

UNION CENTER FIRE COMPANY
ANNUAL COMPANY MEETING

February 2, 2013

PRESENT: M. Henry, W. Miga, B. Dieffenbacher, K. Miga, A. Green, H. Polhamus, D. Hill, B. Smack, M. Belensky, C. Hoyt, A. Silvestri, J. Brown, D. Hoeflein, J. Vankuren, J. Hardik, A. Holton, T. Mason, M. Wiley, F. Trzcinski, J. Barrie, S. Bealo, B. Bealo, R. Serowik

CALLED TO ORDER: 11:12

MINUTES FROM: 01/07/2013 **ACCEPTED:** J. Brown, B. Bealo

TREASURER'S REPORT

Activity checking: \$9025.67
General checking: \$18,532.54

Activity: \$4729.08
2% Money: \$4296.59

Total checking: \$27,558.21

Motion to accept: F. Trzcinski, seconded by J. VanKuren

We are underway with the budget process and hope to have it done by the end of February.

BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Alice Fiacco sent a note of thanks for the gift card and company portfolio given to her as a Christmas gift.

The Miga family sent a note of thanks and appreciation for the floral sympathy arrangement.

Ken Battaglini sent the board a letter requesting to change his status from inactive life member to active membership.

Motion made by M. Henry to donate \$100 to Walter Miga's memorial fund, seconded by B. Bealo.

Motion made by M. Henry to donate \$100 made to Matthew Porcari's children's fund, seconded by R. Serowik.

A. Holton sent the board a letter requesting to change his status from EMS only to EMS/Fire.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

During previous elections we have voted using plurality rather than majority. The bylaws currently state that we need to vote by a majority vote (meaning one person gets at least 51% of the total vote). For this election we will vote by majority. If people wish to vote the traditional way using plurality, then a bylaw proposal can be made to reflect this for the future.

Regarding the back door at Station 2, the electronic lock is not yet in place and work also needs to be done so keys will work, but the new door is in place and the work is about three-quarters finished.

M. Henry will assemble a work detail in March to finish the electrical wiring for the bay doors at Station 2.

OFFICER REPORTS

CHIEF:

- Special thank you to the crews that were involved in the Newark Valley fires, especially when we lost a brother firefighter. All members had superior strength and composure to complete the jobs at hand. Also a special thank you was received from Tioga County's Deputy Fire Coordinator and Fire Investigator. They were very appreciative of your work ethic and professionalism. Our Fire Coordinator also heard of this, and he stated that it "made him feel proud".
- As for Mutual Aid changes for Newark Valley, no formal changes have been made. Newark Valley Chiefs told Chris and me that they are interested in training and working more with us. They will be going through a lot of changes now, understandably, so time will tell. We will keep everyone posted.
- The Director of Emergency Services has implemented via the Communications Center that any "Responder Safety" issues that are given out via law enforcement frequencies will also be given out to responding Fire and EMS agencies as well. If information for some reason can't be broadcasted, a Chief Officer or responding unit will be asked to call Communications for the information.
- Immediately after the dispatch of a call, the Dispatcher will look at the history of calls at the specific address. If Domestic Violence or threats involving weapons have been determined to have occurred in the last 48hrs, then responding units will be advised of the information immediately. It will be the discretion of the

responders to stage away from the scene. If not done so, law enforcement will be dispatched or expedited.

- If there is information that indicates an immediate or potential threat to responders, they will be asked to stage until the scene is secured by law enforcement.
- Current responder safety alerts will be validated regularly by the Communications Supervisor.
- The officers of the company are currently working on our own safety BOG for responding safely and it will be sent out.

FIRST ASSISTANT CHIEF:

- Great job to all those who responded to the Newark Valley incidents.
- M. Belensky and I went to a critique regarding the Newark Valley incident. We will talk about what we learned from this at training.
- We presented a plaque on behalf of the member of UCFC to Maine Fire at their annual banquet. They spoke very highly of working with us and training with us.
- County website is listing 04/27/2013 as the date for Open House.

SECOND ASSISTANT CHIEF:

- The land deal is in the lawyer's hands.
- We were very professional at the funeral for the Owego firefighter and I would like to thank all those who attended. This event emphasizes the fact that we need to stick together and watch out for each other.

DAY CAPTAIN: No report.

NIGHT CAPTAIN: No report.

FIRST LIEUTENANT: No report.

SECOND LIEUTENANT: No report.

FIRE POLICE CAPTAIN: No report.

EMS:

- Protocol update process is underway for BLS agencies. We held this class on 01/24/2013. Basic EMTs must attend this by 04/01/2013; the rest of the classes are scheduled to take place at Huron Campus. If there are any questions, please contact me.
- UVES has approached me regarding doing some joint training. Joint rehab training will be 04/13/2013.
- Maine Ambulance is taking on the rehab issue as part of the new regional protocols. We have had this in place since 2008. They will be talking to other fire

chiefs about putting our rehab trailer on their run cards. They are going to model their programs according to ours.

- ImageTrend system upgrade will be occurring soon, but in general will not affect users. These upgrades will help the system run more smoothly.
- Mobile CAD is being rolled out to ambulance services in the county. Statuses will be given via mobile terminals instead of over the radio. After initially calling to respond, unless there are unusual circumstances they will not be on the radio for the duration of the call. There is a plan to eventually get fire departments on board with this.
- I am going to order duty coats which are brightly reflective and are all-season coats. I need to get sizes for all active med team members before the end of this month.

FIRE MARSHAL:

- I put an ImageTrend report out every month. If someone wants to see something in particular, let me know and I will see what I can do. I am still learning how to use the system, but will do my best.

SAFETY OFFICER:

- Carry tools and sound floors. Be aware of your surroundings when you enter a structure, whether it be for an EMS or fire call.

MAINTENANCE:

- New alternator has been installed on the Rescue and there is a volt meter gauge on order to replace the one on the dashboard.
- We had minor issues with the Tanker after the last fires in Tioga. Most repairs are complete. There is a minor air leak on the right rear dump.
- New voltage regulator for alternator has been installed on the Squad.

AIR/CASCADE:

- Flow testing is completed on all packs. All are in service.
- All batteries were replaced in green tag voice amps.
- Fit testing will take place at Maine on 02/05/2013 starting at 19:00. Fit testing will also take place at Station 1 on 03/05/2013 starting at 18:00. Current green tags or those wearing SCBA during training have to have a fit test.

TRAINING:

- Training through February will take place at Maine for the month. I do not have a schedule; just show up and do what they are doing.
- Check county and state class schedule to see if there is anything that you are interested in taking. All links are on the member side of the website.
- We will be recruiting Ken Battaglini for help with training. He is more than willing to work with us, including providing officer training for officers.

HEALTH/SAFETY: No report.

AUDIT: No report.

PARADE:

- St. Patrick's parade will take place on 03/02/2013 in Binghamton. No "large" fire trucks are allowed. Approximately 25 feet in length or less are allowed. This leaves us with the Utility, and Brush. Please let me know if you would like to attend so that I can figure out the vehicles that we will be taking.

AUXILLIARY:

- The Auxiliary agreed to take over the responsibilities of the social committee; therefore the social committee has been permanently disbanded.
- They are interested in possibly holding a pancake breakfast in conjunction with recruitment day.

BYLAW:

- We have changes that were proposed but the committee did not make the 2-week interval so that they could be voted on at this meeting.
- The first proposal addresses the state class requirement change (combination of two classes into one). This will be posted.
- Second proposal is regarding changing the bylaws to state that a line officer may serve on the board, except for the chief.
- Third proposal has to do with changing the qualifications for the board of directors to increase it to 5 years and only one member of immediate family can serve on the board.
- These proposals will be discussed at the next meeting.

B. C. FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION:

- We are hosting the meeting next month and we have to supply refreshments on 03/01/2013. We will ask the Auxiliary if they would like to provide the refreshments starting at 6:30. Usually there are 10 to 20 people in attendance.
- Grey Goose Graphics is looking for pictures for the open house in April. Let B. Bealo know if you have any pictures and he will provide the link for permission to use the pictures.

WEB SITE: No report.

RETENTION/ RECRUITING/ MEMBERSHIP: No report.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS:

- Ashley Greenlee (Auxiliary member)

YES: 22

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

- Rachel Greenlee (Auxiliary member)

YES: 22

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

- Jeffrey Walburger: Recommendations from the majority of the officers was for termination. He has been on probation for 9 months after granting him a 3-month extension.

YES: 21

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 1

SUNSHINE:

- Thank you note was sent to the Kerila family for providing the food for our January meeting.
- Sympathy card was sent to the members of Owego Fire Department.
- Sympathy card was sent to the chief of Killawog Fire Department and his family.
- Special thank-you to Kelly Hoyt for taking over the responsibility for sending a sympathy arrangement to the Miga family.

ELECTIONS:

- Committees were disbanded.
- An explanation was given regarding plurality versus majority by W. Miga. Our bylaws require a majority vote, which is not the way this has been done traditionally. Previously the system we used was by plurality.
- According to the bylaws, the president has to appoint two tellers to count the ballots. F. Trzcinski and A. Holton were appointed. There were 6 absentee ballots filled out and 10 originally provided. The remaining 4 absentee ballots were destroyed by the tellers prior to the elections. As a result of the count of the absentee ballots, 28 people were voting in this election.

CHIEF: Due to a tie vote, as per the bylaws a re-vote was taken. The results of the first vote were as follows:

M. Belensky: 14

C. Hoyt: 14

Abstain: 0

Following the second vote:

M. Belensky: 13

C. Hoyt 15

Abstain: 0

1st ASSISTANT: **M. Belensky** running unopposed.

Yes: 28

No: 0

Abstain: 0

2nd ASSISTANT: D. Hill running unopposed.

Yes: 11

No: 14

Abstain: 3

This results in a vote of no confidence and this position remains vacant at this time.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Thank you to Cindi VanKuren for handling food order for the annual meeting.

After having disbanded all committees, new committees were formed as follows. If anyone wishes to volunteer for a committee, please let K. Miga know. Only the bylaw committee is restricted to only three members. The social committee has been disbanded as the Auxiliary has taken over its responsibilities.

- AUDIT: J. Drotar, F. Trzcinski
- PARADE: B. Bealo, S. Bealo
- BYLAW: T. Mason, W. Miga, R. Serowik
- BROOME COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION: B. Bealo
- WEBSITE: M. Belensky, W. Miga
- RETENTION/RECRUITMENT/MEMBERSHIP: D. Hoeflein, A. Holton, J. VanKuren
- SUNSHINE: K. Miga

C. Hoyt says that the flag up at Station 2 is having problems. It needs new rope and hardware. T. Mason and M. Belensky will work on this.

REFRESHMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING: No volunteers.

NUMBER ATTENDING: 23

VOTING: 22 before elections and 28 for elections (6 by absentee ballot).

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TIME ADJORNED: 14:00

NEXT MEETING: 03/04/2013

Respectfully submitted by **Karen S. Miga**