

Ross Turner
Chairman

Jason Kraack
Vice Chairman

Mary Ann Drobysch
Secretary

Sullivan County Fire Advisory Board

Date: November 24, 2025 Pledge to the Flag recited.

Meeting called to order at: 7:00 pm

Attendance: 9 out of 15 members present

Minutes: Read, amended under coordinators report to show there are 2 new state instructors. Minutes accepted as amended

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

Coordinators Report:

Plans are being worked on for the Youth Academy for 2026. The program is for 14–16-year-olds. They are hoping to expand the program from this past year. It will be on 7/20- 7/24.

There is a \$80,000.00 Health & Welfare Grant available for next year.

The training center was renamed the “Richard A. Martinkovic Public Safety Training Center”. There was a good turnout for the ceremony.

The Wildland Task Force will be working and coordinating with Ulster County, plans to work with Orange County are being discussed. There was a recent urban wildland fire class in Orange County, attendance was poor, possibly because of the Government shutdown at the time.

John would like to thank members of all the emergency services, the past few weeks have been very active.

The Rehab Team is up and ready for the winter.

Emails being sent to the chiefs should be distributed down to the members of the department. That is not the case in some departments.

If you would like to use the training center, please give 2 weeks’ notice.

There are 2 new State and 4 County Fire Instructors.

Weekly announcements should be submitted by noon on Fridays to Erin O’Brien for broadcast.

Forestry Grant applications are due in December, emails have been sent to all departments.

PESH is doing inspections on paperwork for injury and illness reports. Several departments have already had inspections. Reports must be completed for each incident.

There will be a commissioner's class in April at the training center.

There was a Regional Fire Administrators Conference at Montour. Among the topics discussed was the problem of equipment being transported and used at incidents outside your home area. Please take only the equipment requested, unless there is another agreement in place with the requesting department. There are potential insurance claims, and your department may be responsible for any claims.

If the statewide mutual aid plan is in effect, the regional fire administrator, (John for our region) is to keep a list of the resources that are available. When supplied, the equipment would need to go out in 1 unit from the County. Chiefs need to respond to the requests. If equipment is needed to pull a UTV or other items it must be owned by the department, no personal vehicles are covered. If a UTV and a crew of 5 is requested, the crew of 5 needs to go, members going need to be documented. If there are county owned vehicles or employees that would need to be documented as well. John will send an email detailing all of this. Chiefs need to be responsible for their members and training.

The new fire reporting system is not being utilized by all of our departments. Beginning in January the old reporting system will not work. Jack has set up a website with step-by-step instructions. There are also 3rd party vendors that can complete the reporting as well. If you need help or have questions, please contact Jack Halchak.

The state is working on opening more opportunities for stipends. They thought that there would be more interest in stipends. The process is improving.

Committee Reports:

Arson Task Force: Nothing further

911: Nothing further

EMS: Nothing further

Radio: The committee has been receiving plans from several departments, though there are many still out there. There will be some work to do with the 911 center once we have all the information we need. At that time, meetings will be set up with each department.

Communications: None

Old Business: None

New Business: At the Fire District meetings there will be information available on the firefighter enhanced cancer disability program. Submissions need to go to both the state and local insurer each year. It is a process that needs to be done to qualify.

Good and Welfare: Ross thanked Craig for his years of service to this Board, both as a member and Chairman.

Happy Thanksgiving and Good Holidays to everyone.

Meeting Adjourned 7:30 pm

Fire Advisory Board Meeting Schedule 2026

January 26

March 30

May 18

July 27

September 28

November 30