

UNION CENTER FIRE COMPANY **COMPANY MEETING**

May 2, 2016

PRESENT: W. Miga, C. Hoyt, B. Dieffenbacher, K. Battaglini, D. Dieffenbacher, G. Roberts, M. Roberts, J. Buonomo, S. Hoyt, K. Hoyt, R. Fiori, K. Miga, R. McConnell, B. Polhamus, A. Drake, S. Drake, G. Greenlee, I. Espada, A. Silvestri, M. Belensky, K. Greenlee, S. Bealo, F. Trzcinski, J. Brown, D. Hoeflein, S. Meschter, R. Serowik

CALLED TO ORDER: 19:57

MINUTES FROM: 04/04/2016 **ACCEPTED:** F. Trzcinski, seconded by S. Drake

TREASURER'S REPORT

Activity checking: \$7562.90
General checking: \$3864.76

Activity: \$2415.59
2% Money: \$5247.31

- Last month we talked about having all members sign off on the financial policy form for use of company credit cards and the Weis cards. I am sending a copy of the policy around during the meeting; please read it and sign that you understand and agree to the terms. Basically it says that the cards will only be used for company business.
- Keep up the good work with submitting purchase orders.

ACCEPTED: J. Brown, seconded by C. Hoyt

BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS

None.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

A resignation letter was received from Derinda Schaffer. All of the company property that was assigned to her has now been received, so her resignation has been accepted.

A resignation was received from Nick Merianos, effective May 10, 2016, because he accepted a job in Denver, Colorado. We will miss you, Nick! Good luck!

A thank you card was received from the Daggy Family.

In case anyone missed the e-mail, everyone must read the Code of Ethics by the end of May and then sign the form on the last page of it. Slightly over half of the members have signed this so far. <http://www.unioncenterfire.com/members/bylaws/CodeOfEthics.pdf>

OFFICER REPORTS

CHIEF:

- We had a few items that we discussed at the officers meeting. If you show up for standby, stay at the station until you are released. If it seems like a very long time has passed, call Dispatch and let them know that you are waiting to hear if you can be released.
- If you are unsure of an assignment or it seems different than what you are accustomed to doing, try to confirm the assignment with an officer before you start to carry it out.
- If there is a driver available, the Squad goes to Maine during fire calls.
- PESH meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2016.

FIRST ASSISTANT CHIEF:

- Fire reports are up to date with the State for the first quarter.

SECOND ASSISTANT CHIEF:

- Thank you to everyone who attended the UHS conference.
- Hose testing will take place sometime in June and ladder testing will be in September. I will schedule these things and will let everyone know exactly when they will be taking place.

DAY CAPTAIN:

- Thank you for all of the help with the open house, including cleaning and staying around to keep the station manned for applicants.

NIGHT CAPTAIN: No report.

FIRST LIEUTENANT: No report.

SECOND LIEUTENANT: No report.

FIRE POLICE CAPTAIN: No report.

EMS:

- I just recently completed the every-4-year recertification of our agency with the Department of Public Health.
- Last month I talked about expanding the Narcan (naloxone) program for opioid overdose so that non-EMS personnel can also administer it. We will be having training for this on June 2, 2016 at 7 p.m. This is a 2-hour class and everyone is welcome. It is interesting because it gives insight into the scope of the problem that we are facing with opioid abuse.
- I have CPR course cards which I will continue to give to those who participated.
- We had five members who participated in the UHS trauma teaching day on April 16, 2016. It was particularly interesting as there was a lot of information regarding extrication and technical rescue. Thanks to all who participated.

- Three other EMS providers and myself each have two doses of hydroxocobalamin, which is an antidote for cyanide poisoning. We are making this available 24/7.

FIRE MARSHAL: No report.

SAFETY OFFICER: No report.

MAINTENANCE:

- The Squad is getting new tires tomorrow and will be OOS for 2 hours.
- The Squad crosslay is repaired. Hard water corrosion was found on the plumbing threads and the hose gasket was replaced.
- The pump panel and walkway lights were repaired on the Pumper-Tanker. Thanks to D. Hoeflein for his help.
- New hand pumps for soap barrels are in service and I haven't heard of any issues with them.
- NYS inspections for apparatus will be starting this month.

AIR/CASCADE:

- One pack is out of service.
- I sent an e-mail to the person who will repair the fill station door, who said that he would do it when he was back in town, but I have not heard anything back from him yet.

TRAINING:

(J. VanKuren)

- Akron nozzle salesman is coming on May 7, 2016.
- EVOG course is scheduled during Saturday training on May 14, 2016.

(C. Hoyt)

- Congratulations to J. VanKuren, J. Mann, H. Polhamus, and B. Polhamus, who took the Principles of Instruction state class. The instructor said that he was very happy with the performance of the Union Center members. (K. Battaglini pointed out that C. Hoyt had also taken the class, but was too modest to congratulate himself on completing it).
- Congratulations to B. Dieffenbacher and D. Dieffenbacher for completing the state wildland search class.
- I. Espada and A. Drake are signed up for boot camp. They have skill sheets which need to be filled out, so please help them with those if you can.
- J. VanKuren and I signed up to take the state weapons of mass destruction class.
- R. Fiori needs a hot run with the Rescue. He has also been training on the Squad and the tanker.
- S. Drake needs a hot run with the brush truck.
- EVOG course is May 14, 2016. If you are here tonight and plan on attending this, let me know.
- An updated state class schedule is posted on the www.gobroomecounty.com website.

HEALTH/SAFETY: No report.

AUDIT: No report.

PARADE:

(F. Trzcinski)

- I attended the parade for the opening of the new Little Meadows fire station. There were tons of people and tons of food. It was a really nice event.

AUXILIARY:

- The auxiliary cleaned the kitchen at Station 2 in preparation for the chicken barbecue. We boxed up a lot of glass dishes. They are presently sitting in the Station 2 kitchen until we decide what to do with them or someone tells us what to do with them.
- The announcement for our chicken barbecue is posted in the Broome County newsletter.
- We have two good grills for the barbecue. I went to the West Corners chicken barbecue and they had a really nice grill from Richard Corwin. I spoke to him and it is available, so I will call him tomorrow and set this up. Shelly's grill is out front and is usable, so that will be sent up to Station 2.
- If you are planning on working at the chicken barbecue, you need to go to www.gobroomecounty.com and take the food safety course (details will be sent in a separate e-mail). It is mostly common sense and is very easy. It should only take about 10 minutes. We need your signed certificate if you will be working near the food.
- I need to get an idea of how much chicken to order. Last year we cooked 325 and we sold out. (After a brief discussion, we agreed that B. Polhamus will order 325).

BYLAW:

- We are voting on three proposals. All members received information as to the exact wording and to which articles these proposals apply.
- The first proposal is merely to correct a mistake in the bylaws, where the bylaw refers to a nonexistent provision.

YES: 21

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

- The second proposal addresses removing payment of dues for all membership classes.

YES: 21

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

- The third proposal addresses removing the reference to posting bylaw proposals in the station. Before the vote took place, C. Hoyt brought up that the bylaw under consideration states in the opening paragraph that the current provision that is in the bylaws is also in the certificate of incorporation. If this is the case, then we will have to change the certificate of incorporation when we make the change to the bylaw. It was decided to table this vote until we can research this issue more thoroughly.
- We have a new proposal in the works for standardizing the quorum requirements. Someone pointed out to us that the bylaws say that we need 10 active members for a quorum to vote on bylaw changes, yet they state that we need 10 active members or 25% of active members (whichever is greater) for voting on company affairs. We are seeking opinions as to whether we should have a set number or a percentage. The following points were brought up during the discussion about this:
 - *As our membership increases, having a set number like 10 members would mean that a small fraction of the membership may be deciding the outcome of issues for the entire company.*

- *We could have a set number which we could then update once a year at the annual meeting, depending upon our membership numbers.*
- *Having a percentage might hold things up in terms of voting on company business because we might not have enough members present at a meeting to vote on a particular issue.*
- *If we have a percentage, then at each meeting we have to figure out what the number is because our membership fluctuates. It is easier with a set number.*
- *Adding the 25% to the bylaw for changing the bylaws to make it the same as the other bylaws might be easier than changing all of the rest of the references to the quorum throughout the bylaws (except we might need to change this in the certificate of incorporation too, depending upon what is determined above).*

B. C. FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION: No report.

WEBSITE:

- We got a recommendation from G. Greenlee that we track maintenance requests on website. We discussed it and we are setting up a meeting with Grey Goose to review this.

RETENTION/ RECRUITING/ MEMBERSHIP:

- We received an application from Adam Keogh, who lives very close to Station 1. References are being reviewed.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS: None.

MEMBERS COMING OFF PROBATION:

- We were to vote on Seth Knapp coming off of probation after 6 months, but the officers' recommendation is that we extend his probation for 3 months.

SUNSHINE:

- A funeral arrangement was sent for B. Gazdik's grandmother last week.

TRUCK COMMITTEE UPDATE:

- We sent a spec out to everybody and I have received a marked-up copy back from B. Dieffenbacher, who made lots of helpful comments. You can mark up the document that we sent out with any comments and send it back. Towards the end of this week or beginning of next week we will be meeting to go through everything.

OLD BUSINESS

The nomination board was opened at last month's meeting for the empty board position. F. Trzcinski nominated K. Miga during last month's meeting. No other nominations were received. The nomination board was therefore closed.

Board position: K. Miga (running unopposed)

YES: 18

NO: 1

ABSTAIN: 2

(G. Roberts) Regarding the station 2 room project, the room is nearly empty but the TV set still needs to be removed and we need help with that. As soon as everything is removed from the room we will schedule the installation of carpeting and furniture. I am looking for a company vote on tile-style carpeting rather than 12-foot sections. It is commercial-type carpeting from Endwell Rug. If something spills on it and stains, we can just put down a new tile. It will blend much more easily than replacing a 12-foot section.

- (S. Bealo) We have that type at work and it wears really well. A chair running continuously over a seam did pull up the carpeting, but I only saw that in one place.

YES: 21

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

(G. Roberts) Members viewed the swatches of carpeting and charcoal seemed to be the most popular color, so I would like to get approval for that color.

YES: 21

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

(G. Roberts) Regarding the furniture, Olums will give us a very good price on it. We found recliners which are very comfortable and will glide, swivel or recline. They are \$560 each. We found an entertainment center for \$400 and end tables with marble tops that will not stain for \$47. Best Buy will mount the large-screen TV for \$300 on the cinder block wall.

A motion was made to spend no more than \$9000 for carpeting and furniture, including mounting of the TV.

YES: 21

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

The side door at Station 2 door is fixed.

NEW BUSINESS

We were approached by a company that builds cell towers. If everything goes okay, we will rent a portion of our land to them. (Map of our land was projected on the screen). They will build an access road from Taft Avenue to a 50 x 50 foot area in the corner of our land, which is actually about the most unusable portion of land that we own. We would receive \$3000 per year with one cell service and they can go up to five, for a maximum of \$15,000 per year in rent that we would get for this. We will need a lawyer to guide us through this, so we will be paying lawyer fees. We do not know how tall the tower will be. The company will also have to talk to the Town. It appears that there is a 5-year contract which is renewable for 50 years. We would have to find out if this could be renegotiated.

- (R. Serowik): Ultimately having a cell tower there would be a good thing for public safety.
- (G. Greenlee): We are making a profit off of this, is our portion of land taxable?

We will have to spend some amount of money to negotiate this and at this point we are just going to continue to explore this. Please let the board know if you hear any cautionary tales. We are not making any commitments yet.

- (S. Meschter): We should find out what happens if the company goes out of business and the tower needs to come down because it is an eyesore.

The parking lot at Station 2 is turning into a mud pit. (K. Battaglini) Broome Bituminous has offered to do the work for \$24,990. If I were doing the work, 62% of that cost would be for

materials. It is a very good price. They would place 3 inches of type III binder and 2 inches of type 6 over that (what they use on roads). We will not be able to park rigs on it for prolonged periods of time, but we can certainly train on it.

- (B. Dieffenbacher): We would be taking money from our savings account for this work, but we do have the money to cover it.

Motion to use \$24,990 to pave the parking lot at Station 2.

(Note that S. Drake and A. Drake left prior to this vote and that is why only 19 members are voting.)

YES: 19

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

Thank you, Drake Family, for the excellent meal!

REFRESHMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING: Board

NUMBER ATTENDING: 26

VOTING: 21 until the last vote; 19 voted after S. Drake and A. Drake left

TIME ADJORNED: Motion for adjournment was made by A. Silvestri and seconded by M. Belensky at 21:16. All were in favor.

NEXT MEETING: June 6, 2016

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