

COLUMBIA COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

85 Industrial Tract, Hudson, New York 12534

*****Unapproved*****

The July 18, 2012 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
Chairman

Paul Pratt, Battal 4 & 5

James Briscoe, CCFCA

Roy Brown, CC Board of Supervisors

John Howe, Fire Coordinator

Paul D'Onofrio, CC Emerg Mgmt

Ted Beck, Instructor

Ron Rifenburg, CCFCA, Vice-

Joseph H. Loeffler, CCVFA

Thomas Rector, CCVFA

John Blaauw, CCVFA

Wally Engel, CCFCA

William Hunt, Deputy Fire Coord.

Janet Shumsky, Secretary

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2012 meeting was made by John Blaauw and 2nd by Tom Rector. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

- Resolution No. 248-2012 Appointment of Justin Elliot to the Cause and Origin Team.
- Resolution No. 249-2012 Appointment of Joseph H. Loeffler to the position of Deputy Fire Coordinator.

Fire Coordinator's Report:

Fire Coordinator John Howe gave the following report:

- Resolutions have been received for the appointment of Joseph H. Loeffler for Deputy Coordinator and Justin Elliott for the Cause and Origin team.
- The Coordinator's Office met with the Instructors on July 1st to set the schools for the remainder of the year. 13 schools have been scheduled depleting our 950 hour state allotment.
- Since January 1st, 13 schools have been completed. Attended by 229 students representing 5,345 student hours.
- On July 12th, the Coordinator's Office held a meeting in Claverack on the Hudson River Response. 21 people representing 11 agencies attended.
- Since the last Fire Advisory Board meeting, the Coordinator's office has been represented at 52 meetings/functions and 20 multiple alarm fires.
- The Coordinator's Office has been working with Elizabeth Cahill from FASNY on bring a train the recruiter program to Columbia County. Valatie and Livingston Fire Departments have been selected as sites for the seminar.

- On July 16th, the Coordinator's Office assisted the 911 Office at the Mellenville Station with the new ID card program.
- The Coordinator's Office is working on a joint venture with the Columbia County Firefighter's Association and the Columbia County Fire Chief's Association to bring a tactical firefighter survival class to the County in October. The Fire Chief's Assn. donated \$500 to this and will be approaching Firefighters Assn to ask the same.
- The 4 gas meter needs to be recalibrated and its very expensive. Rob Lopez will attempt to get a grant for this.
- Sheriff's Office will be doing background checks on members of the C&O team.
- Committee went to Long Island to check on a new bus for C&O team but it wasn't what they expected so no further action will be taken with that bus.
- Radio reception is poor in Ancram and working to resolve the issue with Rob Lopes before going to the Board of Supervisors.

Instructor's Report:

- Ted Beck reported that Scene Support in Chatham just finished. AVET in Lebanon will begin on Aug 9th. Water supply in Hillsdale will start soon. FF1 in Germantown will start on Tuesday. 13 schools are filling up for the remainder of the year. John Howe advised that electronic registration is available online. Firefighters can hand their authorization in on the 1st night of class.

EMS Coordinator's Report:

- No report received.

Emergency Management Report:

Paul D'Onofrio brought up the following information:

- The river meeting was last week to discuss water operations on the Hudson. Went to a drill in Orange County with Henry Swartz on water rescue. Columbia County has been handling water rescues well. The Coast Guard frequency did not work.

911 Center:

Rob Lopez sent the following report:

- Full board has just approved a lease agreement amendment from Eger communications which basically puts us on notice that they will be putting up a new tower, and taking down a tower and that we would be responsible for moving our existing equipment from the old tower to the new tower.

HazMat Team:

John Howe reported:

- There will be a drill on Saturday with Greene County Hazmat.

Cause and Origin Team:

Bill Hunt reported:

- 8 calls reported to date for 2012.

- Not many people are taking advantage of the J-fire program. Confidentiality is extremely important when dealing with these types of cases. Most families have been very happy with the services.

Supervisor's report:

- Roy Brown gathered information from other resources and distributed the information to the sub-committee that is working on developing the selection process for Fire Coordinator position.
- Gary Mazzacano asked if the trailers at the old Greenport School are still there. What happened to the county purchasing them for classrooms? Roy Brown is not sure as this occurred before he took office. Roy will talk with Dave Robertson about the trailers.

Old / Unfinished Business:

- Chairman Mazzacano welcomed Joe Loeffler as Deputy Fire Coordinator. Joe did a great job during interview and was very professional. Gary brought up that Joe is a member of the CCVFA and has no issues with Joe sitting on this Board as a member, even as Deputy Fire Coordinator. Jim Briscoe said that we should look at updating our policies. Need to be sure to date things. Joe would like to remove himself from this sub-committee that will be working on the procedure for choosing a Fire Coordinator. Tom Rector will replace Joe.
- John Blaauw questioned if there was any timeframe on the purchase of radios? Many county departments need to have answers as to the direction to go in. John Howe advised that Stockport had some issues for the Coordinator's Office. Radios were an issue. Ron Rivenburgh spoke with Rob Lopez and advised that everyone will still be dispatched the same so if you need radios right now, buy them. John Howe said we are in the process right now of getting frequencies.

New Business:

- None.

Next meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 17, 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 Paul Pratt and 2nd by Ron Rivenburgh. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet L. Shumsky
Columbia County Fire Advisory Board