

## UNION CENTER FIRE COMPANY

### BOARD MEETING

June 5, 2017

**PRESENT:** W. Miga, K. Miga, R. Bealo, C. Hoyt, B. Polhamus, K. Greenlee, G. Greenlee, A. Drake, K. Battaglini

**NOT PRESENT:** S. Meschter

Request for LOA from S. Bealo and J. Mann: We unanimously agreed to grant both of these.

Building committee: Ken and Gordie will talk about what needs to be done for Gordie to take over for Ken while he is working this summer.

Board meeting/business meeting for July 3, 2017: Karen and Wes will be on vacation and other members are also likely to be on vacation. Since we will not have a quorum for the board meeting, we will cancel this. The bylaws do not have a provision to cancel or postpone a business meeting unless there is a legal holiday, which July 3<sup>rd</sup> is not. We will notify the members that it is likely that many people will not be attending the July 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, that there is no one signed up to provide a meal that day, and that if members are present for a meeting, someone has to take the minutes.

Members Not in Good Standing going to calls: Members will notify the training officer when they make up hours in arrears, and then he will in turn let Karen know when people make up their hours so that she can update the roster. Karen will make signs to go on the racks of MNIGS to remind them that they cannot go to calls until hours are made up. Karen and John will work out the logistics of who will put up/take down the signs.

CPA audit items: Stephan is in charge of this and we will await an update.

Town budget questions: Stephan was going to work with Chris regarding the outlook for different rig items. The big question is what to do about the Rescue. Chris says that a new Rescue would cost \$700,000, repairing the chassis would cost \$300,000, and not replacing the Rescue would cost \$0. A few items to consider regarding the budget are outlook improvements/repairs such as repairing the parking lot at Station 1, the insulation, new ceiling and lighting at Station 2, possibly purchasing the lot next to Station 1, and improvements such as building a pavilion on the lot at Station 2. Gordie thinks that we should ask for 2% as we have requested the lowest increase in the town budget for several years. Chris thinks that we need to factor in the salary of a paid

person to handle the new member checklist, tracking of physicals and other things like code of ethics, and also filing, etc. Wes said that we have business members and auxiliary members in need of service hours, so why should we be going out and paying someone to do things that members could do to obtain hours? Chris will ask Endwell how much they paid Alice per hour and the rest of the board will come up with a list of tasks for the paid person to perform.

OSHA training: Bob will put together a list of requirements that can be covered during training and will leave it at Station 2 for John. The policy for OSHA training is currently on the website; it appears that everybody is okay with the way it is worded.

Digital records: Obtaining a scanner is on Wes's to-do list.

Worker's Comp: We reviewed the information from our lawyer regarding this. He suggested that Wes contact Mang and get quotes from other insurance providers.

Policies: Current policies are on the website and everyone agrees that they are okay. Ken will be coming up with the list of new policies after he is done working this year.

Financial polices: We are looking to Stephan for any updates.

Changing account owners for maintenance account: We agreed unanimously that either Mark B. or Ken can sign purchase orders.

Adding approvers to fuel account: Frank T. (audit committee) arrived just prior to this discussion and suggested that board members and officers handle oversight of fuel purchase orders; we unanimously agreed.

Probationary members: We reviewed what our lawyer recommended in terms of eliminating probationary members and how legally someone is either a member of the company or not a member of the company; probationary members will be at risk of not being covered by VFBL insurance. Chris disagreed and said that paid companies have probationary members and that the bylaws were written by a lawyer, so therefore we should be able to have probationary members. The bylaws are over 10 years old and things constantly change on the legal front; our lawyer is giving us a heads-up that lawsuits are now occurring where probationary members are being denied VFBL insurance if they are injured. The insurance companies have found a loophole to deny coverage and he is advising us to close the loophole in order to protect ourselves from possible legal ramifications. Wes said that Chris should discuss this with our lawyer, who might be better able to explain this than we can, or that any board member can talk to any other lawyer for a second opinion and relay the outcome of the discussion to the rest of us.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen S. Miga*