



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

Westchester County Fire Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2015

Members Present: Chairman Bergson, Commissioner Cullen, Director W. Dingee P. McDonald, R. Campbell, K. Hoffarth, R Lyman, G Tockstein, W Roza, D. Klaus, R Moon. R Benz (excused)
Meeting opened with Pledge of Allegiance at 1930 hrs.

Members reappointed for 2015 are as follows:

Chairperson

Henry Bergson Association of Fire Districts

Vice Chair

Chief Peter MacDonald At Large (Career Chiefs)

Secretary

Dave Klaus Association of Fire Districts

Members

Ross L. Campbell	At Large
Joseph Olenik	At Large
Chief Richard Lyman	At Large (Career Chiefs)
Joseph Iantorno	Westchester County Association of Fire Chiefs
George C. Tockstein	Westchester County Association of Fire Chiefs
Kenneth E. Hoffarth	Associations of Fire Districts
Robert Moon	Westchester County Volunteer Firefighters Assoc.
James Seymour III	Westchester County Volunteer Firefighters Assoc.
Robert Benz	Career Firefighters
William Roza	Career Firefighters



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It was noted that the current number of re-appointees is not reflective of the bylaws as per the amount and make up of Board Members.

Minutes from last meeting approved.

Scheduled meetings for 2015 are: Jan 15, March 19, Sept 17 and Nov 19.

Commissioner Cullen introduces newly appointed Director of Fire Services Chief William Dingee and he is given a warm welcome by the Board.

Commissioner reports that we will be aiming to conduct the annual review of the Mutual Aid Plan and that all but 5 Departments have officially adopted the Plan.

- DES has screened and hired 6 new instructors (CFI's) bring the compliment up to full at 45.
- In 2014 DES has had 20,156 students participate in 156,530 hours of training and ran 212 State courses
- 60 Control (Dispatch) handled 113,782 runs and dispatches for 51/58 Departments.
- Yonkers was dispatched for 3 days with 3-1/2 hours notice due 911 connectivity problems. All was handled well.

A discussion ensued regarding planning for a new communications system. The current Trunking system will not be supported past 2018. Should fire ground channels be going to 700 MHz band?

General consensus was that collectively, departments across the county own hundreds of fire ground handi-talkies and that switching to a 700 MHz band for fire ground would be a huge expense.

Members agreed that a limited amount of "Command Channels" and the radios required would not be an over burden.



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Discussion ensued regarding the current downsizing of the Board and how to best address the clauses in the by-laws regarding meetings, voting and quorums.

A motion was made, seconded and subsequently voted in that:

“To temporarily suspend the clause in the by-laws, and to reflect that a quorum will be a simple majority of the current number on the Board as set per the County Executive.”

It was noted that the Haz-Mat Response Plan is an annex to the Mutual Aid Plan and that a full scale exercise (county wide) will take place in June to test the plan.

Director Dingee reported that the new FFI & II classes are longer; students need 1st aid and CPR prior and will have other prerequisites to complete at their home departments before starting the course. This allows for a greater focus of hands on FF training for the limited hours available.

Capital project outlook for 2015 include rehab/upgrade of the radio room (60 Control), the training tower and upgrading the HVAC system in the Support Service building to include an AC component.

Meeting was adjourned at 2044 hrs.