

UNION CENTER FIRE COMPANY **ANNUAL COMPANY MEETING**

March 6, 2017

PRESENT: W. Mlga, A. Silvestri, M. Belensky, R. Bealo, J. Mann, C. Nally, D. Hoeflein, J. Brown, T. Meschter, B. Polhamus, J. Drotar, F. Trzcinski, R. Fiori, S. Drake, R. McConnell, C. Buonomo, J. Buonomo, D. Dieffenbacher, B. Dieffenbacher, K. Miga, K. Hoyt, S. Hoyt, R. Serowik

CALLED TO ORDER: 19:50

MINUTES FROM: 02/04/2017 **ACCEPTED:** F. Trzcinski, seconded by A. Silvestri

TREASURER'S REPORT

Activity checking: \$7234.67

Activity: \$2005.79

General checking: \$19,854.53

2% Money: \$5228.88

ACCEPTED: J. Drotar, seconded by B. Dieffenbacher

BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS

We received a very nice card from F. Trzcinski, thanking us for the get-well basket.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Members Not in Good Standing due to quarterly hours:

- E. Belensky

Members currently inactive due to quarterly hours:

- B. Gazdik
- J. Pedro

(Due to being Members Not in Good Standing for 6 months and then inactive for another 6 months, the two members listed above will be coming off of the roster at the end of March 2017.)

The Town of Union has an agreement with UHS for Workers' Comp cases, which is the preferred place for medical treatment if you sustain an injury. You can go elsewhere if you want to, but UHS is preferable if it does not matter to you.

Information will be forthcoming ASAP for members in need of physicals. Prior to going for a physical, you need to ask W. Miga for an authorization letter to bring with you to your appointment (this is in addition to the paperwork that is on the website). This authorization letter will state exactly what needs to be performed at your physical for your membership class. Please look it over after you receive it and make sure that the information is correct. In case W. Miga is unavailable, R. Bealo is the backup person for this.

A test for actually lifting 35 pounds or 50 pounds has been added to the physical exam, so this is something that you can expect to do if it is required for your membership class.

We did not hand out company membership cards at the annual meeting for the following reasons: We no longer pay dues, we did not have a roster in the past and now we do, and we also have picture ID tags from the County (also available to business members if they want them). However, if you would like an actual membership card from UCFC, contact K. Miga and she will give you one.

As of this afternoon there is no OSHA class listed on the County web page. The 8-hour OSHA class at Windsor was attended by six members. They have finished their 8 hours of OSHA training for 2017.

OFFICER REPORTS

CHIEF:

- If you are obtaining county ID tags for the FIRST time, per Coordinator Vroman, PLEASE set up an appointment first. Do not just show up at the office. He can be reached via e-mail at tvroman@co.broome.ny.us or phone 607-778-1887.
- If you have already had your picture taken and have lost a tag or your tag needs changes, contact an officer with what is needed. We will periodically turn in the list of needed changes and issue new tags once completed.
- Thank you to Chief M. Belensky and also anyone who helped with all of the work involved with getting all of our fire reports for 2016 submitted. I was thankful that we were not on that list with our pending SCBA grant.
- No news yet on either the SCBA grant or the Micro grant we submitted. A meeting is set for March with all departments and a salesman to discuss options and any steps needed prior to hopefully receiving the grant.
- We reviewed what happened with our recent injured member and concluded that we needed to cover the importance of three points of contact. Chief A. Silvestri covered this at Saturday training and it should be covered again on Tuesday.

(W. Miga): I would also like to thank M. Belensky for the work he did with the 2016 fire reports. I would also like to thank the Auxiliary for providing the food for the Broome County Firefighters Association meeting the other night. It was really good and everyone seemed to enjoy it.

FIRST ASSISTANT CHIEF:

- I would like to remind all members to use IAMRESPONDING for all calls. It helps to know who is responding to calls, it helps us when we do fire reports, and it ensures that people are getting credit for attending calls.
- UCFC received a \$50 card from the Akel Family for our response to the fire at Weis in West Corners a few weeks ago.

SECOND ASSISTANT CHIEF:

- Thanks to everyone who comes to training on Saturdays; I think that it is going well.
- Thanks to everyone who came to the fire the other night. Although manpower was short, we got kudos from Endwell's chief for coming and helping out. I believe that W. Miga and C. Hoyt deserve a lot of the credit for that. Everything went well and it appeared to be a really good stop.

DAY CAPTAIN:

- Please make sure that air packs are in service and ready for use following training and calls. There was an issue recently on the Squad where two packs were missing cylinders while responding to a call.

NIGHT CAPTAIN: (Vacant)

FIRST LIEUTENANT: I have nothing to add.

SECOND LIEUTENANT: (Vacant)

FIRE POLICE CAPTAIN: No report.

- Some members mentioned the Traffic Incident Management class that will take place at Campville Fire Department on Saturday, April 8, 2017. You need to RSVP to Rebecca Gibson by March 31, 2017 at timprogram@dot.ny.gov A e-mail regarding this class was sent out to the membership on February 24, 2017.

EMS: *(This report was not read at the meeting as an e-mail from D. Kerila arrived while the meeting was in progress and we did not notice it until afterwards.)*

- EMS training will take place on Thursday, March 23, 2017 at 19:00 at Station 1. It will be on the new protocol rollout and is for all EMS members.
- Some of our members will be attending the upcoming UHS Trauma Teaching Day conference on March 18, 2017, which is an all-day conference.

FIRE MARSHAL: No report.

SAFETY OFFICER: No report.

MAINTENANCE:

- We are looking into a few issues with the Rescue. Coolant was found on the ground this weekend and there is a problem with the ignition switch not engaging the generator.
- New LED tire pressure sensors have been installed on the EMS (35 psi) and the Utility (60 psi). They will blink if the pressure drops 5 to 10 psi. We plan to install them on the Tanker and Rescue this spring during PM service. If there are any questions, please ask.

AIR/CASCADE:

- Everything is in service.
- Keep an eye on the fill station door as it is acting up again and is not completely engaging. It may need an adjustment.

TRAINING:

(C. Hoyt)

- The training at the Vestal burn building went well. Thank you to the Auxiliary for the food and drinks.
- The county spring/summer training schedule is out. Please sign up early for state classes and contact me so I know what classes our members are attending. The schedule can be found at <http://www.gobroomecounty.com/e911/fire-training-schedule>.

HEALTH/SAFETY: No report.

AUDIT: No report.

PARADE:

- The St. Patrick's Day parade was somewhat sparsely attended, but it was attended (thanks to the Bealos).
- There are no current parades on the calendar at this point, but SUNY students will be having a "New Parade" on March 18, 2017 along with a bar crawl and I advise you to stay away from Binghamton on that day!

AUXILIARY:

- K. Greenlee, R. McConnell, D. Dieffenbacher, and I (B. Polhamus) attended R. Serowik's rehab program at West Corners.
- R. McConnell and I attended the live burn and we were very thankful for the warm weather. Lunch was supplied by K. Hoyt as a surprise party for C. Hoyt's 40th birthday. (*Happy belated birthday and many happy returns of the day!*)
- We provided food for the Broome County Firefighters Association meeting and it was well-received.
- Auxiliary officers for 2017:
 - President: B. Polhamus
 - Vice President: K. Greenlee
 - Treasurer: R. McConnell
 - Secretary: D. Dieffenbacher

BYLAW:

- We are going to be looking at the portion of the bylaws which addresses membership class. The bylaws mention EMS members, Auxiliary members, business members, etc., but strangely there is no mention of firefighters. It appears that firefighters are referred to as “active members” in the bylaws. We need to address this since members of all classes can be active or inactive. Also under consideration is removal of the fire police class from the bylaws, as no one in recent memory has joined the company to perform fire police duties and nothing else.

B. C. FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION:

(R. Bealo)

- The meeting was held here last Friday and it was well-attended. Thanks to the Auxiliary for providing food and to the people who attended the meeting.
- An Endwell firefighter received the Firefighter of the Year award for 2016.

(W. Miga)

- A TV crew was here to cover this and we received some free publicity.

WEBSITE: No report.

RETENTION/ RECRUITING/ MEMBERSHIP: No report.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS: None.

MEMBERS COMING OFF PROBATION:

- Seth Knapp: Fire officers recommend him for full membership.

YES: 17

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 2

- Colin Nally: Fire officers recommend him for full membership.

YES: 18

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 1

SUNSHINE:

- We sent a get-well basket to F. Trzcinski after his injury.
- We sent thank-you cards to our adoptive church for the buckets of Valentine’s Day treats that they provided to both stations.
- This is a heads-up that Dan Kerila’s grandfather passed away yesterday and we extend our sympathy to him and his family. We do not know any other details at this time.

TRUCK COMMITTEE:

- The major components of the spec are complete; minor changes may result with the engineer in the pre-build stage. We are currently done and will need a

membership vote tonight to continue with the following steps and projected timeline. Things may move quickly once financing is secured:

1. Membership vote to purchase, not to exceed \$705,000.
2. Credit approval.
3. Loan amount determined by the board and down payment determined at scheduled meeting on March 13, 2017.
4. Pre-build meeting with truck committee, engineer and salesman completed by the end of March.
5. Final financing completed prior to April 28, 2017, if not before, depending upon what option is chosen at the meeting on March 13, 2017.

ELECTION OF COMPANY OFFICERS: (We need to fill the two positions that are still vacant. If we are unable to fill them with currently-qualified members, according to the bylaws we may set aside any or all qualifications in order to fill them.)

Night Captain: D. Hoeflein and J. VanKuren, who are currently qualified, preemptively declined. M. Wiley is also qualified but had previously declined this position due to his work schedule. As we have no other qualified members, this leaves J. Brown and W. Miga under consideration for the position. The members in attendance decided to set aside both the education qualification and the current board member qualification. W. Miga then declined to run.

- J. Brown:

YES: 9

NO: 1

ABSTAIN: 4

2nd Lieutenant: D. Hoeflein and J. VanKuren, who are currently qualified, declined to run. M. Wiley, also qualified, previously declined this position due to his work schedule. Members who could have qualifications set aside also declined (K. Battaglini, A. Drake, S. Drake, and W. Miga). Other firefighters who are not in possession of green tags but who could run if qualifications are set aside also declined. This position currently remains vacant.

According to the bylaws we must continue to try to fill this vacant position until someone is elected; therefore we must address this again next month. Our other option is to change the bylaws. W. Miga proposed that the bylaw committee put together a proposal that says we can vote to allow an officer position to remain vacant if we are unable to fill it within a certain period of time.

OLD BUSINESS

McPherson has fixed the lights for the flagpole and we are waiting for parts to fix the light that points at the monument. He is getting pricing for LED bay lights at Station 2 and exterior lights at both stations.

Culligan checked the water softener and it is working fine. He needs to come back to replace the discharge hose.

Brent Dyer removed tiles in the maintenance room and it appears the floor was pumping water, causing the mastic not to set.

Brent is looking at the Station 1 south door (parking lot) and is hoping to fix it inexpensively but properly.

Generator at Station 1 should be working now. They are still trying to figure out the generator at Station 2.

We got pricing from two foam insulation companies for the bay area at Station 2 for budgetary purposes.

We had the heating and cooling guy look at the possibility of changing the heat in the bay area at Station 2. We are awaiting pricing.

The washing machine at Station 1 is out of service; K. Battaglini will take care of that upon his return.

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.

NEW BUSINESS

We have a balloon payment due on the mortgage for Station 1. We are actually in a position to pay off the mortgage in May. As we are also purchasing the new truck, rather than having two loans outstanding, we believe that this would be a very beneficial move for us financially. It appears that with the down payment on the truck, the payments for it will be almost exactly the same as the payments were for the mortgage and therefore the budget will remain about the same.

Should we pay off the balance of the mortgage? A. Silvestri made a motion to pay off the mortgage, not to exceed \$300,000, and M. Belensky seconded it.

YES: 21

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

Do we agree to the purchase of the new truck? (Many thanks to the truck committee for all the hard work on this) M. Belensky made a motion to purchase the new truck, not to exceed \$705,000, which was seconded by J. Brown.

YES: 20

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 1

We have a volunteer who is willing to chair a special committee to plan a celebration for our 75th anniversary, which is 5 years from now. This person already has plenty of experience as he was responsible for planning the 50th anniversary celebration. W. Miga announced that he is creating a special committee to plan the 75th anniversary celebration and that A. Silvestri will be the chairman. If anyone is interested in working with him on this, please let us know.

(D. Dieffenbacher)

- Tonight we saw ants in the kitchen sink (at Station 1).

(A general discussion ensued regarding where other people have also seen ants recently at Station 1, which appears to suggest a significant infestation. J. Drotar mentioned that tonight he saw bits of food underneath the refrigerator and there were ants all around it. K. Hoyt said that there were ants climbing up the wall of the kitchen on the day of the live burn.) We will mention this to K. Battaglini. We may need to hire an exterminator. In the meantime, do not leave food or garbage lying around and clean up any spills. K. Hoyt said that ant spray is available under the sink in the kitchen and you can use it if you see ants.

Many thanks to the Hoyt family for providing the delicious (and filling!) chicken dinner ☺

REFRESHMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING: Polhamuses

NUMBER ATTENDING: 23

VOTING: Started off with 19 because R. Serowik arrived after the first votes had taken place and C. Nally's probation had not ended yet. With the arrival of R. Serowik and the end of C. Nally's probation, the number of members voting on issues other than those related to the election of officers rose to 21. Excluding Auxiliary and business members, the number voting on the election of officers was 14.

TIME ADJORNED: Motion to adjourn made by S. Drake and seconded by R. Bealo at 20:51. Everyone was in agreement.

NEXT MEETING: April 3, 2017

Respectfully submitted, *Karen S. Miga*