

COLUMBIA COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

85 Industrial Tract, Hudson, New York 12534

*****Unapproved*****

The October 19, 2011 Columbia County Fire Advisory Board meeting was called to order by Chairman Henry Swartz at 7:00pm with the following people answering roll call:

Henry Swartz, CCVFA
James Van Deusen, Fire Coordinator
John Blaauw, CCVFA
Tab Eigenbrodt, Deputy Fire Coord.
Ted Beck, Instructor

Ron Rifenburg, CCFCA
Joseph H. Loeffler, CCVFA
Gary Mazzacano, Battalion 1 & 2
William Hunt, Deputy Fire Coord.
Wally Engel, CCFCA

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2011 meeting was made by Gary Mazzacano and seconded by Ron Rifenburg. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

- Letter from Chatham Fire Department endorsing James VanDeusen for Fire Coordinator position.
- Letter from AB Shaw Fire Company endorsing James VanDeusen for Fire Coordinator position.
- Letter from William Hunt endorsing James VanDeusen for Fire Coordinator position.
- Letter from Col Co Vol Firefighters Assn endorsing James VanDeusen for Fire Coordinator position.
- Letter from Ted Beck endorsing James VanDeusen for Fire Coordinator position.
- Letter from Kinderhook Fire Department endorsing James VanDeusen for Fire Coordinator position.
- Letter from Col Co. Fire Chief's Assn appointing James Briscoe and Matt Larabee to the CCFAB for 3 year terms.
- Letter from Fire Coordinator advising of nomination of Gary Mazzacano representing Battalions 2 & 3 and Paul Pratt representing Battalions 4 & 5 to the CCFAB for one year terms.

Fire Coordinator's Report:

Fire Coordinator James VanDeusen gave the following report:

- The Battalion meeting held in Niverville had good attendance. A presentation was given by Sun Dog Solar on the increased use of solar products and the hazards associated if not handled properly.
- An increasing number of fire schools are being cancelled due to lack of enrollment. The Hazmat 1st Responder in Germantown and Firefighter Survival in Greenport were cancelled.
- OFPC has appointed Drew Dickinson as Chief of Operations and Training. John Mueller has retired from the State Fire Administrator position and is being filled by Acting State Fire Admin. Bryant Stevens.
- The communication tower is moving forward after the next Livingston Planning Board meeting.
- Starting in November, accountability tags can be obtained through the Coordinator's office. Two cards will be issued to each member and if more are needed the fire company will be responsible to pay for them. The tag system is being done through a grant that was received by the Coordinator's office. The program is not mandatory but it would be good if all fire companies were uniform for accountability.

Instructor's Report:

- Instructor Ted Beck reported that all classes currently in progress are going good. There will be a Firefighter I course beginning in Hudson. Gary Mazzacano asked how many graduated from the Fire Behavior Arson Awareness course and Ted reported 16 students.

EMS Coordinator's Report:

- No report received.

Emergency Management Report:

- No report.

911 Center:

- No report received.

HazMat Team:

- No report received.

Cause and Origin Team:

Bill Hunt reported:

- 9 calls reported to date.
- Bus is back in service.

Supervisor's report:

- No report.
- Joe Loeffler brought up discussion of the importance of having representation from the Board of Supervisors at the Advisory Board meetings so issues dealing with the Board can be addressed. Would like to see increased attendance in 2012.

Old / Unfinished Business:

- Chairman Swartz reported that the Board of Supervisors asked this Advisory Board if a list of questions could be given to them that would be appropriate to ask the candidates being interviewed for the position of Fire Coordinator. A motion was made by Gary Mazzacano and seconded by Wally Engel that the letters of endorsement that were received will be forwarded to the full Board of Supervisors and the Public Safety Committee. Motion carried.

New Business:

- A motion was made by Wally Engel and seconded by Ron Rifenburg to set meeting dates for this Advisory Board for 2012: January 18th, April 18th, July 18th and October 17th. All meetings will begin at 7:00pm at the Public Safety Building. Motion carried.
- It was suggested that a meeting be held sometime in February of 2012 to form a committee to setup the selection process for Fire Coordinator.
- The vacant position on the Advisory Board needs to be filled by someone from the CCFVA. A letter of endorsement from the CCFVA is needed to fill this vacancy for 2012.

Next meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18, 2012 at 7:00pm at Public Safety Building, Industrial Tract, Hudson.

Adjournment:

With no further business to conduct, a motion to adjourn was made by Wally Engel and 2nd by Gary Mazzacano. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,
John Blaauw, Acting Secretary
Columbia County Fire Advisory Board