

UNION CENTER FIRE COMPANY **ANNUAL COMPANY MEETING**

February 4, 2017

PRESENT: W. Miga, K. Battaglini, B. Dieffenbacher, R. Bealo, K. Miga, C. Hoyt, D. Glover, R. McConnell, A. Silvestri, A. Drake, H. Polhamus, D. Kerila, B. Polhamus, S. Bealo, D. Hoeflein, R. Fiori, J. VanKuren, J. Brown, E. Belensky, D. Dieffenbacher, T. Mason, K. Greenlee, A. Greenlee, G. Roberts, K. Serowik, R. Serowik, K. Hoyt, S. Hoyt, M. Belensky, C. Buonomo, F. Trzcinski

CALLED TO ORDER: 12:45

MINUTES FROM: 01/02/2017 **ACCEPTED:** A. Silvestri, seconded by K. Battaglini

TREASURER'S REPORT

Activity checking: \$7234.67
General checking: \$14,331.20

Activity: \$2005.79
2% Money: \$5228.88

I sent out the monthly budget file; please look it over and let us know of any errors.

We have one more budget meeting on Monday, February 6, 2017 and then we should be done with the budget.

ACCEPTED: K. Battaglini, seconded by K. Serowik

*** W. Miga said that at this time he would like to thank Bill, whose board term is ending, for all of his hard work and for getting us squared away in terms of our financial situation over the past 6 years/two board terms (*APPLAUSE*).

BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Endicott Firefighters Emerald Society is inviting you, your friends, and family members to their annual Post Parade Party on Saturday, March 4, 2017 at the Terra Cotta Banquet Room at 81 State Street in downtown Binghamton. It will start at 4 p.m. (right after the parade) and will continue until 10 p.m. Admission is \$30 and includes food, beer, wine, soda, and Guinness (cash bar for mixed drinks). There will be a DJ and bagpipe performances at 6 and 8 p.m. This usually sells out. Get tickets at www.EndicottFire.Com and follow the link to purchase tickets with PayPal. E-mail EndicottFFemeraldsociety@yahoo.com or call or text (585) 209-3337. Or stop in person at the Endicott Fire Department to purchase tickets after 5 p.m.

The annual Thomas F. With Fire Police Training and Education Seminar will take place from May 11 to May 14, 2017 at the NYS Academy in Montour Falls. There are various packages and prices available depending upon how many days you are staying and what type of room you would like to stay in. If you would like to go there is a registration form that you need to fill out and send in by March 18, 2017. (This information will be posted on the bulletin board at Station 1. You can copy the registration form and put the original back on the bulletin board).

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Members Not in Good Standing due to quarterly hours:

- E. Belensky

Members currently inactive due to quarterly hours:

- B. Gazdik
- J. Pedro

During New Business we will be disbanding the current committees and forming new ones for 2017. This is a membership committee heads-up; we need more than two people on this committee. Please consider joining the membership committee as we are having a problem integrating new members into the company and could definitely use more help.

Regarding insulating the ceiling in the bay area at Station 2, K. Battaglini explained that in the past we looked into replacing the drop ceiling and installing 4" fiberglass insulation. This is very ineffective in that location because huge air gaps cause loss of heat; we would be losing a tremendous amount of money through this heat loss. An option we are currently investigating is the removal of the entire drop ceiling and insulating with spray foam. This is highly flammable, but they can apply intumescent paint over the ceiling (similar to what is painted on the ceiling of the Oakdale Mall) to create a fire seal. We got a quote for \$25,000 and will be getting another quote on Tuesday. In the board meeting today we discussed the heating system, which is a little scary. It blows a huge flame down the pipes and a few years ago it did not shut off properly. We could look into the installation of a boiler with a fan unit and hot water. The current heating system would not be compatible with the foam insulation. We are just in the stages of investigating this. (A quote for installation of fiberglass was about \$15,000.)

R. Bealo said that he will be sending out a letter to all company members explaining what OSHA hours and classes are needed for each membership class. This letter will also explain how these hours and classes may be obtained, including instructions for the online classes. If you take OSHA classes at your place of employment, it will be decided on a case-by-case basis whether these can be applied to your company OSHA classes. There will be a 6-hour OSHA class on February 25, 2017 at Windsor High School starting at 8 a.m. The 6-hour class will be broken into segments depending upon topic and there will be a general session as well. They are planning a Huron class for

April but it has not been scheduled yet and nothing else has been scheduled for Western Broome. The board will be working on how these hours are to be tallied. If you have an opinion, please let R. Bealo know if you prefer to have them tallied quarterly and applied to your training hours each quarter, or if you would like to have them applied all at once to the third quarter.

Today is Sierra Hoyt's birthday. Happy Birthday Sierra! (*Applause and singing of Happy Birthday Dear Sierra, more or less on key.*)

OFFICER REPORTS

CHIEF:

- Thank you for a good year. There were no injuries reported that I know of.
- While doing incentive orders, I noticed that there are some members who are putting a lot of time into training but minimal time into calls. Please try to make calls; that is what we are here for. Increasing the number of people who are making calls is what we should be working towards.
- The incentive order is due tonight, but I am still missing a few. If anyone did not order clothing ONLINE, as you were supposed to do, but filled out a form instead, please let me know today. I will make sure that it gets ordered online. The clothing order will be here much sooner than the order from The Fire Store.
- Regarding bladder bags for brush fires, the red ones were ordered as everyone had issues with the yellow ones. They should be here in about 4 to 6 weeks, so hopefully they will be here before brush fire season.
- Last month there was a question brought up at the officers meeting regarding responses to our own automatic alarm calls. This is still on the table for discussion. At this time it will be left to the officer's discretion whether or not to cancel the call, so we will not be canceling every single time.

FIRST ASSISTANT CHIEF:

- All fire reporting of the 512 calls for service for 2016 have been submitted and accepted by the state.
- There was a minor change made to EMS no-response calls in the fire reports. I worked with G. Roberts on a solution and it seems to be working okay.

SECOND ASSISTANT CHIEF:

- I appreciate the people who helped me out this year with OSHA ladder testing and hose testing. It is a huge help and it is so important. I really want to thank F. Trzcinski and W. Miga and anyone else who helped me out this year.
- You know that I think community outreach is very important. I would like to thank the people who went down to the school for the fire drill and to the spring and fall festivals. We have to reach out at the school because those people live in our district. I want to thank the Auxiliary because they are always there to help out. It makes us look good to the community and the children at the school are future potential members of our company. Also, seeing firefighters at their school will make them less likely to be afraid of firefighters during an emergency situation.

DAY CAPTAIN: No report.

NIGHT CAPTAIN: No report.

FIRST LIEUTENANT: No report.

SECOND LIEUTENANT: No report.

FIRE POLICE CAPTAIN: No report.

EMS:

- Professional Rescuer CPR class will take place next Saturday, February 11, 2017 at 10 a.m. at Station 1 until about 3 p.m. Everyone in the company is encouraged to participate. There was a successful resuscitation at UE High School last week, so you can see how important CPR training is for everyone.
- UHS Trauma Teaching Day will take place on Saturday, March 18, 2017 at 7 a.m. (registration) with the first speaker at 8 a.m. This will end at 5 p.m. UCFC usually covers registration costs for active EMS members. Let me know if you are interested in attending. I have the preliminary schedule and if anyone wants to see it, I can e-mail it to you.
- There will be a presentation (by me) on February 20, 2017 at West Corners fire station. The topic is instant rehab for Auxiliary members. It will start at 7:30 p.m. UCFC members (especially Auxiliary) are invited to attend.
- EMS training is scheduled for March 23, 2017 at 7 p.m. at Station 1. This is an update on collaborative BLS protocols, which are going into effect on April 3, 2017 at 00:01. I encourage all to attend, especially crew chiefs.
- UE High School is going to be hosting a statewide outdoor track-and-field championship on June 9 and 10, 2017. They requested to use our misting fan that weekend.

FIRE MARSHAL: No report.

SAFETY OFFICER:

- I am signed up for a 14-hour health and safety class on February 11, 2017. I will be taking another 14-hour course on building construction in March and then I will be certified. C. Hoyt is also taking the health and safety class and we will be bringing a lot of information back to the company.

MAINTENANCE:

- The front warning strobe light on Pumper-Tanker 53 has been installed and it is working.
- The new front spray bar controller on the brush truck has been installed and is working properly. The valve was intentionally left open for the winter months.
- We have purchased LED tire pressure sensors for the Squad and the brush truck. They will flash red for 3 weeks, if not noticed, for a drop in air pressure of

5-10 psi. C. Hoyt found out that they actually do work, as the Squad had a leaking valve stem (repaired) when it came back from Syracuse. With this upgrade, as of now the tire pressures don't have to be manually checked every month, other than a visual of the sensor, which will save time at training. It wouldn't hurt to actually check the tire pressures every other month, but as of now it's not required. We are planning on outfitting the rest of the trucks with these sensors in the future; the Utility and EMS this month and possibly the Tanker and the Rescue during next year's budget. If you have any questions, please ask.

- The pump governor on the Squad has been repaired. The issues were a bad data cable and corroded connections. If there are any problems, let me know.

AIR/CASCADE:

- Fit testing will take place on February 28, 2017 during drill. All current green tags are required to attend.

TRAINING:

(J. VanKuren)

- Live burn will take place on February 25, 2017 starting at 9 a.m. Meet at your respective stations.
- There is a class that is coming up on the same day as the fit test.

(C. Hoyt)

- The situational awareness class will take place on February 28, 2017, the same night as the fit test, but we are awaiting confirmation of this. This will be a great class for the EMS team.
- On February 21, 2017, there will be a hero maintenance class presented at Newark Valley. We will do this for training that day.
- We are working on the driver training policy and it will be in effect shortly.
- S. Drake completed a hot run last Saturday and is therefore qualified to drive small vehicles.
- A. Drake turned 18 and he now has his green tags.

HEALTH/SAFETY: No report.

AUDIT: No report.

PARADE:

- The St. Patrick's Day parade will take place on March 4, 2017. Meet at Station 2. I will send e-mail in another week or two with all of the details.

AUXILIARY:

- We will be providing food for the Broome County Firefighters Association meeting that is taking place at Station 1 on March 3, 2017.

BYLAW:

- Regarding the proposal to the bylaw referencing the Auxiliary under the membership class section: “Auxiliary members serve in a supporting function to the fire company.”

Yes: 15

No: 13

Abstain: 1

B. C. FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION:

- In recognition of her retirement from Endwell, Alice received an appreciation award from Senator Akshar for her years of service for Endwell Fire Department.
- A special 125th anniversary celebration will take place at the Firefighters Home on May 20 and 21, 2017. There will be all kinds of activities.
- The WBNG valley shots that you see on the news are from the web cam on Ingraham Hill.
- They are looking for EMT and EMT paramedics to support the dive team, HAZMAT, and high ropes team. Contact R. Serowik if you are interested.
- The Move-Over law for blue and green lights is now in effect.
- At the April meeting, the New York State Police will be speaking about safety issues.

(C. Hoyt)

- Here are the weather links for Broome County:
<http://www.weatherlink.com/user/bcoms> and
<http://nysmesonet.org/mesonow#?stid=BING>

WEBSITE:

- Grey Goose Graphics made a suggestion to update our website with new technology. We will continue working with them to improve our website accessibility on mobile devices. We will invite John Hussar to our meeting next month to talk about this.
- John Hussar has had good feedback and good results from other organizations with the work he does on social media. We will be looking at this to see if there is more that we can do in this area, perhaps on Facebook. We are also looking at some ideas to create a company video about who we are and what we do. Money was allocated by the board for this.

RETENTION/ RECRUITING/ MEMBERSHIP:

- We received an application from Sayword Hover, who used to be an Endwell member. She is interested in fire and auxiliary. Our next step is to interview her.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS: None.

MEMBERS COMING OFF PROBATION:

- Seth Knapp and Colin Nally will be up for coming off of probation next month.

SUNSHINE: None.

TRUCK COMMITTEE: K. Battaglini has the final specs and the questions that we need to ask the salesman. At the budget meeting on Monday, February 6, 2017 we will talk about the balloon payment for the Station 1 mortgage that is due this year, which needs to either be paid off or renegotiated. We will need a loan for the truck because we do not have the money to pay for it. Are we going to have a building loan and a truck loan? We need to work out the financials, but the rest of the truck decisions seem to be nearing completion. Ballpark figure for the truck is just shy of \$700,000.

ELECTION OF COMPANY OFFICERS:

- Two tellers were appointed by W. Miga (C. Buonomo and B. Dieffenbacher).
- We had received an objection letter regarding J. VanKuren running for the chief position, but this became moot when he declined all nominations for officer positions.
- Eight absentee ballots were filled out, but two of these members actually attended the meeting and their ballots were given to them to destroy.
- There were 29 voting members present at the meeting and 6 absentee ballots were used, for a total of 35 voting members. Twenty-five fire and EMS members were present or voted through absentee ballots for line officers. Thirty-five members from all classes were present or voted through absentee ballots for the board members.
- A. Silvestri removed his name from the chief and first-assistant chief positions before voting began.

Line officers were elected by majority (15 or more votes).

CHIEF:

- **C. Hoyt**, running unopposed.

YES: 23

NO: 2

ABSTAIN: 0

FIRST ASSISTANT CHIEF:

- **M. Belensky**, running unopposed.

YES: 21

NO: 4

ABSTAIN: 0

SECOND ASSISTANT CHIEF:

- **A. Silvestri**, running unopposed.

YES: 24

NO: 1

ABSTAIN: 0

DAY CAPTAIN:

- **J. Mann**, running unopposed.

YES: 24

NO: 1

ABSTAIN: 0

NIGHT CAPTAIN: **VACANT**

FIRST LIEUTENANT:

- **T. Meschter**, running unopposed.

YES: 20

NO: 4

ABSTAIN: 0

SECOND LIEUTENANT: **VACANT**

FIRE POLICE CAPTAIN:

- **T. Mason**, running unopposed.

YES: 25

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

EMS CAPTAIN:

- J. Buonomo 9
- **D. Kerila 16**
- Abstain 0

The board members were elected by plurality, not majority, according to our bylaws.
There were two positions open (two 3-year terms).

BOARD MEMBERS: (Two 3-year terms) Each voting member cast votes for two people.

- D. Dieffenbacher 3
- **S. Meschter 20**
- **K. Miga 30**
- R. Serowik 17
- Abstain: 0

Line officer positions take effect on 03/01/2017.

The new board members adjourned to discuss what positions would be filled by whom.
Board positions take effect immediately.

PRESIDENT: W. Miga

VICE PRESIDENT: K. Battaglini

TREASURER: S. Meschter

SECRETARY: K. Miga

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE: R. Bealo

W. Miga announced that the board unanimously agreed to appoint R. Serowik to the board-appointed position of company chaplain, which Ray graciously accepted.

The positions for Night Captain and First Lieutenant remain vacant. At the March business meeting we will vote on whether we need to waive some or all of the bylaw

requirements if no one who is qualified or willing to run for these positions. We will then open the nomination board and will vote to fill these vacant positions.

OLD BUSINESS

Regarding the malfunctioning lights for flagpole at Station 1, it sounds like an outlet on the flagpole is the problem and this will be replaced. We will also be getting a price for all of the exterior lighting to be changed to LED at Station 1 and a price to install LED in the bays at Station 2.

M. Henry's company will service the boiler at Station 2. We will get a price from them and two other companies regarding changing the heating system at Station 2.

We are waiting for a repair person to fix the exterior door to the parking lot at station 1.

Regarding the exterior door to the hall at Station 2, Syracuse Time and Alarm will be working on this. It will cost about \$800 to replace one of the boards. We will get other prices from other companies if it turns out that it would be more cost-effective to replace the whole key fob system.

The generator at Station 1 is working now, but the battery was completely dead. K. Battaglini will find out what needs to be done to prevent this from happening in the future. The plate was removed from the generator at Station 2 and we therefore do not have the codes, serial number, or any other identifying data. The manual has not been found and there are no records with the serial number at Home Depot. Because the components cannot be identified, we might not be able to repair it because we don't know what parts are needed. We might have to purchase a new generator.

Regarding the alarm system at Station 1, it appears that the cell phone dialer just dropped. Since this has only happened once, we will keep an eye on it. Let K. Battaglini know if there is a problem.

NEW BUSINESS

W. Miga disbanded all of the standing committees and asked for volunteers for new committees for 2017. Thanks to all who volunteered. If you were not present at the meeting, someone might have volunteered you for a committee. If not, you can still sign up for any committee except the bylaw committee, which has a limit of three members. Let W. Miga know if you wish to serve on a committee.

- AUDIT: K. Serowik, F. Trzcinski, J. Drotar
- PARADE: S. Bealo, R. Bealo
- WEBSITE: M. Belensky, W. Miga
- BYLAW: T. Mason, R. Fiori, K. Miga
- MEMBERSHIP: A. Silvestri, E. Belensky, G. Roberts, D. Kerila, J. VanKuren

- SUNSHINE: K. Hoyt, R. McConnell, S. Hoyt
- MAINTENANCE: K. Battaglini, H. Polhamus, G. Greenlee

As a company we need to vote to approve any expenses that total over \$5000. There are five yearly budget items which total more than \$5000. W. Miga said that he would like to vote on these items as a group and not singly, unless there were any objections. As there were none, we voted on the following expenses as an entire group.

- Insurance/Worker's Compensation: \$42,000
- Mortgage: \$68,000
- Additional payment for the mortgage: \$30,000
- Audit: \$5600

YES: 29

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

REFRESHMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING: Hoyt Family

NUMBER ATTENDING: 31

VOTING: 29 plus 6 absentee ballots cast, totaling 35

TIME ADJORNED: Motion to adjourn the 70th anniversary year annual meeting (1947-2017) made by A. Silvestri and seconded by C. Hoyt at 15:10. Everyone was in agreement.

NEXT MEETING: March 6, 2017

Respectfully submitted, *Karen S. Miga*