

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

September 14, 2015

**PRESENT:** M. Henry, B. Dieffenbacher, D. Dieffenbacher, R. Serowik, F. Trzcinski, W. Miga, R. Fiori, B. Polhamus, H. Polhamus, C. Hoyt, K. Hoyt, K. Greenlee, G. Greenlee, D. Hoeflein, K. Miga, J. Brown

**CALLED TO ORDER:** 19:37

**MINUTES FROM:** 08/03/2015 **ACCEPTED:** F. Trzcinski , seconded by W. Miga

***TREASURER'S REPORT***

Activity checking: \$14,857.04  
General checking: \$9,385.26

Activity: \$3,275.38  
2% Money: \$11,581.66

- I sent out the August numbers to everyone. Take a look and make sure that everything is correct.
- We have the final papers turned into the CPA for the taxes/2014 audit.
- We have two bills on our credit cards from Weis and we do not have any POs for them; they are from 06/12/2015, 06/16/2015, and 06/20/2015. (After a discussion about the items purchased, it was decided that these were purchases made for Engine 98 and the chicken barbecue). From now on, please collect your receipts and submit a PO. Each credit card has an envelope where the card can be signed out and signed back in again after use. The Station 1 card was signed out, but not signed back in again although it was there. At Station 2 the paper that is used to sign the card out and in was missing; I replaced it. Please let someone know (by signing the sheet) when you are using the card and remember to turn in the PO.

Motion to accept: W. Miga, seconded by C. Hoyt

***BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS***

We received a thank you card from the Greenlee family for the sympathy floral arrangement.

***BOARD COMMUNICATIONS***

A board meeting was not held this evening as a quorum was not present.

## **OFFICER REPORTS**

### **CHIEF:**

- Regarding the recent call in Endicott, regardless of what the County is saying, that the gas was there to ignite the building and not harm anyone, someone definitely would have been killed.
  - (R. Serowik) It appears to have been an elaborate mechanism designed to start a fire without killing the arsonist, but the system failed because of the use of nylon cord. The scene was also evaluated by counter-terrorism officials who came to the same conclusion that it was not booby-trapped to kill firefighters. However, some firefighters gave statements to the media to the contrary, although the evidence points to the fact that the primary purpose of the arsonist was to destroy property and collect insurance money, not kill firefighters, although someone could have been killed, but that is the case with all fires started by arsonists. Giving details to the media which should not have been publicized may have compromised the investigation.
  - (C. Hoyt) My point was to pay attention when you are going in and pay attention on calls. Also, don't ever leave a call and go to the media and give your own story. Any information should come from the department itself and not an individual.
- Two thermal imagers were installed on the Rescue. If there are any problems, let me know.
- At the last officers' meeting, it was discussed that we are lacking people to respond to calls during the day. Endicott's FAST team is going to bring an engine and not just a pickup truck to calls during the day from now on. This will avoid putting them in a bad situation wherein if they are the first on the scene, they will have just a pickup truck with no water. If you are in command and can cut them loose and get them back in service, please do that. This request was sent to the County and will be in effect relatively soon. This will apply Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**FIRST ASSISTANT CHIEF:** No report.

**SECOND ASSISTANT CHIEF:** No report.

**DAY CAPTAIN:** No report.

**NIGHT CAPTAIN:** No report.

### **FIRST LIEUTENANT:**

- Thank you to W. Miga for helping me with the hose testing.

**SECOND LIEUTENANT:** No report.

**FIRE POLICE CAPTAIN:** No report.

- (W. Miga) While we were doing traffic control at the accident this morning, someone ignored us and went through anyway. The driver only got a warning.
- (G. Greenlee) Someone also ran through the stop sign at the call this evening as well.
- (H. Polhamus) Be careful out there and stay alert.

**EMS:**

- There are a lot of changes coming down the pike. Effective now, spinal mobilization protocol has changed. You might see some things that used to be considered wrong or dangerous. Having an auto accident victim get out of the car, stand up, and sit down on the stretcher is now okay, even with a suspected spinal injury. There are a lot of studies showing that if someone is able to remove themselves from the vehicle, it is safer for them to do so than if we tried to remove them. Collars will still be used in every case, but it is not always desirable to put someone on a backboard. I have the webinar explaining this if you want to see it. We will eventually be doing this training in-house for those who have not received it elsewhere.
- There are some new programs we will be joining. CPAP machines are used for sleep apnea and a variation has been used medically for respiratory distress, which is very effective in some cases. This was only available through Advanced Life Support up until now; however, it has now been approved for BLS and will be used much more widely.
- Auto-injectors for epinephrine for allergic reactions now cost \$200 each. The problem is that there is a lot of waste because they often expire before they are used. There is a new program which will allow BLS EMTs to use epinephrine administered by syringe. At first this will be a controlled pilot study which we have been asked to join; the cost will initially be about \$50 per injection to offset the cost of the study. During the study, any epinephrine use must be reported to a physician immediately afterwards. After the pilot study, the injections will probably cost between \$5 to \$10 per injection. Hopefully the study will be starting before the end of the year.
- A language line telephone translator service has become available. A patient who does not speak English can be put on the phone with interpreters to conference in on the call. Stickers with this information will be placed in our vehicles where they will be handy.
- If you encounter an AED that is beeping, a spare battery is stored behind the cover. Change out the battery, wrap up the old battery, and call R. Serowik or S. Bealo and notify them.
- The rehab trailer was checked on Saturday and a lot of equipment was not strapped down. Please secure equipment that has been used with the provided ratchet straps so that the trailer does not tip over when it is being towed.

**FIRE MARSHAL:** No report.

**SAFETY OFFICER:** No report.

**MAINTENANCE:** No report.

- (G. Greenlee) The lawnmower is fixed.
- (C. Hoyt) I have the bulbs to replace the stationary scene lighting on the Squad.

#### **AIR/CASCADE:**

- Everything is in service.
- This is a gentle reminder. If you use bottles, please refill them. Every bottle on the Rescue was filled below what it should have been. Thank you to C. Hoyt for filling them up on Saturday. Some were put into the Rescue backwards and did not get filled; some were filled hot and nobody went back to check them and top them off.

#### **TRAINING:**

- (D. Hoeflein) J. VanKuren says that Saturday training is going well.
- Maine is hosting training on Tuesdays for the remainder of September.
- (W. Miga) J. VanKuren and myself are going to be holding classes for required OSHA training during the months of November and December for those of you who would rather take the class in person instead of on the computer. These classes will probably be on Saturdays after training. We are going to be getting input from R. Bealo regarding what needs to be covered.
  - (C. Hoyt) I am having a problem getting a user name and password for CentreLearn, despite repeated requests.
- (W. Miga) I took Scott Drake out on driver training on the brush truck and covered everything. The chief cleared him to do nonemergency responses until he gets a hot run. He knows that he cannot take it to any other mutual aid calls other than Maine.

**HEALTH/SAFETY:** No report.

**AUDIT:** No report.

**PARADE:** No report.

#### **AUXILIARY:**

- I want to thank D. Dieffenbacher for handling the luncheon for Gwen Ellis.
- The Christmas party is totally booked and Barb Fox has signed the contract. We just need to pick out the menu.
- We had a discussion at our meeting regarding two members who were transferred to the Auxiliary who have not been seen by us since. We do not know whether they are still considered active members or not, or what we need to do about this.
  - (M. Henry) we have a list of members in similar situations that the board needs to go through. We will be deciding on the status of these members.

#### **BYLAW:**

- We brought up the bylaw proposal to change the titles of Day and Night Captain and First and Second Lieutenant to just generic Captain and Lieutenant. There was some discussion at the last meeting and we would like to see if there is any additional discussion regarding this proposal. (A discussion ensued in which the

general consensus was that there did not appear to be a compelling reason to change the current titles. We agreed to vote on the proposal.)

Should we NOT change the current wording for the titles of Captains and Lieutenants and have them remain the same?

YES: 14

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

**B. C. FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION:**

- (R. Serowik) Next meeting is 10/09/2015 at Port Crane. It is the annual memorial service meeting.
- (M. Henry) We signed up to host the B. C. Firefighters Association meeting in March 2016.

**WEBSITE:** No report.

**RETENTION/ RECRUITING/ MEMBERSHIP:**

- Apparently no one received a letter of resignation from M. Dennison, who is scheduled to come off of probation. We will be voting on this tonight.
- Dennis Morris submitted an application as he thought that he would be leaving Glen Aubrey, but he works on Tuesday nights and Saturday mornings so he would not be able to attend training. He is just going to remain with Glen Aubrey and is withdrawing his application.
- Seth Knapp submitted an application tonight after we got back from the call. He has quite an extensive EMS background, but he is mainly interested in firefighting and does not really want to do EMS since he does it all day. He lives on Milan. We will start processing his application.
- Adam Drake's probation is up next month. I will send a reminder a week before to the officers so that reports can be completed.

**ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS:** None.

**MEMBERS COMING OFF PROBATION:**

Should M. Dennison come off of probation and become a full member of the department? (Consensus was that no one present at the meeting had ever seen her at training or calls.)

YES: 0

NO: 14

ABSTAIN: 0

**SUNSHINE:**

- Flowers were sent to C. VanKuren following her surgery.
- Sympathy arrangement was sent for the funeral of Gwen Ellis.
- Sympathy arrangement was sent to the Greenlee family.
- If you have any Sunshine needs, let me (K. Hoyt) know.

**OLD BUSINESS**

It appears that everything from last month has been addressed.

## ***NEW BUSINESS***

- We are making a list of items to be paid for out of activity and 2% money that will be voted on at the annual meeting. For example, the annual firefighter clambake is going to be added to the list, which we forgot to bring up at the last meeting. As a result we did not vote on whether or not we could use 2% money for the 08/30/2015 clambake. We had five members attend the clambake.
  - (C. Hoyt) There is alcohol there and we cannot use 2% for alcohol.
  - (M. Henry) We have always used 2% money for this previously. I am not sure what the answer is.
  - (W. Miga) We can use activity money, correct?
  - (M. Henry) Yes. We will check on this and hold this vote.
  - (C. Hoyt) Can it come out of the food budget as it is technically an “association meeting?”
  - (W. Miga) Even though there is alcohol served?
  
- (W. Miga) Did we ever get a resolution from the accountant regarding making donations to individuals or other organizations?
  - (Board) We got the information but we do not remember; we will review the accountant’s letter again.
  
- (C. Hoyt) I would like a clarification on when a membership vote is needed for items over \$5000. Are there any exemptions?
  - (W. Miga) Emergency repairs.
  - (C. Hoyt) There have been a few bills that probably should have been voted on. There was a recent bill for the Pumper-Tanker that was \$20,000 and it was not for emergency work.
  - (B. Dieffenbacher) How do we plan ahead of time for things like this?
  - (C. Hoyt) I am just asking because that is a large chunk of money spent without anybody knowing. I think the board needs to look at this.
  - (B. Dieffenbacher) By the time I see the bills, the work is already done. We never get an estimate. Maybe that should change.
  - (C. Hoyt) I can see if you crash a rig, but not for general maintenance.
  - (M. Henry) Every 2 to 3 years there is supposed to be a major maintenance bill.
  - (C. Hoyt) This (the pumper-tanker) is also the rig that we talked about replacing. We put \$15,000 into Engine 1 the year before we sold it. Now the same for the Pumper-Tanker; that \$20,000 could have been a down payment for a new rig.
  - (M. Henry) I asked for an estimate before the work was done and never got one. The pump did have to be fixed. I asked for at least a ballpark

figure; I never got it. It was a scheduled maintenance thing. We need to discuss this in a board meeting.

- (W. Miga) Regardless of what is discussed in the board meeting, until some other change is made to the bylaws, if something is not an emergency it needs to come up for a vote.
  - (Somebody) Who determines what is an emergency?
  - (W. Miga) In my opinion, if something happens with a building, it is the board. If it is a rig, it is the chief.
  - (M. Henry) That is a good question. We need to hash it out.
  - (C. Hoyt) This should be at the top of the board's list so that this does not happen again. Scheduled maintenance is not an emergency and should be up for a membership vote. We have a bunch of rigs that need new tires. Is it because they are getting bad or because of the NFPA standards?
  - (M. Henry) The NFPA standards were set aside because they were ridiculous in comparison to how much the rigs are actually used. We are judging the tires by how they look and the dates and are trying to reach a compromise.
  - (B. Dieffenbacher) We have been trying to put things in the outlook budget as they come up. We need an idea of what is needed so that we can put it in the budget. The Pumper-Tanker repairs were within the maintenance budget line. I agree that there should be some accountability. I am only seeing it after the job is done. We need have some kind of accountability.
- The estimate for the garage door repairs at Station 1 is \$1505.30. This is to fix the two bottom sections, rubber, five hinges, seven rollers, lubricate, check operation, etc. and the rest is labor. We signed the contract to get the work done on 09/09/2015. I believe that the work will be done probably within the next couple of weeks; however, I have not yet gotten confirmation on exactly when.
  - (B. Polhamus) The sign for Trunk or Treat is out at the church. It is going to be on 10/25/2015.

**REFRESHMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING:** Kelly Hoyt

**NUMBER ATTENDING:** 16

**VOTING:** 14

**TIME ADJORNED:** 20:55

**NEXT MEETING:** 10/05/2015

Respectfully submitted by Assistant to the Secretary, *Karen S. Miga*