

UNION CENTER FIRE COMPANY
COMPANY MEETING

August 3, 2015

PRESENT: M. Henry, R. Bealo, B. Dieffenbacher, D. Dieffenbacher, F. Trzcinski, K. Battaglini, B. Bealo, S. Bealo, R. Greenlee, A. Greenlee, B. Polhamus, H. Polhamus, G. Greenlee, J. Drotar, J. Mann, M. Belensky, D. Hoeflein, J. Brown, W. Miga, K. Miga

CALLED TO ORDER: 19:50

MINUTES FROM: 07/06/2015 **ACCEPTED:** K. Battaglini, seconded by J. Drotar

TREASURER'S REPORT

Activity checking: \$15,011.53
General checking: \$16,816.29

Activity: \$3,329.87
2% Money: \$11,681.66

I sent out the budget accounting list the other day. Anyone who has an account should look at it to make sure that it is accurate.

Motion to accept: J. Drotar, seconded by W. Miga

BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS

The comptroller has said that the tax capital dropped below 1% for 2016. It is 0.73% for entities that operate on a calendar-based fiscal year (us). It means that our tax capital is decreasing yearly. Next year or the year after it will probably be flat. Our understanding is that we may still ask for more than 0.73%, but there may be a procedure that must be followed in order for us to do so. We will be looking into what we may need to do, but in the meantime we voted to ask for an amount exceeding this at this time.

Vestal sent us paperwork regarding H. Polhamus's length of service.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

In the board meeting we discussed the letter from Vestal for H. Polhamus and some change-of-status letters.

We are looking into available options for our PayPal account. We will be reviewing the paperwork that M. Henry has obtained. PayPal used to be part of Ebay, but they have now separated. Everything was all set up with PayPal for use with the DONATE button on the website. PayPal said that nothing needs to be done; everything should be taken

care of automatically during the split. M. Henry said that he was told that there is money in the PayPal account for us; however, if we take it in check form PayPal keeps a percentage of the money. We will be figuring out the best way to handle this so we lose the least amount of money. W. Miga asked if we should use Amazon Smile so that the company might benefit from this in the future. B. Dieffenbacher said to go ahead and use Amazon Smile; you can sign up so that UCFC receives a donation when you order something from Amazon.

We talked about the budget.

OFFICER REPORTS

CHIEF: No report.

FIRST ASSISTANT CHIEF:

- We had an officers' meeting yesterday. All gear is to be stored at each member's respective station unless prior permission is given by a chief officer. There are circumstances for special training and such, but on normal training days the gear must be returned to the station after training. Exceptions are given to green tag firefighters, officers, and certain drivers.
- During all training, members are expected to ride in apparatus and should not drive personal vehicles. Exceptions are given to chief officers and members who may need to leave early for some reason, but not routinely for every training. This builds crew integrity and camaraderie.
- It is important to listen to the dispatch information and any other transmissions when in the stations prior to response in case the call is cancelled or specific apparatus is requested.

SECOND ASSISTANT CHIEF: No report.

DAY CAPTAIN:

- Keep an eye on Rescue 53 electric reels. We think that the breakers are tripping again. Please notify me or any officer.

NIGHT CAPTAIN: No Report.

FIRST LIEUTENANT: No report.

SECOND LIEUTENANT: No report.

FIRE POLICE CAPTAIN: No report.

EMS:

- I got in touch with M. Dennison. She has been very busy. She is getting married this weekend and is also expecting a baby in January. I will advise her to resign until her

situation settles down. She says that she is still interested, but I do not think that she has time to devote to UCFC right now.

- Gwen Ellis passed away. She was a County training officer for 20 years. Calling hours are Wednesday night at 17:00 to 20:00 at McPherson Funeral Home. The funeral is at 10:00 on 08/06/2015. Staging of apparatus is at 08:00. If you would like to take apparatus for the funeral on Thursday, get in touch with R. Serowik or Molly McLean (from Maine). Molly's phone number is 372-3613. R. Serowik's e-mail is ray@srems.com or rserowik@co.broome.ny.us Information is also on the County website.

FIRE MARSHAL: No report.

SAFETY OFFICER: No report.

MAINTENANCE:

(M. Belensky)

- All annual service and pump tests have been completed.
- Follow check sheets as they are written when performing rig checks. Part of the problem we are having with replacing equipment parts is due to lack of use. We need to operate the equipment, such as opening and closing valves six times, etc. This helps with maintenance down the road.

(M. Henry)

- Just so no one is shocked, we had a huge maintenance bill for the pumper-tanker; luckily the problem was discovered before we had a catastrophic incident while it was in use.

AIR/CASCADE:

- Eight 30-minute bottles have been taken out of service due to end of life. Six new 45-minute bottles are being put into service over the next few weeks. This will put four 30-minute bottles back in rotation as spares on the Rescue.
- The new 45-minute bottles will be placed in the following locations: One on the Squad as a spare for the air chisel/air bags. One in the Tahoe's air pack. One in Chief Hoyt's air pack. One in Chief Belensky's air pack.
- Forty bottles will be getting hydro-tested in the fall. Otherwise all are good until 2019, when everything goes to end of life.

TRAINING:

(J. VanKuren)

- Saturday training is going well.
- For the month of July we went over our policy on scene lighting, fans and all electric equipment we use and have on the rigs.
- August training will focus on hand line operations.
- Just a reminder that the only members who can carry their gear are officers, green tags, drivers, and pump operators who are qualified to drive all the big rigs. Everybody else has to return gear to their respective stations after training.

(D. Hoeflein)

- Tuesdays we will be hosting training in August, focusing on auto extrication.

HEALTH/SAFETY: No report.

AUDIT:

- We did the audit and the books look fine. We did not find any inconsistencies. We asked to look at donations from the website. We believe that there needs to be some type of follow up with a thank you message or other confirmation to the donors on the website, as currently a donation is made and there is no message to acknowledge this. (During a discussion, the website committee members said that the website does not give them any information, so they do not know when donations are made. They will add something to the website asking the donor for an e-mail address. Then a message will be sent to the donor, with the donation information being sent to B. Dieffenbacher and the audit committee.)

PARADE:

- Nothing is scheduled at this time.

AUXILIARY:

- Thank to R. Greenlee and A. Greenlee for revising our guidelines to include the new call-out procedure.
- We reserved Atrios for the Christmas party on 12/05/2015. C. VanKuren got Barb Fox for entertainment again.
- A question was brought up at our meeting about the Sunshine Committee as there were two requests made in June that were not taken care of. In the absence of E. Belensky, the Auxiliary is willing to take over the duties of the Sunshine Committee. Flowers were sent to C. VanKuren from the department for her recent surgery. G. Greenlee's father just passed away and flowers will be sent to the funeral home.

BYLAW:

- The proposal regarding voting with show of hands/ballots has passed.

YES: 17

NO: 2

ABSTAIN: 0

- A proposal was made to change the title of Day and Night Captain and First and Second Lieutenant to no designation either way, just Captains and Lieutenants. W. Miga looked at Broome County Fire News and found that other departments have a mix of ways they are identified; it is not one way or the other across the board. People are welcome to consider this proposal and give input at the next meeting.

B. C. FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION:

- Next meeting is in West Windsor this Friday.

WEBSITE: No report.

RETENTION/ RECRUITING/ MEMBERSHIP:

- Voting for M. Dennison coming off probation will be next month unless she resigns due to her personal situation.
- Adam Drake’s probation will be up in October.
- Someone submitted an application but it has not been reviewed yet; we just found out about it tonight.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS: None.

MEMBERS COMING OFF PROBATION: None.

SUNSHINE: (See Auxiliary report)

OLD BUSINESS

The issue with the station tables was addressed.

NEW BUSINESS

D. Kerila sent in a letter of resignation. He recently accepted a full-time job with UVES as a paramedic and is moving to Vestal. He wanted to come back to the fire side at UCFC but could not find an apartment in the district. He thanks all members for the great 4 years.

Leave of absence was requested by E. Belensky due to personal issues. The board has accepted this.

Thank you to K. Battaglini for getting the food from Consol’s tonight.

Vote for Christmas party to be held at Atrios on Saturday, December 5, 2015.

YES: 19 NO: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

M. Henry nominated the Auxiliary to take over the responsibilities of the Sunshine Committee. Everyone agreed that this would be fine.

Vote on using 2% money for Christmas party (except alcohol).

YES: 19 NO: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

REFRESHMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING: No one volunteered ☹️

NUMBER ATTENDING: 20

VOTING: 19

TIME ADJORNED: 21:39

NEXT MEETING: TBA (Labor Day is 09/07/2015 and there will not be a meeting due to the holiday).

Respectfully submitted by Assistant to the Secretary, *Karen S. Miga*