

UNION CENTER FIRE COMPANY
COMPANY MEETING

April 4, 2016

PRESENT: W. Miga, K. Battaglini, B. Dieffenbacher, J. Drotar, D. Dieffenbacher, R. McConnell, D. Glover, F. Trzcinski, D. Hoeflein, A. Drake, S. Drake, R. Fiori, T. Meschter, G. Greenlee, M. Roberts, G. Roberts, K. Miga, R. Greenlee, S. Hoyt, K. Hoyt

CALLED TO ORDER: 07:45

MINUTES FROM: 03/07/2016 **ACCEPTED:** R. Fiori, seconded by J. Drotar

TREASURER'S REPORT

Activity checking: \$7541.31
General checking: \$12,648.68

Activity: \$2294.59
2% Money: \$5247.31

- We are just starting in with the budget. I sent out the information to the account owners, who can start looking at what we are tallying for each account. I will be doing this once per month. Let me know if there are any problems.
- As you know, we have a credit card use policy. Those who currently have company credit cards have to sign off on the use policy once per year. We also now have Weis cards, which can be used by anyone. We have found that people are also borrowing the company credit cards. We would like to have everyone sign the credit card use policy. The policy basically says that the card will be used only for company business. I do not have any copies with me tonight, but I will be getting them out and will have everyone sign them.
- Later on in the meeting we will also talk about some company bills that exceed \$5000. These are bills we typically pay for insurance, mortgage, etc. Because they exceed \$5000, we need to have the membership vote on these.

ACCEPTED: J. Drotar, seconded by S. Drake

BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS

We renewed membership for FASNY and the Broome County Firefighters Association.

We received a thank you card from the Tull family for the sympathy arrangement that we sent.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

M. Belensky and C. Hoyt spent quite a bit of time working on the problem with the Rescue that was causing the GFCI circuit breakers to trip. Although this is not yet fixed, we appreciate all of their efforts.

G. Greenlee fixed a broken water pipe between Bay 1 and Bay 2 at Station 1 so that we can use the water there again. Many thanks!

J. Barrie was rendered inactive through being a Member Not in Good Standing for 6 consecutive months, after which he remained on inactive status for an additional 6 months, so his membership was terminated.

The following members are now Members Not in Good Standing because they did not make their required hours for the first quarter:

- Brianna Bealo
- Joe Drotar
- Bill Gazdik
- Mark Henry
- Adam Holton
- Joey Pedro

If you have hours to turn in, please turn in the sheets during the month when you acquired the hours. There is a whole involved process and it is very hard to go back and make addendums if they are turned in late. We will file the sheet if it is turned in late, but the hours will not be counted towards any former month.

Thirteen members were Members Not in Good Standing because they had not paid their dues; K. Battaglini paid them for everyone. Thank you for your generosity!

I am announcing a vacancy on the board of directors as F. Trzcinski has resigned his seat. In his letter he said that he appreciated the members voting for him, but he cannot fulfill this obligation at this time. He helped the board navigate some difficult times over the course of his tenure and we appreciate his contribution. On a personal note, I place a high value on his commitment to fairness and dedication to fact-based decisions and I will truly miss that..along with his good nature.

OFFICER REPORTS

CHIEF:

- Make sure rigs don't fall below the three-quarter level for fuel; fill them if close.
- If given assignment from an officer at call, complete the assignment and don't freelance. An issue was noted at a recent call.
- Officer minutes are available on the website for your reading pleasure.
- I met with a Sr. Fire Protection Specialist from ISO to gain needed information to improve our ISO rating. You will see certain things being timed at upcoming trainings and this is for ISO. I will be working down the list throughout the year to obtain better ratings in the non-hydrant district and possibly a slightly better rating on the hydrant side.
- Thank you to the Auxiliary for providing the food for the Broome County Firefighters Association meeting and also for the live burn this past weekend.
- Open house/parade for Little Meadows new station will take place on May 1, 2016. See the posting on the bulletin boards at either station for more information.
- We will be meeting with PESH this week.
- Maine's Engine will be out of service longer than expected due to pump issues.

FIRST ASSISTANT CHIEF:

- The new county CAD system is up and running and bugs are being worked out every day. IAR text messaging is somewhat reliable with this but, as always, carrying a pager is best. Chances are good that you will not get text pages prior to dispatch, like on the old system.
- Fire reports for the first quarter will be sent to the State ASAP, once I make sure all are accounted for.

SECOND ASSISTANT CHIEF: No report.

DAY CAPTAIN:

- Thank you to everyone who helped out at Saturday's live burn and thanks for being there. The Auxiliary did another great job. Thank you!

NIGHT CAPTAIN: No report.

FIRST LIEUTENANT:

- Just a reminder to the red-tag members who have been issued face pieces, these are for training only and should be left at the station during calls.

SECOND LIEUTENANT: No report.

FIRE POLICE CAPTAIN: No report.

EMS: No report.

FIRE MARSHAL: No report.

SAFETY OFFICER:

- I plan on taking the Health and Safety Officer class as soon as it becomes available.

MAINTENANCE:

- The Brush truck is in service. The Kohler dealer claims a bushing on the pump side needs to be adjusted. All other warranty items have been completed with Har-Rob.
- NYS inspections and small vehicle service will begin in May and large vehicle PM and pump service and testing will be in June.
- New pumps for the vehicle soap barrels are on order and should be in tomorrow. Not sure why the other ones seized up.
- Two lights in the pump panel area need to be replaced on Pumper-Tanker 53, which will be done this week.

AIR/CASCADE:

- All of the cascade bottles are back in service. Thank you to everyone who helped with picking them up and getting them filled at Endicott. The fill station door is still having issues and I will be contacting the service tech to have it looked at.

TRAINING:

(J. VanKuren)

- A new training schedule is done and is out. We just have to make some small changes on the last days of the months.
- Thank you to Jeff Winchell and Huron for a great PESH training class.
- Remember that training starts at 18:30 on Tuesdays and at 10:00 on Saturdays.

(C. Hoyt)

- Dates to complete monthly rig checks will be on station white boards. If you arrive early, feel free to start the scheduled rig. We are going to try one monthly rig check per training, with training to follow. This is the same as currently done on Saturday and replaces the Tuesday maintenance night with all trucks being done on one night.
- There will be a coordinated tabletop response exercise for pipeline incidents/safety on May 5, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. FREE DINNER. See posting on the bulletin board at either station for more information.
- OFPC is taking applications until April 29, 2016 for Fire Instructor for Broome County. See the posting on the bulletin board at either station for more information and requirements.
- Currently working on lesson plans and proficiency sheets for multiple topics and tracking for such topics.

HEALTH/SAFETY: No report.

AUDIT: No report.

PARADE: No report.

AUXILIARY:

- The live burn went okay. We provided a lunch of chili with all of the fixings, bread and butter, and dessert.
- Regarding the chicken barbecue: I spoke to Mr. Shelley. He took my name down to reserve the grill for June 18, 2016. It is still in storage and he is not sure if it is towable. When he gets it out he will contact me if it is not. We discussed the barbecue at our last meeting and it was suggested that we do one this year. We are not sure of the avenue to take. If we cook ourselves someone needs to volunteer to look into getting a second grill, or possibly two if Shelley's is not useable. If we get Phil's to do it, we run into the possibility of only having it at one station. This is a fundraiser that benefits the whole company and therefore we need input. Our meeting is on April 13, 2016 at 18:30. I invite all to attend so we can get ideas. It needs to be finalized at our April meeting so we can get things going. If you have any questions or comments, please send an email to b_polhamus@yahoo.com.
- (Discussion regarding the grills) S. Drake might have a lead on a grill and he will check into it. G. Greenlee said that we might consider asking to use Maine's pits. The grills from Taylor's (or Floyd's) that we used last year did not work out well. The problem is that the grates have to be made of stainless steel and Maine's grills are just steel. W. Miga said that we have options and we will see what pans out.
- (Discussion regarding other barbecue issues) D. Glover said that we are good for cooks and for sauce. Broome County says that everyone who will be either cooking or handling

food needs to take the food safety course that is online. It will take about 10 minutes. The Broome County Health Department website link will be sent to everyone.

BYLAW:

- We sent a summary of the three bylaw proposals that we are working on to all of the members. These will be voted on next month. After we reviewed the proposals, no one present had any objections or questions.

B. C. FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION: No report.

WEBSITE:

- Amazon Smile was added to the website. It does not cost anything to go to Amazon Smile. If you order anything, a percentage goes to the fire company. It is set up so that it will download into our account. We are working on doing the same for PayPal.

RETENTION/ RECRUITING/ MEMBERSHIP:

- We have nothing for this month, but Seth Knapp will be coming off of probation next month.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS: None.

MEMBERS COMING OFF PROBATION: None.

SUNSHINE:

- Just a reminder that we now have company thank you cards, if anyone needs one to be sent to someone.

TRUCK COMMITTEE UPDATE:

(C. Hoyt)

- We have had several meetings, with the latest being with an E-One salesman. Our ideas, wants and needs were given to him. We are trying to keep things as close to the current Squad as possible, but we are looking to gain compartment space and a CAFS system. The drawings are currently in Engineering and we are waiting to go over the spec once complete. The Pierce dealership was contacted at the same time and it appears they don't have a salesman for our area. We received a few pictures for ideas that are available on their website, but that is the only contact we have received from them. We were hoping to have a meeting with their salesman but that has not happened.

(K. Battaglini)

- In our first meeting we talked about getting something similar to the Squad and increasing compartmentation. Based on our list of requirements, we will need more space than the Squad has. The foam CAFS system actually costs a lot less than we thought it would. We are considering changing the ladder rack as currently our tallest ladder is 24 feet; C. Hoyt wants a 35-foot, 24-foot, and a roof ladder as right now we cannot reach the third story with what we have. We are looking at a six-man cab with lower crosslays. The generator will need less output because all lighting will be LED. We want roll-up doors like the current ones on the Squad. We want factory mounting for

equipment to maximize compartmentation. The rig we are considering is 3 feet longer than the Squad, with the same wheel base. There are a couple of different cab styles, including similar to what we have now. The E-One salesperson is going to try to bring down a demo. They really get into a lot of safety aspects, such as collision-sensing, auto-braking, and full airbags. We do not know how much more these features would add, but we will discuss all of this before making a decision. We were looking at the top two manufacturers in our area; E-One and Pierce. There is no salesman for Pierce in our area right now; they are looking for one. There are a lot of other companies, but they are not as reliable. We looked at Maine's rig and the Pierce rig at Endwell. Pierce makes a very different rig than what we are used to. We are leaning heavily toward E-One. Their rigs are manufactured in Hamburg, NY as opposed to Pierce in Wisconsin. It is important that we watch the progression of the rig being built and Hamburg is only 3 hours away. According to our lawyer, we do not need to get competitive bids because we are a fire company and not a fire district. Maine is having trouble with their Pierce right now. It is possible that we can get pretty close to what we have now with the E-One.

(Discussion and questions)

- *Why did Endwell go with Pierce?* The answer to this is that they are having two rigs built and most likely got some kind of deal. Their rig is also a sort of generic model as well.
- *Are there lighter 35-foot ladders than what we had previously?* We are working on finding out. We might be able to get all three ladders positioned on the rig so that the 35-foot will come down lower.
- *Are there options for different safety features/electronics, such as setting up with Wifi so that the officer can bring up maps on the screen? With new system that the County has, we could we get something similar to this?* We have not talked about that sort of thing, but we can do so. M. Belensky is on the committee and this is probably right up his alley.
- *From a driver's point of view, any type of safety device such as rear-view and side-view cameras, etc would be great. We will get the cost breakdown of all of those things.*
- *Keeping the rig as similar to the one we already have is very important. I am concerned about the pump panel and some of the other controls, such as where the lights, fuses and generator are located. The rig will be taller and longer, but the primary objective is to make it as familiar as possible.*
- *The electronics on the rig right now is a rat's nest of wires. Is there any way that this can be improved upon?* Factory mounting would handle this so that it is all tucked away.

(K. Battaglini)

- Going to Hamburg is easy and we will be able to tell them where we want things located. The preliminary drawings are being worked on now. Every month we will update you and tell everyone know where we are in this process. If you have ideas, you can e-mail me. I will ask about the questions that were brought up. We can talk to County to find out what capabilities there are for a mobile hotspot.

OLD BUSINESS

Regarding the defensive driving class, everyone now should have the link if you want to take it.

Regarding awards from 2105, R. McConnell is looking into this. It appears that awards were handed out in 2014, so we will pick up with 2015. She is working with A. Silvestri and they will be ordering plaques. Contact R. McConnell and let her know if you believe that you were due for a service year award in 2015, just to make sure that your name is on the list.

Bylaw committee now has members and is up and running. Social committee responsibilities are being handled by the Auxiliary.

Regarding bills to be paid that are over \$5000 and need a membership vote, these are about to be brought forward under New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Bills totaling more than \$5000, which according to the bylaws require a vote by the membership in order to be paid. These items are in the budget and next year we will vote on them earlier in the budget process in order to comply with the bylaws.

- This purchase comes out of money that we get from Town of Union. It is the bill for our Workers Compensation insurance and it costs \$42,000.

YES: 15 NO: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

- Insurance for vehicles and buildings totals \$19,091.

YES: 15 NO: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

- Mortgage payment for 1 year, totaling \$68,607.41.

YES: 15 NO: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

- Additional payment to mortgage to reduce principal is \$30,000.

YES: 15 NO: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

- Regarding audit and taxes, if the amount of the budget hits a certain threshold it requires us to have a certain type of audit. This special audit is expensive. The threshold either has been raised or there is a proposal for it to be raised; we will find out if we need to have this special audit and see if we can save a little money. Meanwhile, we have to pay \$5600 for this special audit.

YES: 15 NO: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

The nomination board is open for the current vacancy on the board. The nomination board will be kept open until the May business meeting. Please send any nominations to K. Battaglini, who is the acting secretary. During the meeting F. Trzcinski nominated K. Miga.

G. Roberts offered his services and those of M. Roberts and J. Buonomo to help out with the project at Station 2 and this was gladly accepted. K. Battaglini forwarded information to G. Roberts about furniture and carpeting. We have \$12,567 budgeted for this project. G. Roberts will get the information together and present the ultimate package to the membership for

consideration. He is thinking about fixing the pool table and getting a foosball table and a big-screen TV. Send G. Roberts an e-mail with any suggestions or if you would like to volunteer to help out with this project.

R. Fiori mentioned that the side door at Station 2 does not lock. You have to manually tweak the clasp in order to make sure that it is locked. W. Miga said that J. VanKuren knows how to fix it so that it lasts for a few months before it becomes a problem again. Until it gets fixed, please tweak the lock mechanism or use brute force by slamming it shut. Make sure that it locks. If you are in a hurry, use the side door instead.

W. Miga said that we have the maintenance committee established, with M. Belensky as the lead for rigs and M. Henry as the lead for buildings. K. Battaglini is the lead from the board perspective. We are working through what the best communication mechanism is in order to tighten up the process for reporting and addressing issues. Right now the procedure is to put a request on the website and they will put it on the white board in the stations. You can look on white board to see if it is there and then you will know that the request was received. This is a work in progress and we want to get input from M. Henry and M. Belensky. G. Greenlee asked if there is any space availability on the website to keep track of who submitted it and what the problem is so that anyone can look at it and see it. W. Miga said that it is a pretty basic website, but we can talk about this and look into it.

Thank you, T. Meschter, for the very nice home-cooked meal!

REFRESHMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING: S. Drake

NUMBER ATTENDING: 20

VOTING: 15

TIME ADJORNED: Motion for adjournment was made by S. Drake and seconded by K. Hoyt at 21:04. All were in favor.

NEXT MEETING: May 2, 2016

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