

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

January 4, 2016

**PRESENT:** F. Trzcinski, B. Dieffenbacher, D. Dieffenbacher, S. Meschter, T. Meschter, J. Mann, R. Serowik, K. Greenlee, A. Greenlee, K. Hoyt, B. Polhamus, H. Polhamus, C. Hoyt, J. Brown, J. Drotar, M. Belensky, D. Hoeflein, I. Espada, K. Miga, W. Miga, R. Greenlee, G. Greenlee

(F. Trzcinski is acting president for this meeting as M. Henry, K. Battaglini, and R. Bealo are absent.)

**CALLED TO ORDER:** 19:48

**MINUTES FROM:** 12/07/2015 **ACCEPTED:** W. Miga, seconded by J. Drotar

***TREASURER'S REPORT***

Activity checking: \$10,957.76  
General checking: \$2903.75

Activity: \$2620.45  
2% Money: \$8337.31

I am putting together the budget file for the coming year. If you have a budget account, we are using the prior year as a guideline going forward. Take a look at those things that you want to do and let me know what you think. When the file is ready we will start looking at the budget, probably in another 2 to 3 weeks.

**ACCEPTED:** J. Drotar, seconded by G. Greenlee

***BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS***

The CPA is just about done with his audit. I (B. Dieffenbacher) got a draft copy this afternoon but have not had a chance to look at it yet.

We received the town budgets and M. Henry should have signed them. We received the amount that we requested.

***BOARD COMMUNICATIONS***

We did not have enough board members present this evening to form a quorum and therefore we could not have a board meeting.

F. Trzcinski: We have posted the current names on the nomination board. We have until the end of the meeting to nominate people and make changes. There are a couple of changes already. T. Mason declined the Fire Police Captain position and S. Bealo declined the EMS Captain position.

- W. Miga: Did you get letters of objection to add or remove people to or from the list?
- F. Trzcinski: I am not aware of that.
- W. Miga: It looks like everybody whose name is posted was on the eligibility list except for M. Henry, whose name now appears on the posted nomination board but was not on the original list. Someone should have submitted a letter of objection and we should have voted on this tonight. He is clearly eligible because his term is up. There are other people who are eligible for certain offices, but are not listed, or who are ineligible and are still on the list. Were any letters of objection submitted for them? Do we want to follow the bylaws?
- B. Dieffenbacher: We should follow the bylaws.
- W. Miga: The process is that someone should have submitted a letter of objection regarding M. Henry's eligibility and then it should have been presented tonight. Then we would vote to accept it or not accept it.
- B. Dieffenbacher: I see the latest list does not have M. Henry's name on it.
- K. Miga: A previous list was sent out today that had his name on it, but the latest version does not have it listed. The original did not have his name on it.
- F. Trzcinski: Can we call R. Bealo? Because now M. Henry's name is posted on the white board here.

*(places phone call)*

- B. Bealo (via phone): *I did not receive a letter of objection from M. Henry. The reason that his name was not on the original list is because I did not realize that his term was up.*
- C. Hoyt: Did you meet on a Sunday as a board to determine this list? Wasn't M. Henry at this meeting?
- R. Serowik: Is his term up?
- B. Bealo: *Yes, his term is up. Someone nominated him on the second round and this was when I realized that his term is up. I thought he was a standing board member and was still was on the board; that is why I thought he was ineligible to run.*
- R. Serowik: This is a material error and the board members admit that they made an error.
- W. Miga: That is why we should have had a month to figure this out, so someone would have had time to write a letter of objection.
- R. Serowik: Can it be an e-mail letter of objection?
- W. Miga: Yes, and anyone can send it.
- F. Trzcinski: Does anyone want to nominate anyone else?
- G. Greenlee: So now we vote on this letter of objection tonight before the nomination board closes?
- W. Miga: Yes, by the end of the meeting we should all agree that the nomination board is correct. Then no names can be added.

- C. Hoyt: We are still not following the bylaws. They say that the letter needed to be sent BEFORE the January meeting.
- J. Brown: The timeline went out the window when the eligibility list did not come out on time.
- W. Miga: Yes, it is supposed to be submitted prior to the January meeting. How much do we want to follow the bylaws?
- S. Meschter: It is pretty close to the intent of the bylaws. Maybe there should be a minor wave of the bylaws.

## **OFFICER REPORTS**

### **CHIEF:**

- The incentive points will be coming out shortly. M. Belensky is getting clothing prices updated. One big change will be that no cash will be accepted. Even if you only owe \$1 more, you have to write a check. Keeping track of cash and having it lying around is too much of a problem.

**FIRST ASSISTANT CHIEF:** No report.

**SECOND ASSISTANT CHIEF:** No report.

### **DAY CAPTAIN:**

- Happy New Year!

**NIGHT CAPTAIN:** No report.

**FIRST LIEUTENANT:** No report.

**SECOND LIEUTENANT:** No report.

### **FIRE POLICE CAPTAIN:**

- We put the muffler on the brush truck and it is really decreasing the amount of noise. Thanks to G. Greenlee and S. Drake for helping with that. We also put on a cargo carrier with the cones.

### **EMS:**

- We are sending out the order for the syringe epinephrine that will be replacing the EpiPens. We should have this in a couple of weeks and then will be scheduling training for this. This will save us a lot of money.
- We are looking for a date for CPR training, which will probably take place in February. We should have a date pretty quickly. It will be on a Saturday, probably from 10 to 4.

**FIRE MARSHAL:** *(This report was sent via e-mail but could not be accessed at the meeting because the router needed to be reset. The contents of this report were therefore not mentioned at the meeting, but are now presented here.)*

- All reports have been sent to NYSOFFPC, except for the ones for December and the ones missing from November.

**SAFETY OFFICER:** No report.

**MAINTENANCE:**

- I am aware that we are out of diesel fuel treatment and I will be picking that up this week.
- I apologize about the tires that were left on the side of the building. I was not aware that they were there. They did not have enough room on their truck to take them away and were supposed to come back and get them. They finally came back on Tuesday. I wish that someone had called me and not waited until the meeting to mention it, as they were not supposed to be here.

**AIR/CASCADE:**

- Annual flow testing will be completed by MES this Wednesday and Thursday, 01/06/2016 and 01/07/2016.
- The door on the cascade fill station is having issues again. Thanks to the Engine 98 crew 2 weeks ago for getting it operational again. Safair will be here this week to troubleshoot and repair it fully.
- FIT testing will be in February. I will send out an e-mail when I have the exact date. It will be a Tuesday night during training. Just a reminder; fit testing is required for all current and future green tags.

**TRAINING:**

(J. VanKuren)

- Training is going well. We are trying to get more driver training done for the guys that need it.

(D. Hoeflein)

- Maine is hosting Tuesday training for the month of January, except on 01/12/2016, when training will be at Endicott.

(F. Trzcinski):

- This is not my section, but I was looking at the Broome County newsletter. There is a class this week (Friday) for railroad training and there is another class on solar panels on Wednesday, 01/06/2016. Be aware of those county training classes. A lot are free and they do close quickly.
- Endwell is hosting new our new senator (Fred Akshar) on 02/05/2016 at 19:30 (refreshments at 19:00; do not miss those) if you want to meet and greet the new senator.

**HEALTH/SAFETY:** No report.

**AUDIT:** No report.

**PARADE:** No report.

**AUXILIARY:**

- Thank you to everybody who was involved with the gifts for the Christmas families.

(F. Trzcinski):

- Thank you to I. Espada for coordinating the Christmas family program for us.

**BYLAW:**

- There are no bylaw changes, but we should be following the current bylaws as they are written.

**B. C. FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION:**

- Next meeting is 01/08/2016 at 19:30 at Endwell.

(Someone):

- They are looking for more donations for the safety trailer and tow vehicle. They want \$100 for annual maintenance from the departments that use it.

**WEBSITE:** No report.

**RETENTION/ RECRUITING/ MEMBERSHIP:**

- We have three new people whose applications we received (Glenn Roberts, Matthew Roberts, and Joe Buonomo) and mentioned at last month’s meeting. They are all interested in EMS only. Of course many of us already know Glenn Roberts. We had interviews with them and got background checks. Everything is favorable and we will vote tonight for probationary membership for all.
- Sierra Hoyt submitted an application for the Auxiliary tonight. We will go through the process of background checks and interview.

**ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS:**

Glenn Roberts:

YES: 18	NO: 3	ABSTAIN: 0
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Matthew Roberts:

YES: 20	NO: 1	ABSTAIN: 0
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Joe Buonomo:

YES: 20	NO: 0	ABSTAIN: 1
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**MEMBERS COMING OFF PROBATION:** None.

**SUNSHINE:**

- We sent flowers for Gerry Tull’s funeral.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

W. Miga: Did we get the certificate of incorporation yet? I asked for this last month. Any progress?

- B. Dieffenbacher: I have not seen it, but I know that M. Henry said that he would get it.
- F. Trzcinski: I think he said that it is in the safe?
- W. Miga: Can someone please get it so that I can follow up on the donation issue?

K. Miga: I asked last month about getting the list of when people had physicals so that the roster can be updated. I still have not gotten that information.

- J. Brown: Do we know how many people did not get them who were supposed to get them this year?
- W. Miga: If there is a problem on the fire ground and we do not have the correct records, it could be an issue.
- B. Dieffenbacher: It seems that we had a list in the beginning of the year, but I have not seen an updated one in a long time.
- S. Meschter: How often are we supposed to have physicals?
- W. Miga: At least every 2 years, possibly every year, or maybe even more frequently. It depends on what the doctor says.

W. Miga: The other day I tried calling down to Station 1 and I got some weird noise. Last month we brought up that the phone system had problems. Has it been looked into? Does anyone have the ball on this?

- B. Dieffenbacher: Not that I know of.
- F. Trzcinski: I looked at the phone tonight and it says REPLACE BATTERY. Maybe it is as simple as that.
- C. Hoyt: Line Number 1 will light up occasionally; that is the same problem that needed to be repaired by a repairman the last time.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

During the meeting the board received the e-mail letter of objection for M. Henry from R. Serowik. It states the following:

*“This message will constitute the subject of objection. My understanding is that Mr. Henry’s omission from the original list was based on a material error of facts and that he should have been included. Please add him to the list of eligible members.*

*Thank you for your kind attention in this matter.”*

- Vote YES for acceptance of the letter of objection and the belief that M. Henry is in fact eligible to run for the board of directors:

YES: 18

NO: 2

ABSTAIN: 1

- R. Serowik officially nominated M. Henry for the board.

W. Miga: We have had a recurring problem with getting the results of physicals back. We said that all new members would get physicals with our doctor now. We have been having a problem getting results back from Lourdes in a timely manner. We really need to get this fixed. Seth Knapp is the latest example of the problem. Last month K. Battaglini said that he talked to R. Bealo, who said that Seth was going to get a physical. To my knowledge he had the physical and we have not received the results. We end up telling the members that they can at least get a copy and bring it to us. Although we should not be getting it from the members, we have been accepting it. Could Lourdes even send it electronically? There is no HIPPA information on the form. The point being, we need to get this in a more timely manner than we are getting it.

- C. Hoyt: I am getting phone calls from Lourdes regarding when we are doing drug testing on people, so somewhere the ball has been dropped and they are losing paperwork or something. That is a board issue and I should not be the one they are calling about this.
- R. Serowik: The county health department does firefighter physicals.
- C. Hoyt: I think they are just as backed up as Lourdes, because Maine uses them and they are waiting an eternity.
- R. Serowik: The County rejects a lot of people. Those practitioners are tough.
- F. Trzcinski: We don't need that. We need to keep people.

H. Polhamus: Is the defensive driving course coming up soon?

- F. Trzcinski: Ken Battaglini is handling that.

C. Hoyt: PESH is due for a walk-through again and a date needs to be set.

A discussion was initiated by C. Hoyt regarding the OSHA classes on CentreLearn. He questioned the number of members using CentreLearn versus what it is costing the department. The discussion centered around the fact that there appears to be no policy in place regarding the CentreLearn OSHA classes and what will happen if members do not take them. He felt that CentreLearn may be a waste of money as we have been paying for it for 4 years and it appears that it is not being utilized by many members. He asked how much we are paying for it; B. Dieffenbacher said that we are paying \$91 per member and that we are paying for 40 members, which is a significant increase from what we were initially paying. C. Hoyt said that possibly some of the members we are paying for are actually inactive or on leave. R. Serowik said that as R. Bealo is the administrator, he should be able to give an accounting of how much and by whom CentreLearn is being used. C. Hoyt also said that it appeared that some classes assigned to firefighters were clearly relevant only to EMS members; R. Serowik mentioned that the cardiac rhythms class that was assigned is actually a paramedic class. C. Hoyt said that the entire board and not just one board member should be responsible for deciding what CentreLearn classes are to be assigned. He said that as

his employer, the board cannot make him take classes that are not appropriate to his position. There was general discussion and agreement that there needs to be a policy in place regarding CentreLearn/OSHA classes and what will happen if members do not take them.

Nomination board closed and this is how it appeared at the end of the meeting:

CHIEF:

C. Hoyt  
M. Belensky  
A. Silvestri

1st ASSISTANT CHIEF:

C. Hoyt  
M. Belensky  
A. Silvestri

2nd ASSISTANT CHIEF:

C. Hoyt  
M. Belensky  
A. Silvestri

DAY CAPTAIN:

J. VanKuren

NIGHT CAPTAIN:

D. Hoeflein

1st LIEUTENANT:

J. Brown

2nd LIEUTENANT:

J. Mann

FIRE POLICE CAPTAIN:

H. Polhamus

EMS CAPTAIN:

R. Serowik

BOARD (TWO POSITIONS):

K. Battaglini  
M. Henry  
W. Miga  
K. Miga  
J. Drotar\*\*



Thank you to G. Greenlee, K. Greenlee, and R. Greenlee for providing the delicious meal!

\*\*Following the meeting, J. Drotar declined the nomination.

**REFRESHMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING:** Board

**NUMBER ATTENDING:** 22

**VOTING:** 21 (F. Trzcinski was acting president and could not vote.)

**TIME ADJORNED:** 21:30

**NEXT MEETING:** 02/06/2016 (annual business meeting and elections) at 12:00

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