

Ross Turner
Chairman

Jason Kraack
Vice Chairman

Mary Ann Drobysch
Secretary

Sullivan County Fire Advisory Board

Date: September 29, 2025 Pledge to the Flag recited.

Meeting called to order at: 7:00 pm

Attendance: 10 out of 15 members present

Minutes: Accepted as read

Bethel: Peter Maltese	P
Callicoon: Ross Turner	P
Cochecton: Jason Knack	P
Delaware: Timothy Hornicek	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: Nathan Routledge	A
Thompson: Roger Bisland, Jr.	A
Tusten: Craig Burkle	P

Alex and Charlie were here to talk about IM Responding. It is up and running and everyone should have it installed on their phones. The County is covering the costs. It is not meant to replace pagers; they should still be the first method of communication. If anyone is having difficulty, please reach out to Charlie. The IM technology will help the 911 system to operate more efficiently. The chat feature on the app is very useful for information updates. You will also be able to use it to communicate with other companies, you will need to get codes and set them up on a regular computer under the administrator.

There will be CAD upgrade next week, some departments may have disruptions.

Coordinators Report:

There were 18 people for the Youth Academy this year. We are already working on next years program.

Recruitment is going well, though more volunteers are needed to help with this.

The Communication Committee will be meeting again.

There is an \$80,000.00 grant for Health and Wellness training.

We are working on a Cardiac Screening Program.

January 2026 will see the rolling out of the new Fire Reporting System. Everyone should have an account by now. Contact Jack Halchack if there is an issue.

2 new fire investigators have been hired.

We have requested 4 new fire instructors. 3 were allotted.

There may be a daytime class available shortly. Refresher classes may also be available.

The Training Center will be dedicated and renamed the Richard A Martinkovic Training Center on 10/26.

Committee Reports:

Arson Task Force: No report

911: The technology we are using is outdated, major upgrades are needed. The next few years will see significant upgrades to the system. We have received approximately 1.5 million from NYS the next generation of 911.

Work continues on the environmental study for the Jeff Tower.

Communications Committee: They will be meeting again tomorrow. Progress has been made to address the issues raised by the Battalion 5 letter. Miscommunications are being addressed.

EMS: The grant money from the State is not yet available.

The Fly car has proven to be very helpful and has cut down on response times.

Communications: None

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Old Business: None

New Business: We are looking into what Ulster County is doing with their Wildland Task Force.

The Wildland Search and Rescue Task Force will now be Search and Rescue. A large animal force will be developed, and training will be done with the Forest Rangers. We will continue to build other branches from there. Applications were sent out and there have been 24 responses.

Good and Welfare: Please keep Carly Speer in your prayers. Her prognosis has changed for the worse. There are fundraising events being held to help with her ongoing treatment and associated costs.

Meeting Adjourned 7:25 pm

Next meeting November 24,2025 at 7:00 pm

Fire Advisory Board Meeting Schedule 2026

January 26

March 30

May 18

July 27

September 28

November 30