow this to mushroom into something worse because of what we went through. I don't have to remind you Ronny. You went through it.

Barz: Yes, I was.

Chairman Silverman: It was a very ugly and divisive period we went through and it was embarrassing because it involved county officials, people on the legislature, even the County Executive. They were listening to this group thinking that they were listening to the sanctioned group or whatever. It just muddied the waters. That's something I definitely don't want to see. We have a very clear mission as a commission. Like I said, we are part of county government. It is what it is. Any other suggestions?

Reilly: I think we should take a proactive approach and draft a letter to the County Executive and the committee who is in charge of us stating that we are the group and we've heard a rumor this faction was starting up again. Just so they're aware of it before they get to go to them and say, here we are. I don't know what you guys think. We should do something proactive before they do.

Chairman Silverman: I have no idea what their intentions are. I did not in my conversation get a clear vision of what their agenda is. I don't know if this is going to be a few guys talking at a coffee table or now on a ZOOM or whatever. Legislator Donnelly you had a comment?

Legislator Donnelly: Not on this particular issue, no. I just had some items I wanted to pass along. Whenever you want to get to me, it's fine. Just housekeeping stuff I wanted to pass on to the commission.

Chief Silverman: I think Chief Reilly has a good idea. Any other comments or suggestions?

McGrath: What is their claim to legitimacy, what is their objective, what is their mission statement? If we're going to inform the appropriate county officials, we have to say this group is a bunch of imposters or whatever or out to change the charter of the FRES Commission. We have to give some points where they are the bad guys.

Chairman Silverman: No, listen I think that's a little strong. I don't want to term anybody good guy bad guy here. All I know is...

McGrath: All right, disrupters.

Reilly: The County Executive knows well what happened years ago with that bunch. He was involved with this when he first got in there. So if we refresh his memory it's a good thing, I think, because he'll realize when they start contacting him, "hey, you don't represent the fire service. The FRES Commission does. Go there. That's who you should talk to."

Chairman Silverman: I would hope and I did explain this to Tom Kriklava if he proceeds in this direction. I told him I would hope things would funnel through your representation to the commission so it goes the right way. That the information flows accurately and in the right direction, to the right people that it needs to go to. That we don't need a secondary group or a group of guys coffee clatching, whatever you guys do, to address county officials on whatever. I basically said, the commission is a unified force. Chief Vetter did you have something?

Chief Vetter: Maybe, through the chair, if you don't mind. A suggestion to Legislator Donnelly. With the change of some newer legislators, maybe it's an opportunity for the commission to provide an overview of the legislative process and the committee to the legislators and then they would know who is the voice of the fire service to them.

Legislator Donnelly: We can have Drew come in, I'll talk to the chair of the FRES committee in the legislature, and give an overview of what the FRES Commission actually does. If that would help kind of reinforce that it is in fact, pursuant to the charter, an advisory panel as per policy and, to Drew's point, not just a bunch of folks sitting at a diner having a cup of coffee.

Chairman Silverman: I believe and in addition to what Chief Vetter is suggesting, I also like what Chief Reilly is suggesting to get something out there in writing as well. This way if we are on the record and we are taking action, are not sitting passively idly, that, basically, we are trying, very diplomatically to head this off. I don't have to tell everybody. It is just not necessary. I don't want to get into any personalities. Personally, I don't have any issues with Tommy, but like I was said, I was hoping I could convince him otherwise to what he was doing, but just couldn't get there. Just couldn't get to that point in the conversation. I did take the opportunity because it was recommended by one of our other commission members who's not on the meeting tonight. When I was informing him what was going to take place tonight, he asked me what's on the agenda, and I was mentioning this thing with the joint council. It was suggested that I call his president up. So, I did call his president up and, basically, reminded him what the role is of the FRES Commission and he certainly understood it and basically had no problem with what I explained to him and the fact that the joint council wasn't really a great direction to go into. We are going to get the word out. Chief Reilly are you going to make that in a form of a motion in regards to the letter?

Reilly: I'll make that a motion. I think if we send that letter maybe the other members that are cohorting with him will get the idea that maybe we shouldn't be doing this and back off and that will solve the problem. I don't know. Yes, I'll make a motion that we send a letter to the County Executive and the Fire Rescue Committee members also.

Turza: I'll second that.

Chairman Silverman: Motion by Chief Reilly, seconded by Chief McGrath.

Turza: No, Turza.

Chairman Silverman: Okay, Chief Turza, sorry about that. On the motion, all in favor, no opposition noted. I appreciate everybody's opinions and inputs and guidance on it. I'll certainly notify the commission if there is any further information to be given on this matter. We will keep the flow and transparency going. I really appreciate it. Any other new business before we close out?

Legislator Donnelly: Just wanted to say hello to everybody. For those who don't know, my name is Tom Donnelly. I'm one of the County Legislators. I represent the 17th Legislative District. I'm actually the Presiding Officer's representative to both the FRES Commission and the REMSCO Committee. I enjoy attending these meeting as well as REMSCO with Chief Masterson from EMS. Just a couple quick few items from the legislature. There was a Hazmat bond that was approved by the legislature in December in reference to a lot of new Hazmat equipment. That bond was approved. I know there's been a lot of concern; I got the opportunity to speak to Drew as well as members of the VEEB Board and other folks about the cuts to the fire training school. Rest assured, I know the county administration reached out to the VEEB Board directly. The hope is that when the second relief package comes out from the federal government, those cuts will be restored immediately. We've got a few months to go, but it is on everybody's radar. I know it's on Commissioner Jordan's radar, so we are all going to work collaboratively, the legislature, the administration, FRES, to make sure the money gets back to the VEEB

Board. Shout outs to the vaccine program across the board; EMS, FRES, all the county workers. I know, obviously, we are all active volunteers. There have been a number of serious fires in Suffolk County, particularly in the last couple months, so I wanted to give a shout out. I did get a couple of calls complimenting the County Marshal's Office, particularly canine was called out a few times. So, great job everybody. To Drew's point, in my lifetime, as a volunteer firefighter, the FRES Commission is the advisory board and whatever I can do to help, I don't want to jump into the frying pan, but whatever I can do to assist this commission, I'm certainly here for it. I try to attend as many meetings as I can. I was here tonight and stayed for the whole thing, so I just wanted to let you know I'm here if I can do anything for anybody. Feel free to give me a shout. Thank you Drew.

Chairman Silverman: Thank you, I appreciate it. Any questions? Please extend invitations to any legislators that are on the committee. They are always welcome to participate in the process. Any other new business?

McGrath: I guess because we don't have anybody from the Fire Academy here...

Barz: I'm here.

McGrath: Okay, thank you. I attended a meeting of the Southampton Volunteer Fire Police Association and their president asked me to ask you, through this venue, do you have any virtual training courses for fire police?

Barz: I will look into that for you. I will get an answer for you.

McGrath: Thank you.

Chairman Silverman: Next meeting will be virtual by ZOOM on February 24. Appreciate your participation, input and guidance tonight. Stay safe and hopefully those that need to get the vaccine will get it very, very soon. Stay healthy and safe and I'll entertain a motion to adjourn. (Motion by McGrath.)

Chief Vetter: Mr. McGrath, Chief McGrath, did your pager go off, did you get an email about testing? Double check. We put you in. Kyle and Drew were nice enough to send me your cell phone. If you have an AT&T service issue where you are, service is rough.

McGrath: Yes, I did get that notification and I'd love to get more.

Chief Vetter: You will, I promise.

McGrath: I appreciate it very much Joel

Vice Chairman Markott: Be careful what you wish for.

McGrath: I hate to be going around the 7th division with people telling me things I should be telling them.

Chief Vetter: You're all in it. You don't have to do a thing.

McGrath: I appreciate that Joel. Thank you very much.

Public Comment: N/A

Members Present	Staff Present	Guests Present
D. Silverman	Dep. Comm. Beckley	M. Masterson
K. Markott	Chief Vetter	Leg. Donnelly
F. Bonventre	Chief FM Lynch	Dep. Ins. Maronski
A. Bloom	Chief Miniutti	
R. McConville		
N. Reilly, Jr.		
G. Turza, Jr.		
R. Barz		
T. Duckham		
E. McGrath		
J. Hoffmann		

Alternates Present		
NEXT MEETING	Wednesday, February 24, 2021	
TIME	7:30 pm	
LOCATION	ZOOM	
REFRESHMENTS		