

COLUMBIA COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

85 Industrial Tract, Hudson, New York 12534

****Unapproved Minutes ****

The July 15, 2009 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
James VanDeusen, Fire Coordinator
James Briscoe, CCVFCA
Matthew Larabee, CCVFCA
Steven Montie, CCVFA
Bart Delaney, CC Board of Supervisors
Janet Shumsky, Secretary

Ron Rifenburg, CCVFCA, Vice-Chairman
Gary Tuthill, Emergency Management
John Blaauw, CCVFA
Gary Mazzacano, CCVFCA
Michael Stelling, Instructor, CCVFA
Ted Beck, Instructor

A motion was made by Bart Delaney and 2nd by Matt Larabee to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2009 meeting. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

- Columbia County Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 229-2009 Authorization to Appointment a Member of the Columbia County Cause and Origin Team for Michael Stelling of the Chatham Fire Company.

Fire Coordinator's Report:

Fire Coordinator James VanDeusen gave the following report:

- A change has been made to the following fire school: FAST moved from Hudson's Central Station to Hudson's Hoystadt Hose.
- Firefighter 1 class in Copake has been filled with 24 students.
- Apparatus Operator Aerial in Hudson had many applicants but very few had the pre-requisite of Truck Company Operations so the class was cancelled.
- There are still openings in Pesticides and Poisons course and Scene Support course.
- There are two Introduction to Fire Officer courses being offered. Be sure to write which location you will be attending.
- Hazard Materials Operations course will be offered the same time that the Firefighter 1 course is running.
- As a reminder, the 5 night Fire Police course requires the pre-requisites of, at minimum, Scene Support and HazMat Ops.
- The county is almost at 100% compliance for submitting fire reports. There are two companies still needing to submit their reports.
- The law changed on the High Visibility Vests. They have to be worn at all traffic accidents but do not have to be worn at fire incidents.
- Two firefighters from Livingston and two from Milan were recognized at the Hudson Valley Convention in Lake George for their rescue efforts in Elizaville last year.
- The county is down to two county fire instructors. One instructor was relieved of his appointment.
- John Blaauw brought up that First Responders are no longer going to all EMS calls. Only responding to Priority 1 and 2 calls.

Instructor's Report:

Instructor Mike Stelling reported on the following:

- Apparatus Operator Pump will begin August 6th in Old Chatham
- Scene Support will begin at Germantown Station on October 20th
- Apparatus Operator Aerial will begin October 8th at Central Station
- Basic Structural Collapse will begin on January 12, 2010 in East Chatham
- Incident Safety Officer will begin on October 7th at Churchtown
- Introduction to Fire Officer will begin in East Chatham on November 3rd
- Introduction to Fire Officer will begin on December 29th in Livingston
- FAST will begin on December 7th at Hudson's Hoystadt Hose
- ICS300 course is still available. Had a good class at Chatham Station.

Two Fire Instructors (Melissa Eigenbrodt and Joe Laviano) will be going to the State Fire Academy for the Instructors Conference in July.

EMS Coordinator's Report:

No report.

Emergency Management Report:

Gary Tuthill reported on the following:

- Emergency Management Office is now working on updating the Columbia County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.
- Would like to have a list of items that are needed by the HazMat and Cause and Origin Team.

911 Center:

No report.

HazMat Team:

Matt Larabee read the report submitted by Team Captain Bud Godfroy:

- Had a successful live drill at the training tower. The scenario was a simulated pesticide leak from a field sprayer.
- There will be a decontamination drill on July 29th at New Lebanon station put on by OFPC. If any interest, apply through your fire department.
- There is a tentative drill scheduled for August in West Ghent at the airport using foam.
- The September drill will be the pesticide and poisons class at New Lebanon station put on by OFPC.
- The October drill is confined space harness and lifting strategies and tactics. This is continuing education put on by T.J. Lyons.

Cause and Origin Team:

Jim VanDeusen reported:

- The team has responded to a couple incidents since last meeting.
- There are many ride-along people at this time.
- The inverter on the bus is not big enough to handle the air conditioning unit. Unsure what the plan is to remedy the situation.

Supervisor's report:

Present but no new business to report out.

Old / Unfinished Business:

- Henry Swartz still needs to get in touch with Valerie Bertram in regards to how often the Fire Advisory is required to meet.
- Henry Swartz questioned how people (such as C&O team members for their reports and the Secretary for Fire Advisory Board to check for mail) have access to the Fire Coordinator's office. Jim Van Deusen explained that the Fire Coordinator submits names to the 911 Administrator who will approve or disapprove that person. Lieutenant Jim Andrews is in charge of who has access to the building. Jim VanDeusen will work on getting a mail box for the Fire Advisory Board.

New Business:

- Steve Montie was concerned that fire companies are not sufficiently notified when the towers go down for an extended time. Jim Van Deusen explained that an announcement was made by the 911 Center. Steve called and spoke with a dispatcher about the problem. Jim would like to see any problems put in writing and directed to Rob Lopez or Kevin Johnson. Steve suggested that a text message be sent to those that have that feature available to let them know when a tower will be out of service. Jim will look into this with Rob.

Next meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16, 2009 at 7:00pm at the Public Safety Building on 85 Industrial Tract, Hudson. Access to the meeting room will be through the 2nd outside front door from the fenced in area.

Adjournment:

With no further business to conduct, a motion to adjourn was made by Ron Rifenburgh and 2nd by Jim Briscoe. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:54pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet L. Shumsky, Secretary