



WESTCHESTER COUNTY
FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

4 Dana Road, Valhalla, NY 10595

Andrew Sandor
ASandor@newrochelleny.com
President

John Marshall III
16battalion@gmail.com
Vice President

Howard Stern
hsternesq@aol.com
Secretary

**Westchester County Fire Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2025**

Present: Dave Klaus, Rob Benkwitt III, P.J. Goldfeder, Susan Spear, Greg Santone, John Marshall, Chris Duffelmeyer, Joseph Olenick, Bob Outhouse, Kelly Murphy, Joan Podolski, Mike DeVittorio, Chris Thomas, Lawrence Lee, Joe Bonanno, Andrew Sandor, Herb Doerr, Neil Caputo

Excused: Hank Bergson, Howard Stern

Chairman Sandor opened the meeting at 5:36 PM. We led off with the Pledge of Allegiance and observed a moment of silence. A sign-up sheet was circulated, also a second sheet to enter your contact information.

Congratulations to Commissioner Spear & Deputy Commissioner Volk on their recent appointments.

COMMUNICATIONS - Chief Volk

- Two sites still need to be built – North Salem and Croton, there is some local opposition.
- Starting Monday Motorola will begin radio programming. If that goes well Motorola will roll it out to the installers.
- Two tone detect – On the “I Am Responding” app, you will now get a voice dispatch / message. Initially the system was working well. FYI - DES does not control I Am Responding
- NFIR & CAD turnover – Fire RMS will be out of business at the end of 2025, after that NFIR data will not push out with dispatch.
- OFPC – By 3/10/25, want information on demographics. 4/1/25 they want all 2024 reports filed. 5/25/25 they want everyone on board with the new system.



WESTCHESTER COUNTY
FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

4 Dana Road, Valhalla, NY 10595

Andrew Sandor
ASandor@newrochelleny.com
President

John Marshall III
16battalion@gmail.com
Vice President

Howard Stern
hsternesq@aol.com
Secretary

Contact DES if you do not have it. NFIR to NERIS reports look to be complete by end of 2025.

- Communications working group -NYCE tech is looking at the interoperability plan

COMMISSIONER SPEAR –

- **Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) legislation** – DES must be notified if a system is being proposed. Specific information needs to be provided, type and size. This legislation is primarily for notification of a system being proposed and installed.
- Volunteer firefighter tax credit on County tax, this also covers if you volunteer outside your community. They are looking to close this loophole in the law.
- 2024 International Building Code adds energy storage systems into the code. This will probably be adopted later in the year. Municipalities should not adopt laws on BESS until the building code is set.
- Residential Sprinklers – there is surprising push back on this. It looks like one, two story residential will not require sprinklers but three story, and up will need sprinklers.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

- The drawings for the smokehouse are complete, there is a standpipe system, and the building is six stories and will have multiple rooms. Capital approval being sought. DES presently owns the building on order; the capital approval is for demo of old building and construction of the new building.
- Tower Design is ongoing; hoping to have done by the summer. They would look for funding in the 2026 budget. There will be seven stories and a bigger footprint than the existing building. They are looking at varying designs floor



WESTCHESTER COUNTY
FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

4 Dana Road, Valhalla, NY 10595

Andrew Sandor
ASandor@newrochelleny.com
President

John Marshall III
16battalion@gmail.com
Vice President

Howard Stern
hsternesq@aol.com
Secretary

by floor. New streetlights are being proposed as well. The burn building will stay. Hopefully within three years we will have two new class A burn buildings.

- Working with the 9th floor (County) on the roof replacement, A/C and new lighting.
- Scope of work on the building to bring Emergency Management & combine dispatches, there are many variables with this. Increasing the current building. This is all still in the concept stage.

EMS MUTUAL AID – Chief Volk

- Consider having a field position response. Having County units in pre-determined locations. Working with WREMSCO to get a document together.
- Trying to set up to have a doctor on site or on call if needed. Current outcome data is being reviewed to see if this would help even if only for guidance.
- Third year for AMR supplemental support within the County. There are presently 2 – 24hr response units. They may drop one overnight unit and add a third unit during the day. They responded to almost 3,000 calls last year.
- There have been 8,000 calls overall in the County for 2025.
- EMS task force is working on setting up a standard response for larger events. This will establish the number of units & types to respond. They will look at overall use and will work not to strip an area of responding units.

TRAINING CENTER

- Ladder truck to be delivered in March.
- New Engine is on order. Engine 8 has some issues; DES is looking for a training engine.



WESTCHESTER COUNTY
FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

4 Dana Road, Valhalla, NY 10595

Andrew Sandor
ASandor@newrochelleny.com
President

John Marshall III
16battalion@gmail.com
Vice President

Howard Stern
hsternesq@aol.com
Secretary

TRAINING

- Fire Fighter 1 graduation is set for 6/21/25, about 600 students passed FF1. They might run two graduations.
- DES has three FF1 classes scheduled; one will be a Sunday class.
- There will be a Chief and Fire Officer class in the spring.
- Fire Officer III class in April.
- FF2 classes are on hold for rollout & instructor training. OFPC will be authorizing them soon.
- FAST teams – the name will be changing.
- The FF1 backlog is getting shorter. DES is actively managing the wait list.
- There will be brush fire classes scheduled in conjunction with the forestry service.
- Radio Training is starting up, they will be held by battalion.

ACTIVE SHOOTER – Chief Caputo

There was an event held in Oriskany, two days of training, they generated a white paper. There is a policy now in the Mutual Aid Plan. Chief Ward is working with Departments on commitments. DES will start having classes at the training center. It is more efficient to hold classes here as the props and materials are on site. The formal committee is beginning to wind down. They will continue to have quarterly meetings with PD & Fire departments.

OSHA

The comment period closed in January. OSHA is now reviewing comments. They have three options.



WESTCHESTER COUNTY
FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

4 Dana Road, Valhalla, NY 10595

Andrew Sandor

ASandor@newrochelleny.com

President

John Marshall III

16battalion@gmail.com

Vice President

Howard Stern

hsternesq@aol.com

Secretary

1. They can adopt as is.
2. They can add / revise the regs with new comments.
3. They can also reopen for more comments.

If adopted there may be some legal challenges, Congress must approve the regulation. All is pretty much on hold with the new Federal administration. The State Chiefs association is reviewing this and will develop some guidelines on how to adopt. Issues of United Concerns - looking to make EMS an essential service. There are meetings in Albany about this. The State Legislature will need to adopt this. Once they are designated as an essential service the County will need to be involved. The State is looking into a rating system for EMS. They are trying to standardize similar to ISO for the fire service. This will level evaluations of various EMS agencies from place to place.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

We need to communicate what we are working on. How to disseminate information and squash rumors. Possibly a google group or knowledge base.

Meetings – The next meetings: 5/29/25, 9/25/25, and 11/13/25.

All meetings are on Thursdays and will be held at DES. We can have additional meetings if needed. All meetings start at 5:30 unless otherwise noted.

Note: The May meeting will be held on Wednesday 5/28/25 due to a conflict.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 7:33 PM. All voting aye.