

COLUMBIA COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

85 Industrial Tract, Hudson, New York 12534

*****Unapproved*****

The January 16, 2013 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, Battal 1&2, Chairman
Joseph H. Loeffler, CCFVA

Paul Pratt, Battal 4 & 5
James Briscoe, CCFCA

Thomas Rector, CCFVA
Wally Engel, CCFCA

James MacArthur, CCFVA
Roy Brown, CC Board of Supervisors

John Blaauw, CCFVA

John Howe, Fire Coordinator

James VanDeusen, CCFCA

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2012 meeting was made by Roy Brown and 2nd Paul Pratt. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

- Letter from Palmer Engine & Hose Convention 2014 Committee asking to take an advertisement in the yearbook. (Collection will be taken from each member as in previous years)
- Letter from Columbia County Volunteer Firefighters' Association endorsing James MacArthur from Ancram Fire Company to the Fire Advisory Board term expiring December 31, 2014.
- Resolution No. 7-2013 Appointing Supervisor Roy Brown to the Fire Advisory Board term expiring December 31, 2013.

Fire Coordinator's Report:

Fire Coordinator John Howe gave the following report:

- The Fire coordinator's Office attended 143 meetings and was present at 48 mutual aid alarms. These numbers are reflected from April 1st, 2012 to present.
- Some of the notable alarms were assistance rendered to Rensselaer County 3 times. A forest fire in Lee, Massachusetts, lost hiker in Copake, TCI in West Ghent and Hurricane Sandy. There were 4 battalion responses and there were 13 requests for the C&O team and 3 for HazMat.
- The office conducted 6 battalion meetings and a joint meeting with Berkshire County.
- The office assisted with implementation of a Firefighter of the Year program with the Firefighter's Association and the Fire Chief's Association.
- The office, along with the Firefighter's Association and Fire Chief's Association co-sponsored a "Calling the Mayday" program, which was a huge success.

- 29 fire schools were conducted this year with 561 students attending accounting for 10,286 hours. With the assistance of County Highway, a site has been cleared and prepped for the placement of a mobile classroom at the training tower in Philmont which will hopefully be in place by the end of January.
- Requests for 2013-2014 schools are due in the office by February.
- There will be a one night instructor's training session February 5th at 7pm at the EOC. This program is for anyone who would like to consider being a State or County Fire Instructor.
- Niverville Fire Department will be hosting an Ice Rescue Program on February 9th at 8:00am.
- The Columbia county Sheriff's Office will be sponsoring 2 boater safety courses (Germantown on March 2nd and Stuyvesant March 9th).
- With the assistance of County Highway, the office has been able to acquire a ¾ ton pickup which will be placed in service as a special operations vehicle to be used jointly by the C&O and Haz-Mat teams.
- Emergency Management has 300 cases of water available Jan 18th and 19th and each fire department in Columbia County is allotted 10 cases. If interested contact Coordinator Howe.
- Coordinator Howe and Emergency Management Bill Black will be presenters at the New York Emergency Manager's Association conference in Syracuse on February 14th on the TCI Fire.
- Berkshire County hosted a joint meeting with Columbia County bordering fire departments for a meet and greet. Discussed what insurance policy fire departments will be covered under when entering into the state of Massachusetts.

Instructor's Report:

- Report included under Fire Coordinator's report.

EMS Coordinator's Report:

- No report received.

Emergency Management Report:

- No report received.

911 Center:

Rob Lopez reported the following information:

- The Board of Supervisors in December 2012 declared a negative declaration to the full SEQR that had been submitted to the Public Safety Committee. A new SEQR had to be done for the three phase radio project adding a new tower site to co-locate. This site was not available when the original SEQR was done. In order to address an immediate need for poor coverage in the Southeast we will add a low band radio for fire frequency one. Path survey has to be conducted, followed by executing a lease which will be presented to the Public Safety Committee in the January meeting.

HazMat Team:

- Report included under Fire Coordinator's report.

Cause and Origin Team:

- Report included under Fire Coordinator's report.

Supervisor's report:

Supervisor Roy Brown reported:

- Several meetings were conducted to draft up the procedure for the Fire Coordinator's selection process. A draft policy is ready and was distributed to the Fire Advisory Board for review and comment at the next meeting.

Old / Unfinished Business:

- Chairman Mazzacano thanked Supervisor Brown for his assistance with moving the mobile classroom out to the training tower. Thanks are also given to A. Colarusso and County Highway for their help with the move.

New Business:

- John Howe reported the names of the new fire chief's in the county: Ghent – Daryl Garafalo; North Chatham – Brent Gawron; Red Rock – Tab Eigenbrodt; Hudson – Craig Haigh; and Stockport – Mike Cesternino.
- Chairman Mazzacano advised that there are concerns that fire departments are not being advised of issues on the Hudson River. Coordinator Howe will look into this further.
- Chairman Mazzacano thanked Peter Hunter for supplying a bus for county firefighters to attend a funeral in West Webster. The board will send Peter Hunter a thank you letter.
- Greenport Fire Department will be sponsoring a 4 hour OSHA and 1 hour bloodborne pathogens training on January 27th. Next month the rest of the hours of OSHA will be given during hands on training in the fire stations. This has been posted on www.Columbiapage.com and is open to all county fire departments.

Next meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 17th, 2013 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 Tom Rector. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph H. Loeffler (note taker in absence of Secretary)
Columbia County Fire Advisory Board