



WESTCHESTER COUNTY
FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

4 Dana Road, Valhalla, NY 10595

Chief Andrew Sandor
ASandor@newrochelleny.com
President

John Marshall III
16Battalion@gmail.com
Vice President

Howard Stern, Esq.
HSternEsq@aol.com
Secretary

**Westchester County Fire Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2022**

Present: Commissioner Richard Wishnie, Chairperson Hank Bergson, R. Lyman, H. Stern, R. Outhouse, L. Lee., A. Sandor, P. Miley, P. J. Goldfeder, J. Bonano, J. Marshal, J. Olenick, C. Duffelmeyer, J. Capparelli (Via Zoom).

Guest: A. Outhouse, President Westchester Vol Firefighters Assn.

DES Staff: N. Caputo, L. Labriola-Cuffe and M. Volk

Excused: D. Klaus, J. Iantorno, Deputy Commissioner Susan Spear

Absent: K. Halex, W. Roza, K. Murphy

Meeting called to Order by Chairman Bergson who led the Pledge of Allegiance 7:30 PM.

- Chairman Bergson then submitted a letter resignation (Copy Attached) as Chair of the Advisory Board. Chief Andy Sandor was elected to the position.
John Marshall was elected Vice Chair.
Both votes were unanimous.
- Commissioner Wishnie took the floor and gave a thank you to Chair Bergson for his 11 years of service as FAB Chair. and a cake was also presented by The Commissioner.
- Minutes of last meeting approved.

Commissioner Wishnie: Introduced a new member of the Fire Advisory Board, Chris Duffelmeyer, Union President of Hartsdale FD.

- He updated us on the status of the projects at HQ, including storage building, buildings clean up and painting, burn house, etc. and noted there are now two maintenance people on site.
- He updated us on the dispatch room and dispatch personnel and discussed personal pay noting he had been successful in obtaining raises for personnel.
- And he discussed the status of Capital Plans
- With obvious pride he introduced the newly elected President of the Westchester Fire Association, Angela Outhouse.



WESTCHESTER COUNTY
FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

4 Dana Road, Valhalla, NY 10595

Chief Andrew Sandor
ASandor@newrochelleny.com
President

John Marshall III
16Battalion@gmail.com
Vice President

Howard Stern, Esq.
HSternEsq@aol.com
Secretary

He passed the floor to Hank Bergson to read Commissioner Spears report. Specifically the ongoing HERRO program.

- Noting that 71 First responders benefitted and received over \$300,000.00 from the program where tuition payments of up to \$3,000 per term were reimbursed to the first responders.
- Her comments on the County DES Natural Gas Pipeline Event were read, &
- She pointed us to the Lithium Battery Public Safety video now on Facebook
- It was noted the as per County Executive Latimer and due to a current mutual aid crises (over 7,000 calls last year) for ambulance services the County was soliciting an RFP to cover and assist the County on the issue shortfalls in responding and membership.

Chief Mike Volk spoke next:

- He expanded on the mutual aid crisis and pointed out that over 7,000 mutual aid calls He explained how the County is looking for FEMA ambulances to help cover the gap in coverage.
- He stated that Full time and Part time assistance are being solicited
- He stated that the County is working on where best to deploy the back up and that they are looking for the best vendor to do the work not based solely on low bid.
- He updated us on the countywide radio system noting we have achieved 99% coverage.
- He updated us on the remaining sites and the work to be done with Motorola to get the system up to snuff.
- He mentioned that Katonah training is up and running with their 452 and noted that the low band system can only be used as long as it can be maintained and noted no new parts are being manufactured for it.

Chief (Chair) Sandor spoke next:

- He discussed active shooter training.

Chief Luci Labriola-Cuffe spoke next:

Supplemented Chief Sandor's active shooter report noting the training courses held this past June and the upcoming October courses. Luci, discussed the training in detail and noted that in time the course "will come to you" and that elected officials will be invited to participate in order to better educate them on the issue. She the introduced and indicated Jason Ward in now onboard as a County Instructor. The Board was updated on past, present, and future FF I training courses and noted that Katonah training site is has reopened and spoke about two new Foam classes.

Chief Labriola-Cuffe also reviewed the following:

- On-site firehouse and improvements to it to include rope training.



WESTCHESTER COUNTY
FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

4 Dana Road, Valhalla, NY 10595

Chief Andrew Sandor
ASandor@newrochelleny.com
President

John Marshall III
16Battalion@gmail.com
Vice President

Howard Stern, Esq.
HSternEsq@aol.com
Secretary

- A new Cascade unit is due next week.
- Mental health training for first responders and told of a November crisis intervention class.
- Upcoming fire investigator class and discussed Cancer investigations and Lithium Battery disposal issues noting the County has a disposal site but the FD must deliver the battery to the site. Also a three-part video on safety which should be available soon.
- It was noted that the Fallen Firefighter Memorial will be 10 am on October 16th. at DES

Chief Lyman spoke of the upcoming State Chiefs convention at Islip LI and mentioned the two weeks convention in June at Syracuse NY.

- Under New Business, Howard Stern raised the issue with Commissioner Wishnie about obtaining legislative approval for Fire Departments to bill for their services, like the new approval for FD EMT's to bill for their services. He noted that other states allow their Fire Departments to bill for their services and not just bill for supplies used, as is the case in NY.
- Hybrid Fire Ops classes were noted and also discussed being done with participation of elected official.

A rousing standing round of applause was given to thank Chairman Bergson.

- 20:40: A motion was made by Chief Lyman to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded and passed.

The next meeting is on November 17, 2022 at 7:30 pm at DES in Valhalla, NY

Respectfully submitted.

Howard Stern
Secretary pro tem



WESTCHESTER COUNTY
FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

4 Dana Road, Valhalla, NY 10595

Chief Andrew Sandor
ASandor@newrochelleny.com
President

John Marshall III
16Battalion@gmail.com
Vice President

Howard Stern, Esq.
HSternEsq@aol.com
Secretary

memo

Westchester County Fire Advisory Board

To: Fire Advisory Board Members
Commissioner Richard Wishnie

From: Henry P. Bergson

Cc.

Date: September 22, 2022

Re: Subject

In as much as I have served as Chairman of the Westchester County Fire Advisory since January 2011, a period of over 11 years, I feel it is time that I relinquish my position effective with the close of business of the September 22, 2022, meeting.

It is my intention to continue to serve on the board just not as Chairman. Thank you all for the opportunity to serve in this position, and the support you have given me over the years.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henry P. Bergson".

Henry P. Bergson, Chair
Westchester County Fire Advisory Board
cell 914-646-4763
e-mail: hank@hbergson.com