

COLUMBIA COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

85 Industrial Tract, Hudson, New York 12534

UNAPPROVED

The January 15, 2014 Columbia County Fire Advisory Board meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Mazzacano at 7:00pm with the following people answering roll call:

Gary Mazzacano, Battalion 1&2, Chairman
Chairman
Paul Pratt, Battalion 4&5
James MacArthur, CCVFA
John Blaauw, CCVFA
James Briscoe, CCFCA
George Keeler, Dep Fire Coord.
Peter Harvey, Dep Fire Coord.
Janet L. Shumsky, Secretary

Wally Engel, CCFCA, Vice-
Thomas Rector, CCVFA
James Van Deusen, CCFCA
Gregg Gilliland, CCFCA
John Howe, CC Fire Coordinator
Joseph H. Loeffler, Dep Fire Coord.
Rob Lopez, 911 Administrator

A motion was made by James MacArthur and 2nd by Wally Engel to re-appoint Gary Mazzacano as Chairman of the Board. Motion carried. A motion was made by James MacArthur and 2nd by John Blaauw to re-appoint Wally Engel as Vice-Chairman of the Board. Motion carried. A motion was made by Gary Mazzacano and 2nd by Tom Rector appointing Janet Shumsky as Secretary to the Board. Motion carried. Secretary will send a letter of the re-appointments to the Public Safety Board.

The minutes to the October 16, 2013 were reviewed with one correction. Coordinator Howe asked for a correction of his explanation of Worker's Compensation under New Business. The old paragraph should be stricken and re-worded as "Chairman Mazzacano asked John Howe about the Worker's Compensation process when a firefighter is injured. Coordinator Howe explained that Kleeber insurance has nothing to do with the County Worker's Compensation program. All claims for firefighter's Worker's Compensation must be reported to the County Treasurer's Office who then forwards the claim to the county's insurance provider. A motion to approve the corrected minutes of October 16, 2013 was made by Jim Van Deusen and 2nd by Tom Rector. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

- Letter from CC Fire Chief's Assn appointing James Briscoe and Gregg Gilliland to the Advisory Board each for a three (3) year term beginning January 1, 2014 and ending December 31, 2016.
- Letter from CC Volunteer Firefighter's Assn appointing Tom Rector to the Advisory Board for a three (3) year term beginning January 1, 2014 and ending December 31, 2016.
- Resolution No. 397-2013 appointing Gary Mazzacano and Paul Pratt to represent the Fire Chiefs on the Fire Advisory Board.

Fire Coordinator's Report:

Fire Coordinator John Howe gave the following report:

- In the year 2013 there were 3,472 fire dispatches county-wide.
- The Fire Coordinator's Office responded to 72 incidents requiring 21 C&O investigations and 5 Haz-Mat responses. Assistance was rendered to 2 police agencies for suspicious packages.
- The Coordinator's Office was also present for 215 meetings and other special functions during 2013.
- During 2013, six battalion meetings were conducted and attended by 184 fire officers. Two boater safety courses were co-sponsored with the Sheriff's Office. A seminar featuring guest speaker, Billy Goldfeder was co-sponsored with Chatham Fire Department raising \$1,000 for the Burned out Victim's Fund.
- The Intelligence Liaison Program was instituted with 4 training programs presented by Chief Michael Cozzolino. This program has already proved its worth in the county.
- The C&O Team stands at 18 members and is currently working on a training program to offer to all fire departments in the field.
- The Haz-Mat Team stands at 14 members. They recently received all new turn-out gear at the cost of \$28,000 funded through a joint grant with Greene County.
- Work has begun with a contractor (Needham Risk Management Resource Group) to gather information on all hazardous materials sites in Columbia and Greene counties, which has the ability to be uploaded into a CAMEO program and be available at a moments notice should the need arise. This program is also supported by a grant of \$53,000.
- In 2013, we received a joint grant of \$23,000 to support our current Haz-Mat equipment.
- There were 28 fire schools conducted during 2013 with 474 students graduating representing 12,572 hours, which is an increase of 2,286 student hours over 2012.
- Requests for 2014 / 2015 fire schools have been sent out. We are looking at late February to set the schedules for the upcoming year.
- Eight Haz-Mat Team members will be attending the annual Haz-mat seminar in Montour Falls. There is no cost for this program as Columbia County was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship at the NYS Fire Academy for having 100% fire reporting.

Coordinator Howe reported that there have been problems with the camera at Fire School. George Jeune from Greene County had problems with the camera at a class in Clermont and the books for the class were delayed.

Training:

Fire Coordinator Howe advised that OFPC is re-doing the Firefighter 1 program, which will be more hours when it is released. This is being done to meet the national standard. Some parts of the curriculum will be web-based and done by the firefighter away from the classroom setting, such as at home. This will allow the instructors to focus on the hands on part necessary to learn the skill.

EMS Coordinator's Report: None.

Emergency Management Report: None.

911 Center:

Rob Lopez gave the following report:

- The lawsuit, Article 78, Olana/Scenic Hudson against the Egers has been given to a judge in Greene County in December because both County judges recused themselves. The Section 106 review that FCC has decided on will not start until the Article 78 finishers.
- The status of the Copake site: the site prep work including the slab has been completed, awaiting completion of the concrete communications shelter. The shelter when it is delivered will be complete except for electric hookup and the radio equipment that has to be installed.
- Low band radio equipment for Copake has been ordered. Still meeting with Motorola on the radio project. On January 22nd and 24th, Rob will meet/contact the fire stations to come out with Motorola to access installation of the new equipment to establish a budget. John will be sending out the questions to the Fire Chiefs of information needed for those dates. Questions such as where do you want the high band radios installed, will you be keeping the low band radios, people that have the authority if possible should be available. The county will continue to maintain the high band fire police frequencies that are being used now.

Haz-Mat Team: Report given under Fire Coordinator's Report.

Cause & Origin Team: Report given under Fire Coordinator's Report.

Supervisor's Report: No report.

Old / Unfinished Business:

- Gary Mazzacano asked if anyone has information on the process for the selection of Fire Coordinators. Supervisor Porreca will need to become involved in this process.
- Coordinator Howe did not have any updates for the training tower.
- Deputy Fire Coordinator George Keeler reported out on the radio committee. The committee has been meeting often and working through procedural items, such as policies and procedures for radio use. The committee will meet throughout Feb/March to continue to draft policies.

New Business:

- Coordinator Howe reported that 8 fire departments in the county have new fire chiefs.

Next meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 16th, 2014 at 7:00pm at the Public Safety Building, 85 Industrial Tract, Hudson.

Adjournment:

With no further business to conduct a motion to adjourn was made by Wally Engel and 2nd by Paul Pratt. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet L. Shumsky, Secretary