

**UNION CENTER FIRE COMPANY**  
**COMPANY MEETING**

November 4, 2013

**PRESENT:** M. Henry, G. Greenlee, A. Green, J. Mann, A. Holton, R. Bealo, A. Silvestri, S. Bealo, B. Dieffenbacher, F. Trzcinski, M. Belensky, D. Hoeflein, J. Drotar, H. Polhamus, B. Polhamus, J. Drotar, K. Greenlee, R. Greenlee, K. Miga, W. Miga, C. Hoyt, B. Bealo

**CALLED TO ORDER:** 19:51

**MINUTES FROM:** 10/07/2013      **ACCEPTED:** A. Silvestri, seconded by J. Drotar

***TREASURER'S REPORT***

Activity checking:  
General checking:

Activity:  
2% Money:

We just had our audit and everything came out well. Our CPA told us that our biggest liability is the fact that although we have a great bookkeeper, we have no one available to take over if something should happen to her.

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

***BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS***

M. Phelan has resigned from the department due to time constraints.

Union Center Christian Church sent us a letter thanking us for participating in their Fall Festival on 10/26/2013. They enclosed a donation of \$150.

***BOARD COMMUNICATIONS***

Gym membership reimbursement is available to all members, but in the past not many people were taking advantage of this benefit, possibly because not everyone realized that it was available. We would like to limit reimbursement to \$100 per year for gym memberships, hoping that more people will take advantage of this benefit. Turn in a receipt and we will pay \$100 towards ANY gym membership. We will reimburse you after we receive your receipt. We turned this over to the membership for a vote and it passed with the following results:

YES: 15

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 1

## **OFFICER REPORTS**

### **CHIEF:**

- We had an officers meeting last night. We had a discussion regard rig drivers. The rule is that if the apparatus is in use, you will do whatever you need to do while staying in the vicinity of the rig. If it is not in use, stay with the rig unless you are given an assignment from an officer. Make sure you have an assignment before you leave it. Please let someone know that you are available, especially if we are shorthanded at a call.
- I spoke with Chief 33 and we agreed that we will be responding to Maine calls with a full response 24/7. Specific rigs will not be requested; please take whatever apparatus we would take to a similar call in our district. Try to build crews the same as we do for calls in our district and wait for people to arrive at the station as we normally would do. Do not take a lot of vehicles with only one or two people riding on them, or we may not be able to continue to do this. This will not be in effect until run cards are changed at County.
- There has been talk of running Engine 98 every Friday and we are going to try and staff this every Friday. Engine 98 will also be running again tomorrow; thanks to all of you who are doing this.
- We are going to do a program called the LENS (License Event Notification Service) program through the DMV which monitors all driver licenses; if we don't have your license information, please provide it to us. If you have not notified us of something that is currently on your license, please do so before we find out from this report. We will be running this for Auxiliary members as well, as they may be operating company vehicles.
- Newark Valley has installed a numeric key system at their station. Please see an officer for the password if you need to get into their station while you are on a call.

### **FIRST ASSISTANT CHIEF:**

- Last month I mentioned a training party that will be held at Kelli's Too in Maine. It was rescheduled for Tuesday, 11/12/2013. No apparatus will be used for transportation for this. Please arrange for designated drivers. A buffet will be provided, with members paying for their own drinks.
- The fire in Newark Valley went generally well for the position we were in. Despite the efforts of Chief Hoyt and myself, the Squad was redirected for water supply. We have to deal with what we are given until Newark Valley figures things out. Water supply at Dutchtown Rd. is horrible. A dry hydrant installation is supposed to be done there in the spring of 2014 by the Town of Owego. Newark Valley was happy to see us at the fire and we seem to be developing a good relationship with them.

**SECOND ASSISTANT CHIEF:**

- I have been attending Saturday training quite frequently. Things are looking up. We are working a lot with the new members who are attending, just like we did with you older members when you were once new members, so please be patient.
- The Station 2 hydrant is supposed to be fixed. (A. Holton reported that the top is fixed but it is still leaking at the bottom.) I will make a call about that partially-repaired hydrant. The hydrant at Kevin and Michael has been repaired and is okay now.
- Thanks to everyone who came to the school festival. We had a really good turnout and they were really pleased to have us there (especially Smokey).
- Ladder testing was complete and everything passed. Next year we have to replace all of the heat dots as they will be at end-of-life. We can do this ourselves and save some money. Air packs, ladders and hoses are all tested and finished for this year.

**DAY CAPTAIN:** No report.

**NIGHT CAPTAIN:** *(I am sorry that I did not see this in my e-mail during the meeting and therefore this was not read at the meeting- K)*

- Training hours have been done for the month of October and are up on the website.
- Thanks to all who have been attending training and also thanks to those who have been running Engine 98.

**FIRST LIEUTENANT:**

- As C. Hoyt said, Engine 98 is running tomorrow and there are two seats still available.
- Inventory is going well.

**SECOND LIEUTENANT:**

- We had a tour of Union Center Christian Church on Tuesday night in preparation for the simulated training call that will take place on Saturday. Please report at 09:00 to the station that you normally would report to for a call and wait for the "dispatcher" to announce the call.
- Thank you to those who attended the Fall Festival at Union Center Christian Church on 10/26/2013. Obviously they appreciated our involvement, judging from the letter and donation that they sent.
- Thank you to Chief Belensky for ordering the programming software for the portables so we can custom-program them for each member.

**FIRE POLICE CAPTAIN:** No report.

**EMS:**

(Captain)

- CPR (both Original and Refresher) course will be held on Saturday, 12/14/2013, beginning at 11:00 AM at Station 1. Members in all categories are invited and encouraged to attend. This is a professional rescuer course that will cover victims in all age groups and will take 4 to 5 hours to complete.
- Please complete your medical history forms and give them to A. Holton ASAP. Even if you do not have any significant medical problems, you should still submit a form saying so in an envelope that has your emergency contact information on it. Contact me if you need an envelope.
- An EMT and CFR Refresher will begin on 01/04/2014. If you are an expired CFR or EMT, please consider recertifying if your certification has expired (there is no limit on how long you can be expired and still take a refresher). Please contact me with any questions.
- EMS training will be at Station 1 on 11/21/2013 beginning at 7:00 PM.

(Lieutenant)

- Please get your updated medical forms to me as soon as possible.
- Masimo carbon monoxide meter on the chief's vehicle is OOS. I would like to get EMS members to check the EMS vehicle monthly, if not weekly, instead of having the fire members doing these checks.
- Please take the EMS home to answer calls whenever possible.

**FIRE MARSHAL:**

- The problem with the PCR system with the State has been worked out. We entered the dates incorrectly, which caused the reports from last year to be rejected, but we have corrected this.

**SAFETY OFFICER:** No report.

**MAINTENANCE:**

- There is oil leaking from the Squad and Pumper Tanker. The ground lights on the Pumper Tanker are not shutting off when they should be. Har-Rob was contacted for these problems and also for the Pumper Tanker speedometer light problem. I am just waiting for an appointment.

**AIR/CASCADE:**

- Everything is in service.
- We are missing one Scott air pack bag from the truck bay of Station 2. There are usually three packs in service in bags on the gear rack at Station 2 and one of the bags is missing (the air pack is currently in the Scott room). If anyone has seen it or knows where it went, please let me know.
- *(UPDATE: M. Belensky thought that he knew where the missing bag was. To everybody's great relief, it was located after the meeting ended. Thank you Chief Belensky for solving this mystery.)*

**TRAINING:** *(I am sorry that I did not see this in my e-mail during the meeting and therefore this was not read at the meeting- K)*

- Training has been going well. W. Miga and J. Mann have both been doing a great job. Our next month to run training is January. If anyone has any ideas or would like to run that month, please let me know.
- C. Hoyt reported that we need more OSHA class documentation in order to obtain grants. B. Gazdik offered to do some OSHA classes in order to catch us up. Dates tentatively will be 12/07/2013, 12/14/2013 and 12/17/2013, with a make-up day on 12/28/2013. However, C.Hoyt needs to run all of this by B. Gazdik before it is official. If we get a pretty decent turnout for this, we can cover about 90% of OSHA classes.

**HEALTH/SAFETY:** No report.

**AUDIT:** No report.

**PARADE:**

- We have received invitations to two parades. Johnson City's holiday parade will be on 12/05/2013. Meet at Station 2 at 18:00. Endicott's parade will be on 12/07/2013. Meet at Station 2 at 15:00. W. Miga is the contact person for both of these parades. Thank you, Wes, for handling this as I will be out of town on both days.
- There is a potential Veteran's Day parade on Veteran's Day at 19:00, but I have no details yet.

**AUXILIARY:**

- Bake sale will be held tomorrow at Station 1 during the election.
- This is a reminder about the Christmas party on 12/13/2013 at Orlando's beginning at 18:00.

**BYLAW:**

- Voting on the proposal that went out to correct the bylaws referencing nomination procedures, simplifying the wording and adding the things that we are already doing but were not outlined in the bylaws.

YES: 12

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 4

- Discussion regarding a proposal that a member brought up regarding the very long period (18 months) that a member may remain on the roster after becoming a Member Not in Good Standing and then Inactive before having membership terminated. After a discussion, the general consensus seemed to be that 1 year seemed reasonable. We will be voting on this in the future.
- Discussion regarding the status of Auxiliary members and the proposal regarding whether they should be given voting rights for company business, like 2% money for the Christmas party, and also the ability to vote for line officers. This would necessitate adding an Auxiliary category to the membership classes. M. Henry asked the Auxiliary members who were present for their opinion on this and they

had none. For this reason, we will leave everything regarding the Auxiliary as it currently stands for the time being.

**B. C. FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION:** No report.

**WEB SITE:**

- There have been a lot of updates with regards to photos from calls as well as social events.
- October training hours are posted.

**RETENTION/ RECRUITING/ MEMBERSHIP:**

- We have one application but are holding off on discussing it until next month.

**ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS:** None.

**MEMBERS COMING OFF PROBATION:**

- Brianna Bealo (Auxiliary)

YES: 16

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

- Dawn Pierce (unacceptable evaluation by chief officers as she never showed up for 6 months)

YES: 16

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

**SUNSHINE:**

- Condolences sent to former members Neal Haight and Brian Haight and current member Chris Haight for the passing of Neal's son Tristan (Brian's nephew and Chris's cousin). We also sent a sympathy arrangement for the funeral.

***OLD BUSINESS***

Thank you to J. Mann for providing the dinner for this evening.

W. Miga asked whether M. Henry had looked into cancelling HBO/Showtime to save on the cost of a service which is not being used.

Question from W. Miga regarding clarification of the status of J. Graupman, B. Smack, and M. Phelan.

M. Henry has not heard anything back from United regarding the alarm system; he has talked to the representative a couple of times is awaiting a call.

## ***NEW BUSINESS***

Thank you to Brianna Bealo for the great dinner of chili and homemade cornbread and chocolate zucchini bread.

W. Miga said that the back/side door at Station 2 (into the hallway) is not working properly. M. Henry said to try listening for a click and then turning the handle.

**REFRESHMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING:** Nobody volunteered.

**NUMBER ATTENDING:** 22

**VOTING:** 16

**TIME ADJORNED:** 20:57

**NEXT MEETING:** December 2, 2013

Respectfully submitted by **Karen S. Miga**