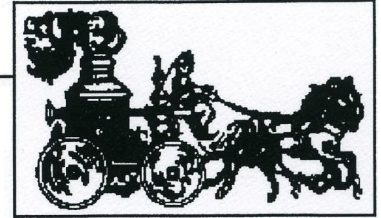


BROOME COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

Public Safety Facility / 153 Lt. VanWinkle Drive / Binghamton, New York 13905-1559
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MINUTES - FIRE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING -MARCH 14, 2024

Call to order at 7:00 pm by Chairperson Tom Giblin.

The minutes were e-mailed out to all members. Motion by Rob Brady, second by Wayne Sherwood to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2023 meeting. Carried.

EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT: Fire Coordinator Jeff Buckler reported:

- Radio Project - The project is nearly complete. There are a couple of issues that are being worked on with Motorola, then they will be doing Battalion updates.

OES:

- MCU- The new MCU is in service. Its first deployment was for the St Patrick's Day Parade and there appeared to be no issues.
- FI1- Are in the process of ordering a new fire investigation vehicle to replace the van. The current van is not practical for inclement weather and the new vehicle will have the ability to tow, if necessary.
- AFFF Foam - The green foam has arrived and the county has agreed to take the old foam for disposal, pail for pail.
- Officer Orientation Training- This has been postponed until fall.
- Roll-off Container- The Chiefs Association put in for a grant to fund purchase of a roll-off container but this was turned down. Fire Coordinator Buckler met with Deputy County Executive Ponticiello who is working on funding for a roll-off container, 3 EV fire blankets and a 55-gallon drum cell block container.
- BC Transit- OES had a meeting with BC Transit last week regarding the six electric buses which are on order. There are serious concerns over their plan to charge these buses inside the garage.
- Training stipend - Information on the stipend has been announced. This is retroactive to August 2023. Once you have taken the course(s) you can apply for the stipend, but there is no obligation to continue to be a volunteer firefighter.

BYLAWS: No report.

PREVENTION/EDUCATION: Broome County is donating a newer vehicle to the Association to use to tow the fire safety trailer. First use of the trailer this year is in June in City of Binghamton.

LEGISLATURE: No report.

HAZ MAT: Working on exchange of new foam and will be getting rid of the old, hazardous foam.

LINK FIELD: Avelo is shutting down flights for the next couple months.

BROOME COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOC: Next meeting is April 4 at Vestal's new station #4. The Comm van will be there for people to see. There will also be a presentation on service dogs.

BROOME COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOC:

- February meeting was at Endwell. Detective Matt Barcak of the Broome County Sheriff's Office spoke about Cyber Crime.
- March meeting was March 1, Forest Ranger Jeremy Oldroyd was the speaker.
- Starting in 2025, they are cutting back to 6 meetings a year.

NYS AFC: No report.

SOUTH CENTRAL FIRE POLICE: They are meeting tonight.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Incident Dispatch:
 - Chief Nick Sculley of Whitney Point Fire spoke to board members about a problem using the station numbers rather than names. At a recent fire where several mutual aid departments were called, command requested Station 56 but got Station 66 which resulted in a delay getting needed resources. He requested that we go back to using fire department names for dispatch to avoid confusion with similar sounding numbers. Chiefs could start using department names when requesting resources, but it would be easier for all to use the names. Change to numbers was done because it was felt this was fewer syllables, but for many fire departments the department name is shorter than their station number. Motion by Rob Brady, second by Mike Redding to have Board Chairman Giblin send a letter to Director of OES Patrick Dewing, requesting the change back to using department names when dispatching. Carried. Tom Giblin will work on a letter and send it out to members before sending it to OES Director Ewing.
 - Many said they miss the pre-announce because you immediately knew where you would be going. The "double clutch" was also an immediate hint that the call was a serious incident.
 - Discussion of dispatch. There are many new dispatchers and there is a lot for them to learn. In the past it was required that they have some experience as members of fire or EMS squads so they had some familiarity with emergency services, but this is no longer required. Many of these people do not know the department numbers, using names would be easier for them.
2. Rob Brady asked members if any departments paid their chief a stipend? A couple said they had. Some allow a gas allowance for chiefs.
3. Recruitment/Retention:
 - Most fire departments are having the same problem with getting sufficient volunteers. We have recently had some fire departments in our area close. Departments are trying to attract new volunteers but it's difficult. FASNY Recruitment Open houses are coming up in April.

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- Endwell Fire Dept. is one of the few who have gained a lot of volunteers. In the past year they have taken in 20 new members, mostly younger, high school students.
- The new 10% property tax reduction will hopefully help recruit volunteers. In the Town of Union nearly all of the taxing entities have approved this, including U-E and M-E School Districts.
- FASNY is hoping to see the income tax credit go up to \$800 from the current \$200. This would be a good incentive, especially for those who are not property owners.
- Length of training classes is a big problem. It would be helpful if they could break up training requirements into smaller sections. Blended classes are also helpful as a lot of the course can be taken online.
- Mike Redding noted that in Pennsylvania there is a Fire Commissioner in the governor's cabinet and he is working on improving recruitment by meeting with local fire departments to get input.

4. Elections for officer 2024:

- Fire Coordinator Jeff Buckler took over chairing the meeting for the election of Chairperson.
- Chairperson: Tom Giblin was nominated by Bill Gorman. Motion by Rob Brady, second by Nick Griswold that the polls be closed and the Secretary cast one ballot for Tom Giblin for Chair of the Fire Advisory Board. Carried.
- Tom Giblin resumed chairing the meeting. Vice-Chair: Bill Gorman was nominated by Nick Griswold. Motion by Nick Griswold, second by Rob Brady that the polls be closed and the Secretary cast one ballot for Bill Gorman for Vice-Chair of the Fire Advisory Board. Carried.
- Secretary: Alice Fiacco was nominated by Dean Horton. Motion by Rob Brady, second by Mike Redding that the polls be closed and the Chairperson cast one ballot for Alice Fiacco for Secretary of Fire Advisory Board. Carried.

Next meeting is May 9 at 7 pm.

Motion by Wayne Sherwood, second by Rob Brady to adjourn at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alice J. Fiacco

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Secretary