

# COLUMBIA COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

85 Industrial Tract, Hudson, New York 12534

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The January 20, 2010 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, Chairman  
John Blaauw, CCVFA  
Matthew Larabee, CCFCA  
Joseph H. Loeffler, CCVFA  
Bart Delaney, Brd of Supervisors  
Mike Stelling, Instructor  
Janet Shumsky, Secretary

Ron Rifenburg, CCFCA, Vice-Chairman  
James Briscoe, CCFCA  
Wally Engel, CCFCA  
Rob Lopez, 911 Center  
James VanDeusen, Fire Coordinator  
Tab Eigenbrodt, Deputy Fire Coord.

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2009 meeting was made by Matt Larabee and seconded by John Blaauw. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Matt Larabee and seconded by Joe Loeffler to appoint Henry Swartz as Chairman of the Board for the year 2010. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Matt Larabee and seconded by Joe Loeffler to appoint Ron Rifenburg as Vice-Chairman of the Board for the year 2010. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Matt Larabee and seconded by Joe Loeffler to appoint Janet Shumsky as Secretary of the Board for the year 2010. Motion carried.

## **Correspondence:**

- Ancram Fire Company solicit letter for advertisement in the 2010 Columbia County Volunteer Firefighters' Association yearbook.
- Columbia County Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 9-2010 Appointing Bart Delaney to the Fire Advisory Board for the term of 1 year.
- Thank you from Ghent Fire Company for advertisement in the 2009 Columbia County Volunteer Firefighters' Association yearbook.
- Letter from Fire Coordinator recommending Craig Haigh be appointed to the Columbia County Cause and Origin Team.
- Letter from Livingston Fire District concerning response times records

## **Fire Coordinator's Report:**

Fire Coordinator James VanDeusen reported on the following items:

- Deputy Fire Coordinator Bill Hunt is feeling better from his recent knee surgery. Jim's wife has been very ill and in the hospital for a length of time, which has been taking up most of his time.
- Four new Fire Chiefs have been elected in the County.
- 100 percent of the fire reports for Columbia County were submitted for 2008 earning the \$1,000 toward the training budget.
- Craig Haigh has been recommended to the Columbia County Cause and Origin Team.
- The Hazmat Team will be going to the Hazmat Seminar in Montour Falls Feb 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>. Because they won the challenge last year, six members of the team are able to go to the seminar for free.
- There are numerous fire schools in session or have graduated students:
  - Introduction to Fire Officer in Chatham graduated 23
  - Introduction to Fire Officer in Livingston has 23 students in class
  - Grant writing class in Kinderhook

- Structural Collapse course graduated from East Chatham
- There are a few courses scheduled for February and March:
  - Emergency Vehicle Operations Class to be held in Becraft starting March 9th
  - Fire Behavior Arson Awareness to be held in Copake starting Feb 9<sup>th</sup>
  - HazMat Operations Refresher to be held in Valatie on Feb 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30p
- Requests for fire schools are still being received. Jim will meet with the Instructors and determine the courses for the rest of 2010.
- Advised that some departments within the Department of State may be changing to Homeland Security. Depts such as SEMO, OFPC may be affected.
- At the Battalion meeting there was talk of standardizing the accountability tags that are being used.

**Instructor's Report:**

Melissa Eigenbrodt reported that all schools are well received and all full.

**EMS Coordinator's Report:**

- The license was submitted to the State before Christmas and still awaiting word back from them. They have been in contact with the State.

**Emergency Management Report:**

Gary Tuthill submitted the following report:

- Starting to plan for re-writing the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan this year. This is a huge project that will take more than a year to complete.
- Planning several exercises this year that will require some degree of involvement from the local fire departments.
- The Columbia County Department of Health has identified a need for additional Incident Command training. After more planning and establishing a target date, EMO will reach out to Fire Instructor's for assistance with this training.

**911 Center:**

Rob Lopez reported that they are waiting for parts for the microwave before installation can begin. He believes that installation could start in February. There was a question when we will switch over to high band. Rob is optimistic that we should be set to go sometime in 2011 if there are no further equipment delays or hold ups.

**HazMat Team:**

Matt Larabee reported:

- HazMat 19 was in the Santa Claus parade in Philmont in December.
- There are 6 people that will be going out to Montour Falls to attend the HazMat seminar.

**Cause and Origin Team:**

Jim VanDeusen reported:

- The team has been busy and had 24 calls for last year.
- There will be a one day training seminar in February.

**Supervisor's report:**

Bart Delaney reported that the Board of Supervisors is going through their re-organization for the year and there is nothing new to report at this time.

### **Old / Unfinished Business:**

- Henry Swartz asked that the letter from Livingston Fire District be clarified. Jim VanDeusen explained that a letter was received from the Board of Fire Commissioners indicating that times are not being recorded correctly at the Communications Center. Rob Lopez has been in contact with the Board to let them know that the response times are system generated and if units call out but don't call on-scene those on-scene times are left blank. Rob believes that the misunderstanding has been resolved after speaking with the Board and Chief Lasher. Ron Rifenburgh suggested that the Secretary send a letter to the Board of Commissioners advising them that we received their letter and feel that the issue has been handled by the 911 Administrator and the Fire Coordinator.
- Henry Swartz brought up the discussion of Red Rock Fire Company's request to respond to all calls instead of only Priority 1 and 2. Henry said that no communication has been received in response to the letter that was sent from this board to the EMS Advisory Board. P. J. Keeler explained that his belief was that the letter was already handled by the 911 Administrator. Rob explained that the 911 Center uses the nationwide Medical Priority Dispatch System that recommends not dispatching First Responders to Priority 3 and 4 calls, only 1 and 2 calls. There is an exception to this if the Fire Company has a one million dollar insurance policy and signs a waiver to "hold harmless" the 911 Dispatch Center. Jim VanDeusen said the County Attorney and the Kleeber Insurance Agency agree with the dispatch protocol. Henry Swartz asked the Secretary to send a letter to the County Attorney and send copy to Kleeber Agency to ask for clarification of this policy and the questions that Red Rock has that have not been answered. Tab Eigenbrodt advised that a letter was sent to the 911 Administrator requesting that Red Rock be dispatched to all EMS calls within their coverage area, and if the home rule does apply, then this letter should be sufficient to be dispatched to all EMS calls. Rob explained that the letter was received after the new protocol was established and therefore is not useful. Henry asked that Red Rock also send correspondence to the County Attorney asking for clarification of the protocol.

### **New Business:**

- The Board decided to take an advertisement out in the 2010 Columbia County Volunteer Firefighters' Association yearbook. Members will be asked to contribute to the expense of the advertisement.

### **Next meeting:**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 21st at 7:00pm at Public Safety Building, Industrial Tract, Hudson.

### **Adjournment:**

With no further business to conduct, a motion to adjourn was made by Joe Loeffler and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wally Engel. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet L. Shumsky  
Secretary  
Columbia County Fire Advisory Board