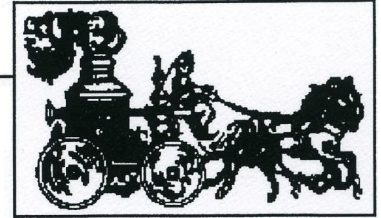


# BROOME COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

Public Safety Facility / 153 Lt. VanWinkle Drive / Binghamton, New York 13905-1559  
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## MINUTES - FIRE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING -MAY 9, 2024

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

The minutes were e-mailed out to all members. Motion by Mike Redding, second by Dean Horton to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2024 meeting. Carried.

### **EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT:** Deputy Fire Coordinator Jerry Launt reported:

1. 401 is at Binghamton University Graduation tonight.
2. New vehicle for Fire Investigation has been ordered.
3. County is exchanging new foam for the AFFF foam and disposing of it.
4. Roll off and blankets for EVs have been ordered.
5. Broome County received a grant to buy electric buses.
6. Fire Advisory Board Chair, Tom Giblin, sent a letter to Director of Emergency Services, Patrick Dewing, requesting that fire department names be used rather than numbers when dispatching mutual aid. At the chiefs' meeting many were upset that fire chiefs should have been consulted about this. A survey was sent out to see which Chiefs preferred. 54% felt names should be used, 25% thought numbers should be used, 20% had no preference.

**BYLAWS:** No report.

**PREVENTION/EDUCATION:** Rob Brady reported that the fire safety trailer has several dates scheduled. The Association has gotten insurance on the new vehicle donated by the County and are in the process of getting it registered.

### **LEGISLATURE:** County Legislator Bob Weslar had a few questions:

- Why are some fire departments still using sirens at their stations? ISO recommends two ways to notify firefighters about calls. Pagers is one method, but ISO won't count the texting because it is unreliable. Siren is a good back up way to make notifications of a call.
- Where is the best place to put CO/smoke detectors? Suggested that you follow the manufacturer's recommendations that come with the unit.
- He noted that apartments located over Little Venice often have CO detector activations, believed to be associated with the bus depot next door. This shouldn't happen. Suggested to have Binghamton Fire inspect to see why this is happening.
- Why are many fire departments on the higher electric demand rate? Activating the siren increases the electricity demand and results in higher electric rates.

**HAZ MAT:** Vestal had a CO alarm which turned out to be a chlorine leak from a water chlorination system.

**LINK FIELD:** Drill scheduled for this Friday - triennial may be postponed due to rain. Avelo is not doing any flights for the summer.

**BROOME COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOC:** Meeting is June 6 at Chenango Fire. Last meeting was at Vestal's new station #4 which was very nice.

**BROOME COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOC:** Next meeting is August 2, at East Maine.

**NYS AFC:** No report.

**SOUTH CENTRAL FIRE POLICE:** They are meeting tonight.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

There was a discussion of recruitment:

- Only a few fire stations participated in FASNY's April open house. Rob Brady did a tv interview on WBNG and WICZ talked to new recruits.
- Chenango Bridge took in 4 new members. They did a talk at the high school and had an open house.
- Like to see state income tax credit increased to \$800. Also would like volunteers to be able to take both the income tax credit and the property tax reduction.
- The 10% property tax reduction was approved by most municipalities in the Town of Union, including the schools. Where else has this been approved? Conklin has approved but not Susquehanna Valley or Chenango Valley Schools. Town of Fenton has not approved. Town of Kirkwood started doing this years ago. Suggested that fire departments go to the municipality to get them to sign on for 10% reduction.
- There have been some questions about who is eligible for the property tax reduction. Endwell fire company attorney said all members with 20+ years of membership or anyone with two years or more are eligible to receive this. This is for a 10% reduction in property taxes.
- Feel that \$800 tax credit would attract younger members who don't own property.
- NYS OFPC has started reimbursing members for Firefighter classes- BEFO, ISO and Fire Officer 1.
- NYS is revamping classes. Currently require all classes to be 90% full or they will cancel the class.
- BEFO and ISO are a lot of hours. State is trying to break it down to smaller units.
- Pennsylvania has higher requirements than NY. At one time NY had the least hourly requirements.
- Proposed OSHA mandate changes many requirements to NFPA. Many New York fire organizations are against this.
- Volunteers have asked to be included in this process.
- 92% of all firefighters are volunteers.
- We will start to see more combination departments as volunteer numbers decrease.

MINUTES - FIRE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING - MAY 9, 2024

Next meeting is September 12 at 7 pm.

Motion by Rob Brady, second by Wayne Sherwood to adjourn at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Alice J. Fiacco*

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Secretary