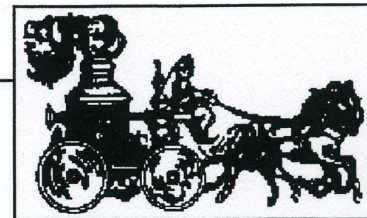


BROOME COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

Public Safety Facility / 153 Lt. VanWinkle Drive / Binghamton, New York 13905-1559
Phone: (607) 778-2170 Fax: (607) 778-1204



MINUTES - FIRE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING - MAY 14, 2026

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

The proposed bylaw change was sent out on April 24, and the March minutes were sent out on May 6. Motion by Mike Redding, seconded by Gil Senger to accept the minutes of the March meeting. Carried.

EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT: Nick Griswold reported:

- State Fire Training: We have several classes scheduled. Truck company Ops keeps getting canceled for lack of enrollment. People seem to think this is aerial ops so they don't sign up. This is an excellent course which includes search and rescue. This class needs to be explained so that people take it. It would be good to talk to new members about classes so they know which classes to take.
- Working on an SOG for EMS rehab at fire scenes. EMS reviewed it and they had one change so it has gone back to the Chiefs' Association.
- High School recruitment. Most schools and fire departments participated. There was some interest among students but we have not been able to get any kind of a count from fire departments.
- Pilot RIT class on May 31. This is a train-the-trainer class.

BYLAWS: A bylaw change was sent out, and we will vote on this under new business.

PREVENTION/EDUCATION: Trailer has been used at three events already. The tow vehicle that was donated has rusty rims that cause the tires to go flat. As soon as the new vehicle is in service we will have to sell the older Suburban. This will help with insurance costs and bring in some income. We have been looking at a tabletop house that would be suitable for group fire prevention. It is by Model Tech and the cost is about \$12,000-\$15,000. This is something we could consider in the future. Rob Brady has talked with the District Attorney who is willing to help with funding. Also the county has Small Community Grants which all fire departments should apply for. They give out grants every year. The County is considering putting our vehicle in the county rotation of vehicles so it gets replaced periodically.

LEGISLATURE: Legislator Bob Weslar asked about the reason for the bylaw change. The Fire Advisory Board is made up of three legislators, officers of the Firefighters' Association (9) and Chiefs' Association (reduced from 9 to 7). This changes the number of members in the Fire Advisory Board from 21 to 19. The Chiefs' Association does not have enough people to fill their officer positions, so they are reducing the number of officers by two which will be reflected in the bylaws of the Fire Advisory Board.

There is a constant decline in membership. Fire companies are working to consolidate. Should we look at a countywide fire department? Maryland, Florida, and other states have countywide fire departments. Currently fire departments are not even combined by towns. Union, Chenango and others have multiple fire departments and there are village fire departments which add another layer. Currently there are an estimated 900-950

firefighters in the County.

To encourage recruitment, some municipalities have approved a 10% discount on property taxes for volunteer firefighters and the State Legislature is looking to increase the volunteer firefighter tax credit to \$800. We hope that these will help with recruitment.

HAZ MAT: No report.

LINK FIELD: Terminal has been renovated. They will start running one flight to Detroit.

RECRUITMENT DAY: Only a few fire departments have responded to let us know how they did.

BROOME COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOC:

- Next meeting is June 2 at East Maine. They are working on a protocol for what to do at fire scenes. The rehab policy has been approved by EMS with some minor changes. Chiefs' Association needs to vote on this at their next meeting.
- Hope to get all green tags through the RIT, self-rescue class.

BROOME COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOC: Met May 1 at Chenango Forks Fire Station. Next meeting is August 7 at East Maine. Rick Casterlin, former chief at Chenango Forks Fire Company, recently passed away.

NYS AFC: No report.

SOUTH CENTRAL FIRE POLICE: They are meeting tonight at Maine Fire.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Bylaw change was sent out. This changes the number of members on the Fire Advisory Board from 21 to 19. The members from the Chiefs' Association has been reduced from 9 to 7. Motion by Rob Brady, seconded by Bob Weslar to approve the change. Motion carried.

Motion by Rob Brady, seconded by Dean Horton to adjourn at 8:02 pm.

Next Fire Advisory Board meeting is: September 10.

Respectfully Submitted,

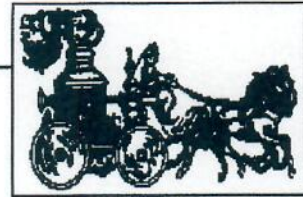
Alice J. Fiocco

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Secretary

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Meeting Sign-in Sheet

Date: 5/14/26

1. Tom GIBLIN / BCFA

2. Dean Horton / BCFFA
BCFFA

3. Wayne SHERRARD

4. Chuck Paffie

5. BILL GORMAN BCFA

6. Gia Senger BCFA

7. Bob Brady BCFA

8. Alice Fiocco BCFA

9. Bob Weston

10. Mike Redding BCFFA

11. Nick Gnsword BCFFS

12. _____

13. _____

14. _____

15. _____

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20. _____