

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

December 5, 2016

**PRESENT:** R. Bealo, K. Battaglini, B. Dieffenbacher, C. Hoyt, W. Miga, K. Miga, D. Dieffenbacher, M. Wiley, D. Hoeflein, C. Nally, D. Kerila, G. Greenlee, K. Greenlee, B. Polhaumus, H. Polhamus, C. Buonomo, J. Buonomo, G. Roberts, K. Hoyt, R. Fiori, F. Trzcinski, S. Bealo, A. Greenlee, S. Hoyt, J. Drotar, R. McConnell

**CALLED TO ORDER:** 19:54

**MINUTES FROM:** 11/07/2016 **ACCEPTED:** R. Fiori, seconded by F. Trzcinski

## ***TREASURER'S REPORT***

Activity checking: \$15,712.09  
General checking: \$14,599.26

Activity: \$3867.76  
2% Money: \$11,844.33

- Use Amazon Smile this holiday season and indicate Union Center as your charity if you can. We are making a little bit of money from this.
- I sent out the account file listing to all of the account owners. Make sure that everything is correct.

**ACCEPTED:** J. Drotar, seconded by C. Hoyt

## ***BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS***

None.

## ***BOARD COMMUNICATIONS***

Members not in good standing due to physicals:

- S. Hoyt (scheduled)
- E. Belensky

We will send out an e-mail to everyone regarding what diagnostic items are covered in our company physicals, which will give you an awareness of what is being tested depending upon your membership category. We had a discussion during the board meeting regarding what we can do to keep our members healthy. Physicals that are given through Lourdes are for the purpose of determining if members are fit for duty. This is the only information that we receive; we do not receive the results from the physicals that are performed. There is a lot of information that is useful in terms of blood work, blood pressure, EKG, audiogram, etc. and the board recommends that you use this information by requesting that the results of your physical be sent

to your primary care physician. This may be helpful in determining what you may require in terms of further care.

Regarding quarterly hours/Members Not in Good Standing, we received hardship letters from K. Battaglini and D. Glover. We will be voting on these during New Business.

Members who remain inactive due to quarterly hours:

- B. Gazdik
- M. Henry (life member)
- A. Holton
- J. Pedro.

We received a resignation letter from A. Holton. A resignation letter was received from I. Espada last month. Both of them have turned in all of their gear and their resignations were accepted.

Regarding OSHA training hours, everyone should have received a letter from R. Bealo. If you have any questions, please talk to R. Bealo.

## ***OFFICER REPORTS***

### **CHIEF:**

- The five-department SCBA grant has been submitted and now we are crossing our fingers.
- We applied for an individual grant for hose and nozzles.
- Thank you to the Auxiliary for making the arrangements for the Christmas party. Everyone had a good time and the magician was very impressive.
- A few of us attended a seminar about cancer in the fire service last Monday. Decon Wipes were one of the things that were brought up. We acquired some for demonstration purposes. They are made for wiping hands, faces and necks and are similar to baby wipes, but are specifically for decontamination. They should be on all of the rigs by the end of the week. Please use them for cleaning up before you get back on the rig after a fire call.
- The hydrant at Station 2 is back in service as of today. Whoever uses it next, please let the water flow for awhile. W. Miga was there when a large piece of the metal breakaway connector flew out of the hydrant and across Taft Avenue while the hydrant was being flushed out. The other half is missing. Open the 4-inch discharge and let the water flow out. Hopefully that will avoid a pump problem.
- A past company member has passed away; Berchard (Bud) Lee died on December 4, 2016. His funeral will take place on Thursday, December 8, 2016 at 11 a.m. at Union Center United Methodist Church on Maple Drive. Calling hours are on Wednesday, December 7, 2016 from 3 to 7 p.m. at Allen Funeral Home. I already contacted the Sunshine Committee and we will be sending an arrangement.

**FIRST ASSISTANT CHIEF:** No report.

**SECOND ASSISTANT CHIEF:** No report.

**DAY CAPTAIN:**

- Congratulations to R. Fiori, S. Meschter, and T. Meschter for completing and passing their state classes.
- Thank you to the Auxiliary for a great Christmas party.

**NIGHT CAPTAIN:** No report.

**FIRST LIEUTENANT:** No report.

**SECOND LIEUTENANT:** No report.

**FIRE POLICE CAPTAIN:** No report.

**EMS:** No report.

**FIRE MARSHAL:** No report.

**SAFETY OFFICER:**

- This past winter I completed two courses related to safety and I am trying to find another course to take this winter.

**MAINTENANCE:** No report.

- (C. Hoyt) The floor in the maintenance room is in terrible condition again and it needs to be scrubbed.

*ADDENDUM: (The maintenance report was apparently sent via e-mail but not received until after the meeting. This is being added on 12/06/2016.)*

- We are still waiting for the spray bar control for Brush 53 to return from the factory.
- Spartan Motors sent parts for the speed sensor for the Pumper-Tanker speedometer, which will be replaced when the parts for Brush 53 come in. The speedometer is not working at all now and is not tracking mileage either. I am told that this should be within the next week or so.

**AIR/CASCADE:** No report.

**TRAINING:**

- The training schedule is complete until February.
- Bail-out training is December 13, 2016 at Endicott.
- Remember to check your gear this month.
- Saturday training has been going great.
- We will have CPR class in January, but we have no specific date yet.

**HEALTH/SAFETY:** No report.

**AUDIT:** No report.

**PARADE:**

- Thank you to everyone who went to the Christmas parades and the Veterans Day parade. I appreciate it.

- No parades on the schedule until St. Patrick's Day.

**AUXILIARY:**

- I want to thank the Auxiliary for helping me with the Christmas party.
- I apologize for forgetting to acknowledge Christina Buonomo when we received our plaque.

**BYLAW:**

- We ran into a bit of a snafu with the wording of the proposal that we are working on and did not send it out in time. We hope that we will be able to bring it up for a vote in January.

**B. C. FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION:**

- Officers for the association are the same. There is a new HAZMAT captain. The high angle rescue and dive teams are merging. The Broome County instructor left, so Rick Allen from Binghamton Fire is now the state instructor. HAZMAT is going to be going to GSA in Hillcrest.

**WEBSITE:**

- M. Belensky requested a seasonal theme for the website, which has been done.
- All the latest minutes and training hours are now posted. I noticed that some Auxiliary minutes were missing, so I asked if they would straighten that out and it looks like everything is up to date.

**RETENTION/ RECRUITING/ MEMBERSHIP:** None.

**ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS:** None.

**MEMBERS COMING OFF PROBATION:** None.

**SUNSHINE:**

- We will be sending an arrangement for Bud Lee.

**TRUCK COMMITTEE UPDATE:**

- Tomorrow night, December 6, 2016, the truck salesman will be here at 7 p.m. to help the truck committee answer any questions about the new truck specs.

***OLD BUSINESS***

Cell tower is in a dormant period for us while the cell tower company is working with the Town. G. Greenlee asked for a summary of the terms of the contract. W. Miga sent that out and everyone should have received it. This should not be discussed with anyone outside of the company, as this is actually stated in the contract. Please honor this.

The broken washing machine at Station 1 appears to have been repaired by G. Greenlee and B. Dieffenbacher.

We had a discussion in the board meeting about a number of building-related problems. We have some ideas about how to keep things moving during the summer months and we are planning to be in a better position next year regarding this.

The eligibility list was submitted and we are opening the election board during New Business.

Regarding the question of what the Auxiliary members can drive, it appears that the Utility is the only practical vehicle. The new brush truck can no longer be driven during the winter months because the skid is no longer removed. The company insurance will cover the deductible if personal vehicles are driven to training and are involved in an accident. B. Dieffenbacher mentioned that we might be able to add a few sentences to the personal vehicle use BOG stating that Auxiliary members can drive their personal vehicles to calls, if necessary. When driving a personal vehicle to emergencies, the company insurance covers them completely. J. VanKuren, the training officer, usually makes a recommendation at the officers meeting when he feels that a member is qualified to drive vehicles. The member is then notified by an officer. If the Auxiliary members would like driver training, ask an officer to take you out and train you, or contact the chief or training officer and request that another qualified member be allowed to train you. (C. Hoyt gave B. Dieffenbacher permission to train D. Dieffenbacher during the meeting.) Once you are comfortable, you need to ask an officer to take you out to qualify you on that vehicle. No hot runs are needed by the Auxiliary members as they will not be responding in emergency mode. With regard to live burns, the auxiliary should contact J. VanKuren to coordinate getting Auxiliary members and equipment to the burn site.

The qualification list for vehicle training on the website is out of date. There appears to be insufficient documentation regarding driver training and we need a form to document driver training that can be placed in the members' folders. D. Hoeflein pointed out that the driving logs on each rig reflect who has been driving them. H. Polhamus said that Vestal had a checklist similar to what you might have for a road test. This is something that the officers will need to work on.

*ADDENDUM: (This is to clarify the issue from last month (below) and the answer given during the meeting regarding the driving BOG, which was apparently the original question before things went off in other directions. This was added on 12/09/2016.)*

(From last month's meeting) "Regarding the Auxiliary's use of the Utility, M. Belensky said that there is nothing official in writing. As far as who can do driver training for the Utility and what the requirements are for the Auxiliary, W. Miga said that we need to go to the chief and/or the training officer to get some written clarification."

C. Hoyt said that the operational BOG "Driving Policy" initiated in 2007 and revised in 2013 listed on the website under the operational BOG tab states the following: "Any member of the Fire Company, who is of 18 years of age or older and wishes to be qualified to drive Company apparatus, must contact the Training Officer. The Training Officer will advise the member if he or she is eligible to driver train. Members must drive with Fire Company Officers only, unless other permission has been granted by the Chief or Training Officer."

Regarding the malfunctioning lights for the flagpole in front of Station 1, K. Battaglini/building committee will be looking into this and will determine what needs to be done.

Station 1 door from the parking lot still needs to be repaired. K. Battaglini will take care of this.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

It appears that the door from outside into the hallway at Station 2 will not unlatch. K. Battaglini will look into this.

Thank you to R. McConnell and K. Hoyt for ordering and picking up the food for this evening.

K. Battaglini hardship letter.

YES: 20

NO: 1

ABSTAIN: 1

D. Glover hardship letter

YES: 22

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

The nomination board was opened. A nomination was made that all eligible members be nominated for each category. However, nominations were made for the fire police captain and EMS captain categories, as these positions do not have definitive requirements. Following this, some members removed their names from the nomination board.

CHIEF:

- M. Belensky
- C. Hoyt
- A. Silvestri

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> ASSISTANT CHIEF:

- M. Belensky
- D. Hoeflein
- C. Hoyt
- Silvestri
- J. VanKuren

DAY AND NIGHT CAPTAIN:

- M. Belensky
- D. Hoeflein
- C. Hoyt
- J. Mann
- Silvestri
- J. VanKuren
- M. Wiley

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> LIEUTENANT: (K. Miga removed her name)

- M. Belensky
- D. Hoeflein
- C. Hoyt
- J. Mann
- T. Mason
- T. Meschter
- Silvestri

- J. VanKuren
- M. Wiley

**FIRE POLICE CAPTAIN:** (H. Polhamus refused the nomination)

- G. Greenlee
- T. Mason

**EMS CAPTAIN:** (S. Bealo and G. Roberts refused the nomination)

- J. Buonomo
- R. Serowik

**TWO BOARD MEMBER POSITIONS:** (S. Bealo, B. Dieffenbacher, J. Drotar, A. Greenlee, K. Greenlee, R. Greenlee, C. Hoyt, K. Hoyt, B. Polhamus, H. Polhamus, G. Roberts, F. Trzcinski, and M. Wiley all removed their names)

- E. Belensky
- M. Belensky
- J. Brown
- D. Dieffenbacher
- D. Glover
- G. Greenlee
- D. Hoeflein
- J. Mann
- T. Mason
- S. Meschter
- T. Meschter
- K. Miga
- K. Serowik
- R. Serowik
- A. Silvestri
- J. VanKuren

**REFRESHMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING:** Greenlee family

**NUMBER ATTENDING:** 26

**VOTING:** 22

**TIME ADJORNED:** 21:18 Motion to adjourn was made by G. Roberts, seconded by R. Bealo, and all were in agreement.

**NEXT MEETING:** January 2, 2016

Respectfully submitted, *Karen S. Miga*