



**SUFFOLK COUNTY PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHER AND
AUTOMATIC FIRE EXTINGUISHING SYSTEMS LICENSING BOARD**
c/o Suffolk County Fire-Rescue, P.O. Box 127, Yaphank, NY 11980-0127
631-852-4855



**Minutes of the
April 28, 2011 Meeting**

The meeting was brought to order by J. Searing at 10:03am.

P. Hanratty was not in attendance at the start of the meeting.

Public Comment Period

P. Hanratty joined the meeting.

R. Alexander inquired about the procedure for hiring of new employees that previously were employed by another registered shop. He asked if the manufacturer's certifications that they hold would transfer over with them. The Board replied no because manufacturers do not allow this.

R. Alexander also stated that he believes that the County code is in conflict with the New York State labor law. He believes that the County code does not allow an individual to advance in their profession. He stated that New York Association of Fire Equipment Distributors sent a letter, which he gave a copy to the Board, to a labor lawyer asking for clarification on the matter. He suggested taking the requirement for manufacturer's certifications out of the law and replacing it with a general knowledge exam on the requirements in NFPA 17A.

J. Searing offered to partnership with the registered shops in attendance to combine their efforts to pursued manufacturers to develop a training course that would cross certify an individual in multiply manufacturer's systems. All parties in attendance at the meeting declined to partnership with the County.

M. Matteo discussed a scenario of how an individual could change employment from one registered shop to another.

J. Searing again stressed to the public that all questions should be sent to Board in writing so that the Board could discuss the matter and possibly have an answer at the meeting. J. Caputi suggested copying the Board on letters that may be sent questioning the code by their organization.

D. Hausz submitted a letter to the Board from the US Department of Transportation which states that his company has been issued a warning letter for the alleged violations of the HRM rather than proceeding with a civil enforcement action and the imposition of a civil penalty. The document will be placed in their file.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

A motion was made by M. Matteo to accept the minutes from the March 29, 2011 meeting; seconded by P. Hanratty. Motion was carried unanimously.

Correspondence

None

Application(s) Review

None

Reported Violations Review

E. Springer stated that he has received three (3) complaint forms and stated that they are a little late and apologized for the delay.

E. Springer stated that he received a complaint form Fire Marshal C. Ivans from the Town of Brookhaven. All Island Fire Protection & Supply Ltd installed a fixed extinguishing system without a permit at South Shore Collision in Manorville. They are not an authorized to install Badge fixed systems. A summons was issued by the Town of Brookhaven. J. Caputi asked M. Matteo to update the Board on the matter at the next meeting.

E. Springer stated that he received a complaint form M. Matteo from the Town of Brookhaven. All Island Fire Protection & Supply Ltd. made alterations to an existing Range Guard kitchen extinguishing system without the proper permit at Country Diner in Middle Island. A summons was issued by the Town of Brookhaven.

E. Springer read a complaint that was received from Pinnacle Hood & Fire Protection in regards to Fire Control Systems for their work at the Green Cactus located at 655 Route 109 in West Babylon.

Report of the Chairperson

J. Searing discussed the need for an apprentice type program. M. Matteo asked the industry attendees to submit their ideas on how the Board could develop this type of program. Types of employees that need to be addressed a laborers, apprentices, and union workers.

P. Hanratty stated that he was not sure that the word "apprentice" would be appropriated.

M. Matteo suggested having three (3) categories of employees.

J. Searing asked for all input to be submitted to the Board by the next meeting. When the ideas are received the Board will put together a proposal to review.

E. Springer discussed the manufacturer's training certificates for clean agent systems. He stated that he has been in contact with Kidde to clarify their requirements. It has

come to his attention that Kidde does not require every employee to be trained by them. They train the owner of the company who in turn trains his/her employees. E. Springer stated that this is an area that needs to be addressed by the Board.

Report of the County Attorney

None

Report of Fire Marshals

E. Springer stated that if manufacturers only require the owner to have a certificate from their company, then we need a letter on file that states this.

E. Springer reported that the Fire Marshal's office has inspected six (6) facilities and performed twenty one (21) proficiency exams. He stated that five (5) more inspections were scheduled for today.

E. Springer discussed the companies that did not send a renewal application in. The companies that did not reapply are AB Fire Extinguisher Company, Inc., Academy Fire Protection, Inc., All Safe Fire Protection, Inc., Bell Fire Extinguisher, Inc., J.Fire Protection, Inc., dba Star Fire Protection Co., Long Island Fire Prevention, Inc., Sentinel Fire Control, Inc., Simplex Fire Extinguisher Corp., and Tri County Fire Equipment. The Board received notification that Village Fire Extinguisher Co., Inc. will not renew their license. E. Springer suggested sending a letter notifying these companies that they may no longer do business in Suffolk County.

E. Springer reported that there has been great success with re-inspections and proficiency exams. He hopes to be done with all of the inspections within a month and a half. Due to circumstances beyond the Board's control, E. Springer suggested that they expiration date of the current licenses be extend. E. Springer made a motion to extend the license expiration date until July 1, 2011 and that a letter stating such be sent to each company that made a good faith effort to submit their renewals. K. Hahn seconded. Motion carried. The Fire Marshal's Office should be notified as well.

E. Springer reported that the first test will be scheduled for May 18, 2011 and that letters will be going out soon.

E. Springer stated that all of the tests are now fifty (50) question tests and that each individual would have 3 chances to take the test.

Unfinished Business

J. Searing stated that the Board needs to review the hearings in executive session.

New Business

K. Hahn brought in a tag from a company called ARC. They are not currently licensed, so E. Springer will investigate.

J. Searing made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:00am. M. Matteo seconded. Motion carried.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 11:41am.

The Board has discussed in executive session the Fire Command Co., Inc. and Firematic Supply Co., Inc. matters that were the subject of hearings on December 9, 2010 and March 29, 2011 and is now ready to vote to recommend to the Commissioner on what, if any action is warranted against either licensee.

J. Searing made a motion to recommend to the Commissioner that no action be taken against Fire Command Co., Inc. and a letter be sent advising them of such. He stated that he feels that the Board's review of the transcript of hearing and records of the DOT as a whole related to Fire Command Co., Inc. showed a routine compliance inspection was involved and not an investigation as typically defined by the US DOT. There was no egregious behavior on the part of the company. E. Springer seconded. Four (4) in favor, one (1) abstention. Motion carried.

J. Searing made a motion to recommend to the Commissioner that no action be taken against Firematic Supply Co., Inc. and a letter be sent advising them of such. He stated that he feels that the Board's review of the transcript of hearing and records of the DOT as a whole related to Firematic Supply Co., Inc. showed a routine compliance inspection was involved and not an investigation as typically defined by the US DOT. There was no egregious behavior on the part of the company. K. Hahn seconded. Four (4) in favor, P. Hanratty recused himself from the vote. Motion carried.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by P. Hanratty, and seconded by M. Matteo. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:44am.

MEMBERS PRESENT	GUESTS PRESENT	STAFF PRESENT
John M. Searing	Jacqueline Caputi	Kristine Bolliger
Edward Springer	Jim Meyer Firemasters	
Kenneth Hahn	Reynold Alexander Lund Fire Products	
Peter Hanratty	Robert Corcoran All Island Fire Protection	
Michael Matteo	Don Hausz All-Out Fire	

NEXT MEETING/WORKSHOP	May 24, 2011
TIME	10:00am
LOCATION	FRES Library