

UNION CENTER FIRE COMPANY
COMPANY MEETING

September 9, 2013

PRESENT: M. Henry, G. Greenlee, A. Green, K. Miga, C. Hoyt, F. Trzcinski, J. Drotar, W. Miga, D. Kerila, M. Belensky, D. Hill, R. Bealo, A. Silvestri, S. Bealo, B. Bealo, G. Roberts, D. Hoflein, A. Holton, J. Mann, B. Gazdik, K. Greenlee, B. Polhamus, R. Greenlee

CALLED TO ORDER: 19:45

MINUTES FROM: 08/03/2013 **ACCEPTED:** seconded by (we forgot to do this)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Activity checking: \$15,036.45
General checking: \$27,502.12

Activity: \$4677.26
2% Money: \$10,359.19

Motion to accept: J. Drotar seconded by F. Trzcinski

BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS

None.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Our 2014 budgets have been submitted to both the Towns of Maine and Union requesting a 2% increase from the current year.

M. Henry signed and submitted a letter of agreement with our new CPA, Viera & Associates of Endicott, to complete our 2012 audit and tax return. They expect to be complete in October and will get in touch with us to confirm the date.

The picnic went well. The Auxiliary should be commended and thanked for organizing and setting it up. Even though not all Auxiliary members could attend the picnic many of them still worked in the background getting things set up and purchasing food and items to make it a success. (C. Hoyt began a discussion regarding having a committee of fire/EMS members to help the Auxiliary with social events as there is no longer a social committee. Having experienced members helping them would take a lot of the pressure off of the Auxiliary members until they have become more experienced themselves.)

M. Henry has the contract for professional gear-cleaning and inspection, which he will be signing jointly with Maine Fire.

CentreLearn passwords will be retrieved so that CentreLearn can be used for the rest of the year. We have determined that most likely we will not need to use CentreLearn for mandatory OSHA classes, as these can be covered in other ways. However, there are a lot of valuable courses on CentreLearn. Depending upon how many members make use of this in the coming months, we will decide whether or not it is cost effective for us to continuing paying for it.

It appears that the Eagle Scout monument project has fallen through; we have put the job of relocating the monument back under the supervision of A. Silvestri.

OFFICER REPORTS

CHIEF:

- Congratulations to J. Mann for obtaining his driver's license!
- Thank you to everyone who attended National Night Out and fireworks at the church, including the Auxiliary (who outnumbered fire/EMS members).
- The calls that I have been going on have all been going well and thank you for responding.
- As soon as the professional gear-cleaning contract is signed, we will figure out a schedule for this. You will not have your gear for a day when this is being done and we do not have enough to fit everyone when it is gone. If repair work needs to be done on it, it may be another day or two at Magic Needle.
- At the Western Broome Chiefs meeting, we received an oxygen mask for pets. This was donated by an animal rescue organization in Tioga County, which has supplied every department in Tioga County with a mask. They are now supplying departments in Western Broome. This mask will go on the Squad. West Corners is supposed to be copying the instruction disc for us to watch.

FIRST ASSISTANT CHIEF:

- After the Route 38B incident there were a couple of sets of gear that got contaminated with blood. I purchased 44-gallon biohazard bags. There are five on the Squad (bright red bags), five on the Rescue, five on the Tahoe, five on the EMS, and five on the Pumper Tanker (in the back of the cab). Put any contaminated gear in them before you get back on the rig to leave the scene.
- When you arrive on the scene at a call, please try to remember the condition of the structure before you alter it in any way. Meaning if windows are already broken or missing, doors are unlocked, etc. This information is important because it is possible that a crime could have occurred prior to our arrival.
- I think that everything is going well.

SECOND ASSISTANT CHIEF:

- Thank you to the people who helped me with the hose testing (D. Hoefflein, F. Trzcinski, and A. Holton).
- Ladder testing will take place sometime in October.
- On 09/20/2013 I will represent the company at an American Legion for the presentation of a flag in recognition of the fact that we are flying a POW flag next to the American flag at our station.
- I attended Fire Officer 1 class at the fire academy and was happy to find out all of the things that our company is doing correctly.

DAY CAPTAIN:

- Everything has been going well with Saturday training.
- We had a foam class a few weeks ago, which went fine. I wish more people had attended, but maybe next time.
- I would like to thank everyone who went to the Lewis St. fire. Everyone worked very hard and did a great job. We had a few problems that I will take up with the other officers (green tag stuff). Just keep up the great teamwork and be safe.

NIGHT CAPTAIN:

- I think everything is going well and thanks for your participation in training.

FIRST LIEUTENANT:

- Thank you to everyone who ran Engine 98 last month.
- For any green tags who need Dragon fire gloves, contact J. VanKuren or me.

SECOND LIEUTENANT:

- Just to give a little more detail on the foam training that we had a few weeks ago, the foam took away the heat very quickly. The hose was so light that handling the hose was a one-person operation.
- This past Saturday we went over hose lays with Maine.
- Tomorrow night we will have a tanker drill at the Maine training tower. It will be a simulation of the Lewis St. fire. Go to your respective stations (where you report for a call) and listen to Channel 4, as we will simulate departure from both stations. Training will start at 6:30 and the simulated dispatch will take place around 6:45. We will be doing a lot of tanker runs and using West Corners's ladder truck.
- J. Mann and I are talking about other things that we might do in training for the months of September and November, such as bail-out, mazes, etc. If you have any ideas please let us know. We will be doing radio communications, work with the repeater, and chimney fires. We will work with J. VanKuren to make sure that everything dovetails with Saturday training. (C. Hoyt mentioned that NYSEG training will also be scheduled.)
- We have not forgotten about water supply analysis to improve ISO ratings in the non-hydrant district; tomorrow night's training should help us with this.
- New microwave for Station 2 is now in service.

- New cordless phone, base unit and two remotes at Station 2 are in service temporarily until the phone problems are solved.
- Gas grill for Station 2 is next on the purchase list.
- There is a new coffeepot at Station 2.

FIRE POLICE CAPTAIN: No report.

EMS:

- I (A. Holton for R. Serowik) passed out emergency medical information envelopes. Fill out forms online on the website, print out, put in the envelope, seal it, and sign across the seal on the back. Turn them in to me and I will give you back the old one (if you have an old one) to destroy. (D. Hill pointed out that the zip code on the envelopes is incorrect and should be 13762)
- Please take the EMS home to cover calls.

FIRE MARSHAL:

- I want to thank everyone for doing fire reports. A few things have been noted. When doing a house call or MVA, please try to get the owner/driver's name and address. When vehicles are involved please try to get the VIN and license plate number. If you cannot or do not feel comfortable doing a report, please send me the information or ask me for some help.
- Just to give a little perspective, a local fire district's ISO rating went up from a 9 to a 10, which added \$500 to fire insurance in that district.

SAFETY OFFICER:

- Now that the weather is changing please dress for the conditions.

MAINTENANCE:

- The junction box cover on the Squad has been repaired.
- We did maintenance on the chain saw on the Squad, which appears to be running well.
- EMS will be going in for service.
- FYI, the speedometer backlighting on the pumper tanker is not working. We have taken it apart and cannot find a reason for this yet.

AIR/CASCADE:

- We have one pack at MES for repair that should be coming back any day now.
- Please remember to check and clean your air pack after fires. This includes the pack itself, not just the regulator. I found a pack on the Squad that was covered in dirt and soot; I'm assuming it was from the Lewis St. fire.

TRAINING:

- Hours are on the website.
- Training has been going well. J. Mann and W. Miga are doing September and November together; if you have any ideas, let them know.

- The county list winter classes are online. Check the county site and take as many State classes as you can.

HEALTH/SAFETY: No report.

AUDIT: No report.

PARADE: No report.

AUXILIARY:

- Thank you for all the help with the picnic.
- We are beginning to plan the Christmas party.

Vote for having a Christmas party (using Activity and 2% money)

YES: 16

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 1

(Discussion regarding C. Hoyt's idea of forming a committee of fire/EMS members to help the Auxiliary. A. Silvestri and A. Green volunteered to help.)

BYLAW:

- There are a number of things that we are thinking of, but we have not received any proposals from the membership. Send any proposals to T. Mason and W. Miga.

B. C. FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION: No report.

WEB SITE:

- Website is up to date as far as I know.

RETENTION/ RECRUITING/ MEMBERSHIP:

- We have a potential new member. We met with him and his background paperwork has been filled out. We are still checking his references. He lives in the Village of Endicott., is interested in fire police and firefighting. Has been a member of several fire departments around the northeast. Will hopefully be voting on him next month.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS: No report.

SUNSHINE:

- Thank you sent to Adam Holton's mother for making dinner for our meeting last month.
- Congratulations and \$300 gift card sent to M. Mason and his family for the birth of their triplet daughters, with thanks to M. Belensky for handling the delivery (of the gift card, not the triplets).

- Sympathy arrangement and condolences sent to the family of Larry Thompson, one of our founding members.
- Thank you sent to Maureen Adams for the excellent barbecue that she hosted for any members who showed up.
- Thank you sent to Beverly Clark, Larry Thompson's daughter, for donations she collected in memory of her father.
- Thank you sent to Mary and Thomas D'Angelo of Pitkin Hill Road for the donation they gave to us in memory of Larry Thompson.

OLD BUSINESS

Thank you to A. Holton for providing the delicious dinner of broccoli and pasta with homemade alfredo sauce.

Reminder that the firefighter clambake is 08/25/2013. UCFC will pay for tickets for members. Let M. Henry know if you want to go and he will start keeping track of the number of tickets we need.

A. Green said that the DOT job in front of Station 1 is finished; grass seed has been put down.

A. Green talked to the Town of Union historian and VFW member (VFW owns the monument). He said that they allotted \$250 towards whoever does the project. We want to get a definitive answer from the Scouts as to whether or not this is an Eagle project by the September meeting; if we do not have an answer at that time we will discuss and vote on our alternatives.

C. Hoyt brought up making a donation for M. Mason's triplets (T. Mason's granddaughters) to help cover travel, food, housing, etc. while the family is in Syracuse and/or for expenses after they come home. J. Drotar made a motion to send a \$300 gift card, which was seconded by R. Bealo.

YES: 14

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

Phone in the radio room at Station 2 has been OOS. W. Miga would like to know if we can put a wireless station behind the EMS and a cordless phone in the radio room until the phone is fixed. M. Henry started looking into this, but this issue has not been resolved yet. R. Bealo suggested getting a cordless phone with multiple stations.

W. Miga looked at our cable bill and saw that we are paying for HBO and Showtime at Station 2 (and possibly Station 1 as well). This is costing us \$300 a year. Following an informal polling of the membership, it appears that nobody is watching HBO or Showtime and W. Miga is wondering if this is something we can get rid of. B. Dieffenbacher said that he would look into this.

Garage doors at Station 2 are done and reversing switches are complete. All doors have wireless remotes located in the rigs.

REMINDER: SEPTEMBER MEETING WILL BE THE SECOND MONDAY (9TH) DUE TO THE LABOR DAY HOLIDAY.

NEW BUSINESS

Congratulations to A. Silvestri for completing Fire Officer 1 class.

Thank you to the Polhamuses for providing the great meal and to K. Greenlee and R. Greenlee for helping with the final preparations. Thank you to A. Holton's mother for providing the entertaining dessert!

M. Henry is getting pricing for a new alarm system at Station 2, which is most likely causing the problems with the phone lines. Cordless phones are currently plugged in and they are working for the time being.

REFRESHMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING: J. Mann

NUMBER ATTENDING: 23

VOTING: 17

TIME ADJORNED: 21:20

NEXT MEETING: October 7, 2013

Respectfully submitted by **Karen S. Miga**