

UNION CENTER FIRE COMPANY
COMPANY MEETING

January 7, 2013

PRESENT: W. Miga, C. Hoyt, D. Hill, J. Barrie, J. Drotar, A. Green, M. Belensky, F. Trzcinski, B. Dieffenbacher, S. Bealo, J. Hardik, G. Roberts. K. Miga, M. Wiley, H. Polhamus, R Serowik, C. Sorochman, J. Brown, G. Greenlee

CALLED TO ORDER: 19:50

MINUTES FROM 12/03/2012 **ACCEPTED:** Motion by J. Drotar, seconded by G. Roberts

TREASURER'S REPORT

Activity checking: \$9028.37
General checking: \$11,625.43

Activity: \$3539.82
2% Money: \$4931.78

Total checking: \$20,653.80

Motion to accept: J. Drotar, seconded by A. Green

- The budget process is beginning.

BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS

None.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

The election board is going to close this evening. After it closes, no new nominations can be added. However, names can be removed up until the elections. We will also be reviewing an objection letter submitted by A. Silvestri.

The process to figure out the 2013 budget has begun.

B. Dieffenbacher has written a policy regarding purchase order approvals, which will be sent out to the membership in the near future.

We had hoped that the back door at Station 2 would have been repaired by now. The contractor has the door ready to go but has been busy with another job. This will hopefully be completed soon.

We have made the decision to stay with Lourdes for our physicals.

A. Silvestri informed W. Miga that an agreement has been reached regarding the land deal. We are awaiting a closing date.

C. Hoyt submitted the names of those members in arrears with training hours this past quarter: D. Kerila, B. Smack, J. Pedro, and one member with a medical excuse.

OFFICER REPORTS

CHIEF:

- 2013 Budget planning will be in the works soon. Let me know if there is any new equipment you would like purchased or any equipment upgrades.
- Overall I think that we had a good year last year. Thank you to everyone!

FIRST ASSISTANT CHIEF:

- With the help of B. Bealo we are working on accountability issues. We have made new tag holders to go on all of the rigs, which we will hopefully go over in training next week.

SECOND ASSISTANT CHIEF: No report.

DAY CAPTAIN: No report.

NIGHT CAPTAIN: No report.

FIRST LIEUTENANT: No report.

SECOND LIEUTENANT: No report.

FIRE POLICE CAPTAIN: No report.

EMS:

- Congratulations to D. Hill for his achievement of recertifying as an EMT. He is now promoted to crew chief.
- ImageTrend system seems to be working out well. Everyone is doing a good job with it.
- B. Bealo is asking members writing PCRs to use the Fire Tab on ONLY EMS runs and fill out as much of the fire report as you can. Do NOT create a fire report for joint Fire/EMS responses such as traffic accidents because the information from the two do not mesh.

- This month we are going to be doing training for new BLS protocols. These are in addition to the statewide protocols. There is considerable extra material. Train-the-trainer classes are taking place and J. Hardik and I will attend. Monthly EMS training for this month will be on 01/24/2013 at 7 p.m. at Station 1. As many people as possible will hopefully attend so that we can get most people through this. If you get training at another agency, please indicate this to me as it is a standard program. Everyone has to have this done before the end of March.

FIRE MARSHAL: No report.

AUXILIARY:

- Have started to learn map book and began driver training on the Utility and Brush (without skid).
- Christmas party for kids went well and everyone had a great time.
- Considering taking care of food for the annual meeting; this will be discussed more at the next Auxiliary meeting.

SAFETY OFFICER: No report.

MAINTENANCE: No report.

AIR/CASCADE:

- One pack from the Rescue is still out of service.
- Three air pack bottles from the Rescue are out of service.
- Annual flow testing will occur tomorrow at Station 2 and Wednesday at Station.
- Fit testing will hopefully be combined with Maine with possibly two dates, perhaps one in February and one in March.

TRAINING:

- Please fill training sheets out completely. Some are missing hours or topics. Please try to turn them in on time as well, like immediately after your class finishes.
- Updated list of current state classes on gobroomecounty.com and the link on our Web.
- Incentive program will be starting as soon as we get more data for call hours. Identical places for ordering items as last year will be used.
- Training room at Station 1 will be going through some upgrades in the next few weeks.

HEALTH/SAFETY: No report.

AUDIT: No report.

PARADE: No report.

SOCIAL:

- Committee would like to ask the Auxiliary if they want to take over the responsibilities of this committee.

BYLAW:

- Will be updating the bylaws in the future regarding current classes.

B. C. FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION: No report.

WEB SITE:

- New BLS protocol update will soon be posted on EMS part of our website.

RETENTION/ RECRUITING/ MEMBERSHIP:

- Michael and Jacqueline Ponticello are recommended for membership. They are two very experienced EMS providers. They live on Milan Avenue. They are interested in EMS only.

Michael:	YES: 16	NO: 0	ABSTAIN: 2
Jacqueline:	YES: 17	NO: 0	ABSTAIN: 1

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS: None this month.

ELECTIONS:

- Letter of Objection from A. Silvestri presented (see attachment). Regarding vote to waive Fire Officer 1 requirement the results are as follows. There was a tie, requiring W. Miga as acting president to vote and break the tie.

YES: 8	NO: 9	ABSTAIN: 2
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- A. Silvestri was nominated for both lieutenant positions. C. Haight asked that his name be removed from the nomination board from all positions except the board.
- Nomination board was closed.
- Absentee ballots will be sent out as per the bylaws.
- Given the close vote on the letter of objection, K. Miga brought up that anyone who believes the bylaws need to be changed should make proposals to the bylaw committee. W. Miga and T. Mason are both on the committee and any proposals can be sent to them.

SUNSHINE:

- Thank you note sent to Kelley Henry for cooking the meal for us last month.
- Sympathy card and flowers sent to the Kerila family.

OLD BUSINESS

Many thanks to Kelley Henry, who cooked a wonderful dinner for us that included pork roast, green bean casserole, roasted potatoes, salad, and cake.

A. Green reported that HAZMAT has a river and stream spill response trailer in place as of last Thursday. There is a whole trailer designated just for river and stream spills.

NEW BUSINESS

Thank you to the Kerila family for providing the delicious meal. Thanks to A. Green for heating everything up.

D. Hill brought up getting individual memberships for us for Broome County Firefighters Association for \$3 a person. If we submit the roster to Alice, she can take care of this for us. We voted on this last year and agreed to it, but then we became members of FASNY instead. Alice said that 2% money could be used for this. Each individual would get the information and newsletters from BCFA. M. Belensky says that he puts the newsletters out in the stations for anyone to read. C. Hoyt mentioned that anyone in the department can write an article and submit it; it will go out to the rest of the County. Alice is always looking for articles for the newsletter. This can be done whether or not you are a member. We voted on whether to get individual memberships.

YES: 18

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

REFRESHMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING: Annual meeting; refreshments will be taken care of by either the Board or the Auxiliary.

NUMBER ATTENDING: 19

VOTING: 18 (except when W. Miga as acting president voted once to break a tie.)

TIME ADJORNED: 20:45

NEXT MEETING: SATURDAY, February 2, 2013 (annual meeting)

Respectfully submitted by **Karen S. Miga**

REGARDING LETTER OF OBJECTION FROM ANTHONY SILVESTRI

A. Silvestri submitted a letter stating that he objects to the fact that his name was not included on the list of members eligible to run for fire officer positions. The reason it was not included is because he has not taken the Fire Officer 1 class, which according to the bylaws is a requirement for all fire officer positions except lieutenant. He states that his reasons for objection are that he did not know that he needed to take the class and could not take the class due to his work schedule and lack of vacation time, although he further stated that had he been reminded he might have been able to work something out. In addition, he believes that his 33 years in the department (27 years as an officer) and the many other courses he has taken should be sufficient to allow him to run for office.

In an attempt to determine if a combination of classes already taken by A. Silvestri would be sufficient to be considered an equivalent to the Fire Officer 1 class, the board approached State Instructor Neil Haight. Neil asked his superior Shawn Brimhall for his opinion, who in turn asked his own superior, James Cable, for his opinion. They said that while there may be somewhat of a gray area, the best available answer is no. The Preparing for Command course which A. Silvestri has taken covers some, but not all, of the content areas included in the Fire Officer course. At this time our bylaws do not allow us to consider years of experience in the fire service as an alternative to the Fire Officer class.

Last year we were in the position of having no one eligible for the first and second lieutenant positions and all of the chief positions, according to the qualifications listed in the bylaws. In an e-mail that was sent out to the membership on 01/29/2012, we clearly stated that while we recommended waiving the Fire Officer 1 class for all these positions, we expected the class or its equivalent to be obtained as soon as possible after the elections. A schedule for State classes for 2012 was also provided to A. Silvestri. Other officers (some of whom have also been in the department for many years) took the classes that were required of them, even using personal or vacation time from their jobs to do so.

The bylaws state that if there are enough eligible members available to fill the fire officer positions based on the qualifications stated in the bylaws, then the qualifications cannot be waived. At this time we have enough eligible people running for each office. As the State instructors said that A. Silvestri's courses are not equivalent to Fire Officer 1, the board has deemed that according to the bylaws he does not meet this qualification and therefore is not eligible to run for the offices of Captain, Assistant Chief, or Chief. However, he does have the equivalent for Introduction to Fire Officer and is therefore eligible to run for a lieutenant position if he is nominated at this time.

Weighing A. Silvestri's letter of objection against the comments from the board, it is now up to the membership to vote by secret ballot as to whether or not A. Silvestri should be considered eligible to run for the office of Captain, Assistant Chief, and/or Chief. If he is deemed eligible, he can be nominated for any of these positions. If he is not deemed eligible, the possibility exists that at the time of the elections some nominees might withdraw their names and there may not be enough eligible candidates to fill all positions. In this situation, the qualification of Fire Officer 1 may be waived by a vote of the membership and A. Silvestri will be eligible to run for office.