

**UNION CENTER FIRE COMPANY**  
**COMPANY MEETING**

November 2, 2015

**PRESENT:** M. Henry, K. Battaglini, S. Bealo, H. Polhamus, B. Polhamus, J. Drotar, I. Espada, B. Dieffenbacher, D. Dieffenbacher, F. Trzcinski, W. Miga, C. Hoyt, J. Mann, M. Belensky, J. Brown, D. Hoeflein, K. Miga

**CALLED TO ORDER:** 19:48

**MINUTES FROM:** 10/07/2015 **ACCEPTED:** D. Dieffenbacher, seconded by W. Miga

***TREASURER'S REPORT***

Activity checking: \$14,294.96  
General checking: \$20,375.04

Activity: \$3,113.30  
2% Money: \$11,181.66

I think that we have everything in for the audit. I am double-checking this, but I think this should be finished soon. I will be getting a new account listing out to everybody shortly after this meeting. Let me know of any mistakes.

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

***BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS***

Thank you to B. Polhamus, H. Polhamus, and the Greenlees for participating in the Wide Horizons Preschool event in Maine last month.

***BOARD COMMUNICATIONS***

We discussed getting new tires for the tanker, which will be voted on this evening.

We discussed the broken door at Station 2, which has been fixed, and the bill for CentreLearn.

We discussed the fact that there are people still listed on the training sheet who are inactive or who should no longer be members of the company due to being inactive for so long. We agreed to give these people a period of amnesty to catch up on training hours. E-mails will be sent to them informing them of this. The list of people will be sent out to everyone in the company so that all of us will know who is able to participate in calls and training.

## **OFFICER REPORTS**

### **CHIEF:**

- We received a thank you card from the kids from the church on Maple Drive for participating in Trunk or Treat. We will try to narrow down the hours for next year, as we spent 3 hours there and that was a bit long. Smokey participated and was a big hit.
- Chief 33 says thanks for traffic control for the Maine Halloween parade. We had enough people to block all of the intersections.
- Just a reminder to be alert on calls. Maine was called out to a meth lab call; those labs are still popping up everywhere.

**FIRST ASSISTANT CHIEF:** No report.

### **SECOND ASSISTANT CHIEF:**

- Thank you to everybody who showed up for the fall festival at the Taft Ave school, and special thanks to the auxiliary because they carried on with the smoke house after we left for the fire call.
- Thanks for the response to the fire at William Reuben Drive. Everybody did a great job.
- I was talking to W. Miga, who suggested that we put a cone down at the house or apartment that has the fire, if possible, to make it easier for the first due engine to know which one has the fire when it isn't visible from the road.
  - W. Miga: There are times like on William Reuben Drive where it is not obvious which place has the fire call. If we can figure out something to do if we can't see it from the road, it would be helpful.
- Ladder testing is complete. The roof ladder that had the rungs that were damaged has passed inspection. However, if we want to replace those rungs we should take it to Har-Rob.
  - M. Henry: A. Silvestri talked to the hose- testing people. They are coming back without charge to test the hoses again.
  - J. Brown: When I talked to A. Silvestri, I heard that they were not coming back because the standards had changed from 5 to 3 minutes. They said that the hoses were pressurized for 3 minutes when they did the testing. The last I knew, we were going to accept it.
  - M. Henry: A. Silvestri talked to the guy's boss a week ago, but apparently there is some question as to what was said. We will straighten this out.

**DAY CAPTAIN:** No report.

**NIGHT CAPTAIN:** No report.

**FIRST LIEUTENANT:** No report.

**SECOND LIEUTENANT:** No report.

**FIRE POLICE CAPTAIN:** No report.

**EMS:** No report.

**FIRE MARSHAL:** No report.

**SAFETY OFFICER:** No report.

**MAINTENANCE:**

- We are looking into what is going on with some oil that was found on top of the motor on the Squad.
- We put in a request for new tires for the tanker.

**AIR/CASCADE:**

- All hydrotesting is done. All bottles are back in service.
- The Cascade is about half-full and needs to be filled if anyone is bored and needs something to do.
- I am curious as to our status with submitting fire and EMS reports. I am thinking of starting a grant for packs and a compressor, but we cannot submit the grant if all of the reports are not in.
  - M. Henry: I was told that that is being worked on. The previous 2 years of reports are all turned in.
  - J. Brown: They need the past 3 years of reports. Is there any way that we can get a status on this?
  - S. Bealo: I think he said that he has 100 reports to submit, but I am not sure if they are all UCFC reports and I am not sure what type of reports they are; I think the major ones were submitted.

**TRAINING:**

(J. VanKuren)

- Saturday training has been going great. I would like to thank everyone who helps me whether I'm there or not. Thanks to W. Miga for doing this past Saturday training for me as I had to work.
- The new training schedule is done.

(D. Hoeflein)

- There are two training dates everyone should be aware of:
  - Training at Vestal on WEDNESDAY 11/11/2015 (this takes place of Tuesday, 11/10/2015, training.)
  - Bail-out training on 11/17/2015 at Maine. Green Tags and anyone working towards green tags should attend.

**HEALTH/SAFETY:** No report.

**AUDIT:** No report.

**PARADE:**

- Johnson City's holiday parade is on 12/03/2015 at 19:00. Meet at Station 2 at 18:15. S. Bealo will be in charge. We will take Utility, Brush and EMS. If we can get drivers, we can also take Tanker and Rescue.
- Endicott's holiday parade will be on 12/05/2015 at 16:00. Meet at Station 2 at 15:30. R. Bealo will be in charge. We would like to take Smokey and any and all vehicles if we can get drivers.
- Let one of the Bealos know if you are going to attend one or both parades. Please note that the Endicott parade is the same day as our Christmas party.

**AUXILIARY:**

- We are having a bake sale at Station 1 during the election tomorrow.
- At our next meeting we will decide on the menu for the Christmas party. Do you want to stay with the buffet or have a family-style dinner? (Discussion resulted in the decision to continue with the buffet, which costs \$6 per person less than family-style.)
- We bought three new drink carriers because the old ones were leaking. What should we do with the old ones? (C. Hoyt: If they are leaking, throw them out.)

**BYLAW:** No report.

**B. C. FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION:**

- The next meeting is this Friday at 19:00 at Hillcrest. The Broome County Health Department will present on the topic "Does Your Company Do Chicken Barbecue Fundraisers?" The BCHD has been doing spot-checks on the barbecues that are being held in the area. D. Dieffenbacher and B. Polhamus will attend this event.

**WEBSITE:** No report.

**RETENTION/ RECRUITING/ MEMBERSHIP:**

- You may remember that Seth Knapp put in an application. His references are good. Background check forms were submitted and should be coming back at any time. We will do a vote on him tonight pending a favorable background check.
- Three members are supposed to be coming off probation tonight: Josh Jimenez, Ivan Espada, and Rick Fiori.

**ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS:**

- Seth Knapp:

YES: 13

NO: 1

ABSTAIN: 1

**MEMBERS COMING OFF PROBATION:**

- Ivan Espada:

YES: 14

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 1

- Rick Fiori: Officers recommended extending his probation for 3 months as he has attended too few trainings and calls over the course of his 6-month probation.
- Josh Jimenez: Officers recommended extending his probation for 3 months as he has attended too few trainings and calls over the course of his 6-month probation.

#### **SUNSHINE:**

- We sent a floral arrangement for Diane Battaglini's funeral.

#### ***OLD BUSINESS***

- W. Miga: Did we get a determination from the accountant regarding donations?
  - B. Dieffenbacher: I am waiting for him to get done with the audit before I ask him.
  - W. Miga: I can look for outside information in the meantime.
  - B. Dieffenbacher: That would be fine. I looked at old e-mails about this subject but we did not come to a conclusion before we ended the discussion. I just want the accountant to concentrate on the audit right now.
- W. Miga: Are there any decisions regarding improving coverage for the med team and what we as a company can do to help?
  - S. Bealo: We just do not have enough members to cover calls, especially during the day. I really do not have any ideas.
  - W. Miga: Would information from a breakdown of calls help?
  - M. Henry: I already have the information regarding dates and times, but I will have to go through all of that information. Since 01/01/2015 we have had 214 calls; 34 were covered. That means that 16% were covered and 84% were not.
  - S. Bealo: Is that counting someone responding and then getting cancelled?
  - M. Henry: I have no idea. This is a work in progress and we will keep thinking about what can be done.

#### ***NEW BUSINESS***

- W. Miga: Last week there was a gas can in the bay area. Can we get some kind of outdoor thing to put the gas in so that we do not have gas out in the station?
  - M. Henry: Where should we put it? We can look into one of those inflammable lockers.
  - W. Miga: I have a plastic box at home that is not expensive.
  - K. Battglini: We have to be careful what we keep outside because somebody could get into it.

- W. Miga: We want it to be locked up.
  - K. Battaglini: We could get a container for inside to put it in.
  - M. Henry: We will look into that.
  - C. Hoyt: What are you going to do with the lawnmower, which has gas in it, if you don't want gas in the station? Be consistent. I do not see the problem with having a can in here.
  - W. Miga: I just want to bring it up because we tell people not to have gas in their residences, and then look at what we do.
  - K. Battaglini: Those cabinets are not cheap to keep it inside. But I do not think it is a great idea to keep it outside because someone could use the gas to set the station on fire. Why don't we just get a safety can? We can buy one and put it on the pumper-tanker. It would be a good idea to use the gas on the rigs to fill up the lawnmower. Just remember to replace it.
  - B. Dieffenbacher: We will not be mowing the lawn for a few months so there is time to work this out.
- K. Battaglini: We are going to seal the parking lot on Wednesday. I will seal everything across the front of the bays. Drive over it if there is a call, but otherwise do not drive on it. I will be doing the lines in the parking lot shortly thereafter.
  - W. Miga: I would like to thank T. Meschter and S. Meschter for making the hangers for the smoke ejectors. It makes things nice and easy.
  - Thank you to the Polhamuses for a great dinner, and also to the Drakes, who dropped off a container of ziti.
  - Vote on new tires for the tanker at the cost of \$5159:

YES: 14

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 2

\*\*\*I. Espada voted on this as he was voted off probation.

- I. Espada: I was wondering if we would like to adopt a needy family or two for Christmas. I already talked to the Department of Social Services and they have some families in mind already who are in our district. We could bring food and some toys delivered by Santa. (Discussion regarding whether we are able to donate in this manner, which we need to find out.)
  - M. Henry: Look into it and bring us back a proposal and the information. I do not have a problem with this as long as they are in our district.

**REFRESHMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING:** I. Espada

**NUMBER ATTENDING:** 17

**VOTING:** 15 (16 after I. Espada was voted off probation).

**TIME ADJORNED:** I forgot to look at the time, but I think it was somewhere around 20:40.

**NEXT MEETING:** 12/07/2015

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