



WESTCHESTER COUNTY
FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

4 Dana Road, Valhalla, NY 10595

Henry P. Bergson
hank@hbergson.com
President

Peter W. McDonald
fdmv58@optonline.net
Vice President

David Klaus
dpklaus@us.ibm.com
Secretary

**Meeting Minutes
November 29, 2012**

Members present:

Chairman Bergson, Commissioner Cullen, Dep Commissioner Wacha, P. McDonald, J Santory, K. Hoffarth, R. Lyman, T. Cain, H Delruso, J. Olenik, B. Gray, R. Benz, G. Tockstein.

Excused: D. Klaus, R. Campbell, W. Roza

- Meeting commenced at 1930 hrs. with the Pledge of Allegiance
- Commissioner Cullen introduces newly appointed Deputy Commissioner of Emergency Services Jennifer Wacha who is the former Director of WC OEM. The Board congratulates and welcomes the Deputy Commissioner to her new position.
- It is mentioned to add Jim Seymour onto the FAB mailing list.
- Discussion ensues regarding the current status of the leaky roof at DES. This is a bond issue currently caught up in the budget process. The County Executive reportedly issued a press release reporting the Legislators delay on the repairs to the FTC roof. It is said that Legislator Peter Harkum will attempt to rectify.
- Chairman Bergson suggests that the respective association reps speak to their constituents to press their Legislators for a quick address and resolve to the roof repair.
- Commissioner Cullen speaks on the upcoming budget projections for 2013. He states that he anticipates that 5 currently staffed and 1 additional vacant position will be eliminated. He states that the part time battalion positions have been properly reflected in this budget and that DES will have 46 FTE's and not the 72 as previously listed. 25 of those are in the communications division. Members of this board express concern that the vital mission of DES will be negatively impacted.
- Commissioner Cullen states that the revised Mutual Aid Plan is currently in Albany under review as required by OFPC. He thanks all involved in creating this well written living document.

Discussion commenced on the impact and response to Hurricane Sandy.

- Commissioner Cullen states that the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was in full activation and staffed 24/7 for multiple days. This proved invaluable. Con-Ed and NYSEG had representatives present.
- Some departments self-assigned and utilized channels on the trunking system without direction from 60-Control. This created confusion and communication issues. Frequency deployment needs to be assigned at the County level and it was suggested that an educational exercise to reinforce this principle may solve this problem.



WESTCHESTER COUNTY
FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

4 Dana Road, Valhalla, NY 10595

Henry P. Bergson
hank@hbergson.com
President

Peter W. McDonald
fdmv58@optonline.net
Vice President

David Klaus
dpklaus@us.ibm.com
Secretary

- Approximately 12 WC units from various Departments were deployed to hard hit areas on Long Island. This was coordinated through DES under request and guidelines of the NY State Fire Mutual Aid Plan.
- DES deployed all of their cache of pre-positioned equipment as it was requested from local agencies.
- The New York National Guard was a great resource.
- It was stated that local municipalities need better coordination with their respective electric companies.
- "Preparedness is Paramount", Closing parkways and airports in advance of the storm was a wise call.
- 60-Control experienced a 600% surge in call volume.
- A FEMA Incident Management "Short Team" was brought in to the EOC and those staffed positions proved invaluable in facilitating smooth management of this disaster. It was mentioned that NY SEMO is exploring establishment of Regional IMT's across the State. This Board endorses that concept.

Commissioner Cullen reports that training for YTD 2012 is up about 10% at DES and satellites. Any recommendations for training props are welcomed.

A point was made and a discussion followed on whether this Board should address our concerns regarding the potential elimination of positions at DES. A motion to draft a letter and send it to County Executive Astorino was voted on and passed. The letter is intended to voice our concerns that the proposed elimination of the positions at DES will negatively impact the mission of DES to prepare for and deliver vital services at crucial times.

Meeting dates for 2013 are as follows:

March 28

June 27

September 26

November 21

No other committees reported and there was no new business

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded at 2029 hrs.