State of volunteerism in fire service focus of panel discussion in New Paltz on May 15

NEW PALTZ, N.Y. — The village of New Paltz and The Benjamin Center for Public Policy Initiatives at SUNY New Paltz are presenting a panel discussion on the current state of volunteerism in the fire service.

The conversation will discuss the challenges facing today’s fire departments, from recruitment to retaining members, in an economic, social and cultural environment very different than just a few years ago.

The discussion will take place at the SUNY Student Union building on Wednesday, May 15, at 7 p.m.

The panelists will be Beth McLendon Albright, director of Ulster Corps; KT Tobin, associate director, Benjamin Center; Cory Wirthmann, New Paltz Fire Department chief; John D’Alessandro, secretary of the Fireman’s Association of the State of New York; and John Mancini, a lawyer with the New York Conference of Mayors. The moderator will be William Wheeler Murray, a trustee with the Village of New Paltz.

Opening remarks will be made by Village Mayor Tim Rogers.