

Ross Turner  
Chairman

Jason Kraack  
Vice Chairman  
**Sullivan County Fire Advisory Board**

Mary Ann Drobysch  
Secretary

**Date:** January 29, 2024 Pledge to the Flag recited.

**Meeting called to order at:** 7:05: pm

**Attendance:** 7 out of 15 members present

**Minutes:** Accepted as read

Bethel: Peter Maltese	A
Callicoon: Ross Turner	P
Cochecton: Jason Knack	P
Delaware: Tom Dent	P
Fallsburg: Chris Sutoski	A
Forestburgh: Michael Rommell	A
Fremont: George Conklin	A
Highland: Dave Preston	A
Liberty: Don Sherwood	P
Lumberland: David Hook	P
Mamakating: Larry Arnold	A
Neversink: Tim Dexheimer	P
Rockland: Guy Baker	A
Thompson: Roger Bisland, Jr.	A
Tusten: Craig Burkle	P

### **Unofficial Meeting due to the lack of a quorum**

**Russell Reeves was here to swear in the members present at the meeting. If you did not attend the January meeting, please stop by the County Clerk's Office to be sworn in.**

**Luis Alvarez, the Chairman of the Public Safety Committee and County Legislature was present at the meeting. He wanted to see what goes on at the meetings and what we are working on. He may be attending future meetings as well**

### **Coordinators Report:**

The new State incentives are grant based. There is a lot of paperwork involved and it needs to be submitted by 4/30/2024. Departments and districts can apply. The County's Grant Department will help out where they can. The County will also be applying for improvements at the training center and training tower. Incentives for BEFO, IFO and Officer are available for classes completed after 8/31/2023. There are several levels of incentives, depending on the classes completed, ranging from \$750.00 to \$2,000.00. The forms are available on both the State and County websites. There are some concerns about retaining members once the courses are completed, departments will have to come up with a policy to address the issue.

Fire Districts are now allowed to give out stipends, up to a maximum of \$500.00 per class. This money would come from the district's budget, not the state. A person can only claim money from one source, the state grants or the districts stipends. John will send out the forms once they are ready.

The cancer program applications were due by December 31, 2023. To date they have received 127 requests and have paid 79.

The BOCES EMT program is going well. BOCES and the fire service are pushing for the firefighting program for this fall. Outreach is being done to the local schools to provide information. The local school districts have not been giving out any information and there is a lack of understanding as to what the program is for and what it does provide. The Champion Program had a class last weekend, it was an excellent class.

The Rehab unit was deployed once, for the recovery of a body.

Right now, there are no facilities or doctors in Sullivan County that take workman's comp. Albany had to send equipment down for the injured Neversink firefighter because MediFair does not accept workman's comp. Using the emergency room is an option, it is the follow-up care that is an issue. If you get a bill, do not pay. Take it to your chief, or risk management.

John gave the annual report, there were a total of 6,406 calls, that number is down 322 from 2022. He also gave the breakdown by the type of calls, as well as coordinators calls and investigator calls.

The Training Center was used 327 days last year.

There will be new OSHA standards coming out. Not a lot of information is available as of yet. John will be attending a webinar and will give us more information when it is available.

Training is going well, there are over 30 classes scheduled.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Arson Task Force:** They have been busy. The Liberty fire was challenging. The State OFPC Canine unit worked with our investigators. The Arson Plan is being reviewed by Albany, when it gets back here, we will review and pass it on to Public Safety, then the full Legislature.

**Radio:** Alex was unable to be here, so John gave this report.

The new tower in Jeffersonville is underway, the Rock Hill Tower is up and running, but no progress on the proposed Rockland tower. The work on the Mamakating tower is done and work on the orange County tower is progressing.

There are 2 new dispatchers at the Control Center.

**Activated Alarm Committee:** Nothing Further.

**Communications:** None

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**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** The idea of having Zoom meetings was raised. We have tried it in the past and it did not work well. We voted last year not to have them. I will set up a group text and also email reminders.

Please ask your department if there are any concerns or feedback we can address here.

**Good and Welfare:** Welcome to our new member, Tim Dexheimer, he is past chief and a sitting commissioner.

Our thoughts and prayers to the injured Neversink Firefighter.

**Meeting Adjourned 7:42 pm**

**Next meeting March 25, 2024 at 7:00 pm**

**Fire Advisory Board Meeting Schedule 2024**  
**All Meetings are at 7:00 pm**

**January 29**

**March 25**

**May 20**

**July 29**

**September 30**

**November 25**