



WESTCHESTER COUNTY  
**FIRE ADVISORY BOARD**

4 Dana Road, Valhalla, NY 10595

**Henry P. Bergson**  
hank@hbergson.com  
President

**George Tockstein**  
georgetock@aol.com  
Vice President

**David Klaus**  
dpklaus@us.ibm.com  
Secretary

**Westchester County Fire Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes  
March 23, 2017**

Present: Chairman Bergson, VP George Tockstein, Ross Campbell, Robert Outhouse, John Marshall, Richard Lyman, Joe Olenik, Howard Stern, Joseph Iantorno, Kenneth Hoffarth, Lawrence Lee, Commissioner Cullen

---

Meeting opened at 7:30 PM with Pledge of Allegiance

The Chairman noted that the Power Point Presentation that was given at the Special Meeting of January 27, 2017 was sent to all Westchester County Fire Chiefs.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2017 at Department of Emergency Services starting at 7:30 PM.

**Commissioner Cullen's Report**

- Career Academy is underway for 19 weeks with graduation scheduled for July 14
- Firefighter One classes currently underway with graduation scheduled for July 13
- PESH Training Class date to be determined. It was noted that 7 county departments have recently been inspected by the Public Employee Safety and Health Bureau.
  - It will be held in a location with capacity for all department representatives to attend
- On April 3 the reconstruction of the Fire Training Tower will commence and it is anticipated to take 365 days to complete.
- A pre-construction meeting for Phase II will be held in 2 weeks. It was noted that the effort will commence with the exterior work so that the work impacting the Firefighter Memorial will be completed prior to the annual ceremony.
- Ms. Sabrina Abbott has been hired for Quality Assurance in Dispatch. Main effort will be to improve any shortcomings and insure compliance with the dispatching.
- 2016
  - 186,838 calls were received
  - 138,743 departments were dispatched
  - 318 fire inspections of County Facilities
  - 107 Cause & Origin team cases



WESTCHESTER COUNTY  
**FIRE ADVISORY BOARD**

4 Dana Road, Valhalla, NY 10595

**Henry P. Bergson**  
hank@hbergson.com  
President

**George Tockstein**  
georgetock@aol.com  
Vice President

**David Klaus**  
dpklaus@us.ibm.com  
Secretary

- 290 Battalion dispatches
  
- 52 Hazmat Team calls
- 7 Technical Rescue calls
- 46 Fire Brigade for County Campus calls
- 8 Firefighter I and 2 Firefighter II classes held (It was noted that this level was lower due to the redesign of the courses.)
- Radio Steering Committee
  - July 2018 is still first target date, but it was noted that this is a fluid process that involves all county radios systems
  - New Microwave system has been activated, but with a hole in the system due to the inability of the tower at Fox Lane to take the additional equipment. A new tower by Sprint in process but it needs to obtain approval of both the local school board and NYS Board of Education.
  - T-Band Reallocation: County Executive sent letter to federal representatives. A joint effort is being made by Nassau, Suffolk, New York City, Westchester, Yonkers and the Port Authority which are all impacted.
  - Stage One includes finding a replacement system for the current paging system and Federal Engineering is the consultant.
    - Battalion wide paging is under review
    - Frequencies need to be purchased. A consultant will be retained to locate frequencies and a special legal counsel will be retained to negotiate for county
  - Contract for phase I is being planned with options for phases 2 & 3 as the later stages require additional sites that may be acquired in phase 1.
- Robert Outhouse noted that the state senate recently pass a bill for presumptive cancer health care coverage for firefighters but the state assembly needs to also pass the measure. He requested the board to consider sending a letter to the County Executive urging support.