

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

February 1, 2014

**PRESENT:** M. Henry, G. Greenlee, B. Dieffenbacher, M. Belensky, A. Silvestri, K. Miga, C. Hoyt, H. Polhamus, B. Polhamus, J. Brown, B. Frantz, R. Greenlee, K. Greenlee, D. Dieffenbacher, K. Battaglini, D. Hoefflein, J. VanKuren, T. Mason, M. Wiley, W. Miga, A. Holton, E. Belensky, A. Green, K. Serowik, R. Bealo, S. Bealo, B. Bealo, J. Mann

**CALLED TO ORDER:** 13:52

**MINUTES FROM:** 01/06/2014 **ACCEPTED:** R. Bealo, seconded by J. Brown

***TREASURER'S REPORT***

Activity checking:	Activity:
General checking:	2% Money:

Motion to accept: R. Bealo, seconded by W. Miga

We have had one budget meeting so far and are 80% finished with the budget. The next budget meeting is scheduled for 02/17/2014 at 6:30 p.m. at Station 1. Thanks to everyone who gave input; the budget looks good so far.

***BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS***

None.

***BOARD COMMUNICATIONS***

If you were not able to attend the Christmas party, please see C. Hoyt or M. Belensky so that you may receive your Christmas gift.

At this time we are waiting to sign a contract with Lourdes Occupational Health for our physicals this year. As soon as we sign this contract, we will let everyone know what the deadline is for obtaining physicals. The roster on the website contains information as to who is due for physicals in 2014.

There is understandable concern regarding the water damage at Station 2 that is occurring due to the leaky roof and gutter problems. We are waiting to hear back from

the insurance company and then we will be able to address the problems with the gutters, roof and mold.

## **OFFICER REPORTS**

**CHIEF:** No report.

**FIRST ASSISTANT CHIEF:**

- Our Motorola Radio programming software is up and running. As of now, it is only on one computer. There have been some minor changes or fixes to radios completed already. Please remember when using the Squad's repeater, to press the "Home" button on the High Band mobile before switching on the repeater. If a pager or radio needs something, change contact with Lt. Miga (paggers) or myself.
- There is a rumor that the pigtail adapters that were made for use with Maine's electrical equipment do not work (or plug in). We did try plugging into Maine's equipment at a call this week and we were successful. Make sure you are using the correct side of the pigtail to plug into their equipment. Any further issues let me know.
- Reminder: everything on the monthly checks should be completed unless told not to by an officer. There is concern that some checks may be getting skipped.
- Some members were asking if we are going to add Endwell's new Quint to our run cards. The Chiefs discussed this, but nothing has been decided. We will let you know when something changes.

**SECOND ASSISTANT CHIEF:**

- Thank you for running Engine 98.

**DAY CAPTAIN:**

- Thank you to everyone, for all that you do.

**NIGHT CAPTAIN:** No report.

**FIRST LIEUTENANT:**

- Gear inventory is up to date.

**SECOND LIEUTENANT:**

- Thanks to everyone who came to the Route 38B fire last month. Good job.
- The homeowner on Route 38B that we talked to at the MVA last November is still interested in talking with us about a dry hydrant on his land. We will meet with him in March or April. Newark Valley will be involved in it too.

**FIRE POLICE CAPTAIN:** No report.

**EMS:**

- Take the EMS home and put it in service.

- Get emergency health information and contacts envelopes to me if you haven't done so already.

**FIRE MARSHAL:** No report.

**SAFETY OFFICER:**

- After April I am going to be busy, so if anyone wants to do training at that time please let me know.

**MAINTENANCE:**

- After the Utility's fuel gelled last week at the Fire Academy, we have decided to start using a fuel additive. This is to help prevent further issues in the future. Every truck with a Diesel engine has been treated. We will be treating fuel after every other refill to prevent over-treating. During the winter months, one bottle of additive treats 30 gallons and treats 60 gallons during warmer weather. Please don't add a bottle unless you were told to previously. The Chief and I have spoken to a few drivers to limit any confusion. Any questions, please ask the Chief or myself.
- The "slide out" step on the rear of the Rescue is OOS, please do not use. We are in the process of replacing it with a "slide out-drop down" style. We are just waiting on dimensions and confirmation that this will work for us.
- In the last two months, the Chief and I have replaced all Thermal Imager batteries with new ones. Any issues, let us know.

**AIR/CASCADE:**

- Everything is in service and flow testing is done, with no major issues.
- Fit testing was done. If you could not get your fit test, Maine is supposed to be holding a fit test on a Tuesday night in February (date currently unknown).

**TRAINING:** No report.

**HEALTH/SAFETY:** No report.

**AUDIT:**

- Have not set a date for the audit yet.

**PARADE:**

- St. Patrick's Day parade will take place on 03/01/2014. Meet at Station 2 at 11:30 as lineup will be at 12:30.

**AUXILIARY:**

- Our next meeting will take place on 02/12/2014, when we will be voting for officer positions.
- We are also beginning to plan the chicken barbecue, if the membership wants to have one. It is tentatively scheduled for Father's Day weekend.

**BYLAW:** No report.

**B. C. FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION:**

- Next meeting is next Friday at Endwell. We are hosting the meeting in March.

**WEBSITE:**

- We had a request at the last monthly meeting to set up a way to make donations via the website. People can now make donations through PayPal or by sending checks via the contact information on the website.

**RETENTION/ RECRUITING/ MEMBERSHIP:** We received three applications.

- Derinda Shaffer: All references checked out well.
- Kurt Shaffer: All references checked out well.
- Jason Tennant: Was a member of Willet Fire Company from 1998 through 2011 and his references were all positive.

**ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS:**

- Derinda Schaffer

YES: 17    NO: 0    ABSTAIN: 2

- Kurt Schaffer

YES: 17    NO: 0    ABSTAIN: 2

- Jason Tennant

YES: 15    NO: 0    ABSTAIN: 4

**These probationary members are voted in pending a favorable background and arson check.**

**MEMBERS COMING OFF PROBATION:** T. Meschter's extended probation has ended. He was approved to come off of probation and is now an active member.

**SUNSHINE:** No report.

**ELECTION OF COMPANY OFFICERS:**

- C. Haight's name was removed from the nomination board prior to the election as he is currently on inactive status and is therefore unable to run for office.
- Two tellers were appointed by M. Henry (K. Greenlee and E. Belensky).
- Eleven absentee ballots were provided. Eight were filled out by members not present. Two were filled out by S. Bealo and R. Bealo in case they had to leave for an EMS call, but they were present at the meeting and it was not necessary to use these ballots. The remaining (one) unused absentee ballot was destroyed by the tellers prior to any voting.

- There were 19 voting members present at the meeting and 8 absentee ballots were used, for a total of 27 voting members.

Line officers were elected by majority (14 or more votes).

CHIEF:

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

YES: **26**

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 1

FIRST ASSISTANT CHIEF:

- **M. Belensky:** **22**
- A. Silvestri: 5
- Abstain: 0

SECOND ASSISTANT CHIEF:

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

YES: **24**

NO: 3

ABSTAIN: 0

DAY CAPTAIN:

- J. Mann 2
- **J. VanKuren** **24**
- Abstain: 1

NIGHT CAPTAIN:

- B. Gazdik 7
- J. Mann 0
- **W. Miga** **20**
- Abstain: 0

FIRST LIEUTENANT:

- B. Frantz 0 xxx
- B. Gazdik 4 2
- **D. Hoeflein** 13 **16**
- J. Mann 10 9
- M. Wiley 0 xxx
- Abstain: 0 0

SECOND LIEUTENANT:

- B. Frantz 2 xxx
- B. Gazdik 10 10
- **J. Mann** 13 **16**
- M. Wiley 2 xxx
- Abstain 0 1

FIRE POLICE CAPTAIN:

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

YES: 27

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

EMS CAPTAIN:

- **A. Holton** 24
- D. Kerila 3

The board members were elected by plurality, not majority, according to our bylaws.

There were three positions open; two 3-year terms and one 1-year term (vacated by A. Green).

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

- R. Bealo 12
- **B. Dieffenbacher** 25
- B. Frantz 3
- **F. Trzcinski** 14
- Abstain: 2

BOARD MEMBER: (One 1-year term) Each voting member cast one vote.

- **R. Bealo** 15
- B. Frantz 12
- Abstain: 0

**Line officer positions take effect on 03/01/2014.**

The new board members adjourned to discuss what positions would be filled by whom.

**Board positions take effect immediately.**

PRESIDENT: M. Henry

VICE PRESIDENT: G. Greenlee

TREASURER: B. Dieffenbacher

SECRETARY: F. Trzcinski

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE: R. Bealo

**OLD BUSINESS**

Thank you to K. Greenlee for ordering dinner.

C. Hoyt said that if there is any equipment needed, we can start the wish list for next year.

R. Serowik nominated A. Holton for EMS captain and declined the nomination for himself. R. Bealo nominated W. Miga for both captain positions; W. Miga agreed to the

nomination for night captain only. M. Belensky declined the nomination for the captains, lieutenants and board positions.

Motion made by R. Bealo to close the nomination board, seconded by R. Serowik. The nomination board is closed and no more names can be added prior to the elections; however, names can be removed up to and including the elections on 02/01/2014.

As of now, the nomination board looks like this:

CHIEF:

- Belensky
- Hoyt

ASSISTANT CHIEF 1 and 2:

- Belensky
- Hoyt
- Silvestri

CAPTAIN (DAY):

- Gazdik
- Mann
- Silvestri
- VanKuren

CAPTAIN (NIGHT):

- Gazdik
- Mann
- W. Miga
- VanKuren

LIEUTENANT 1:

- Frantz
- Gazdik
- Hoeflein
- Mann
- W. Miga
- Silvestri
- VanKuren
- Wiley

LIEUTENANT 2:

- Frantz
- Gazdik
- Hoeflein
- Mann

- W. Miga
- VanKuren
- Wiley

FIRE POLICE CAPTAIN:

- T. Mason

EMS CAPTAIN:

- Holton
- Kerila

BOARD MEMBERS: (Two 3-year terms and one 1-year term.)

- S. Bealo
- R. Bealo
- E. Belensky
- Dieffenbacher
- Frantz
- Gazdik
- Haight (if not inactive as of February.)
- Silvestri
- Trzcinski
- VanKuren

## ***NEW BUSINESS***

C. Hoyt said that the officers met before the first budget meeting to discuss rig replacements. It was decided that the brush truck is due to be replaced. The current chief's vehicle will be converted to an EMS vehicle and a new Tahoe will be purchased for chiefs. The 2014 bid took so long from the State that Chevy has ceased production of the vehicle we wanted. New pricing will be out in about a month. It will probably be early summer before we get State approval, with delivery in the winter, which is not as soon as we hoped. A. Holton will work with R. Serowik to get pricing on cabinets to convert the Tahoe to the EMS vehicle. The old Tahoe cabinet will go into the new one.

C. Hoyt said that nothing on the State bid will work for the brush truck. We will purchase a 1-ton vehicle and all we need can go on it. We will use our skid with a new pump. It will be a flatbed truck, not a pickup. It will have a hose reel with forestry hose. The brush truck committee has looked at other options and the prices were higher for specialty trucks. Chevy came in at about \$8000 lower than Ford. We are asking for up to \$65,000 to purchase a new truck by membership vote. B. Dieffenbacher said that due to our outlook plan, we have saved up money for this and the money is already allocated. We can afford it. C. Hoyt said that he will check with dealers on whether we might be able to package two vehicles together, instead of waiting until winter for the EMS/Tahoe exchange.



Membership vote regarding authorizing \$65,000 to be used to purchase a new brush truck (thank you brush truck committee, for all of your hard work).

YES: 16

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

Discussion and vote regarding reinstating the social committee, which can include all classes of members:

YES: 15

NO: 1

ABSTAIN: 0

The 2013 committees were disbanded by M. Henry and new ones were formed. If you were not present at the meeting, you may still volunteer for a committee. Only the bylaw committee is restricted to only three members. (In some cases you may have been signed up for a committee even if you were not present.)

- AUDIT: J. Drotar, K. Serowik
- PARADE: R. Bealo, S. Bealo
- SOCIAL: H. Polhamus, J. VanKuren, K. Greenlee, B. Frantz
- WEBSITE: M. Belensky, W. Miga
- BYLAW: T. Mason, K. Miga, J. Brown
- MEMBERSHIP: J. VanKuren, W. Miga, M. Belensky, D. Hoeflein, A. Holton
- SUNSHINE: E. Belensky

M. Belensky said that Little Meadows Fire Chief “Chip” Barnum passed away and one of our former chiefs is now a member of that department. M. Belensky asked if we could send a donation to Little Meadows Fire Department as per information in the obituary. M. Henry and W. Miga said that our accountant is looking into whether we are allowed to make these kinds of donations as a nonprofit organization. This vote for a \$100 donation is pending whether we can legally make this type of donation.

YES: 16

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

J. Mann was awarded his 5-year service award as he was not at the Christmas party. Congratulations, Jack!

**REFRESHMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING:** No one volunteered ☹

**NUMBER ATTENDING:** 28

**VOTING:** 19 present initially; then after the elections 3 members left, resulting in 16 present for votes cast after the elections. There were 8 absentee ballots cast (see above).

**TIME ADJORNED:** 14:45

**NEXT MEETING:** March 3, 2014

Respectfully submitted, **Karen S. Miga**