

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

April 3, 2017

**PRESENT:** W. Miga, K. Battaglini, R. Bealo, K. Greenlee, B. Polhamus, H. Polhamus, A. Greenlee, G. Greenlee, F. Trzcinski, B. Dieffenbacher, C. Buonomo, J. Drotar, T. Meschter, R. Fiori, D. Dieffenbacher, K. Miga, G. Roberts, R. McConnell, C. Hoyt, A. Drake, S. Drake

**CALLED TO ORDER:** 20:00

**MINUTES FROM:** 03/06/2017 **ACCEPTED:** S. Drake, seconded by R. Fiori

***TREASURER'S REPORT***

Activity checking: \$7334.06	Activity: \$2205.18
General checking: \$12,167.50	2% Money: \$5128.88

**ACCEPTED:** J. Drotar, seconded by S. Drake

***BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS***

None.

***BOARD COMMUNICATIONS***

Members Not in Good Standing due to quarterly hours:

- J. Becker
- J. Drotar
- M. Wiley

(Reminder: If you are a MNIGS, you cannot go to calls until you are up to date with your training hours.)

Members currently inactive due to quarterly hours:

- E. Belensky

Automatic conversion to resignation from the company due to being a MNIGS for 6 consecutive months and then an inactive member for another 6 consecutive months:

- B. Gazdik
- J. Pedro

We will no longer require members coming back from a leave of absence or inactive status who do not have a current physical to have a physical within 2 months; if they are Auxiliary members or firefighters they will simply be unable to participate in the activities of their particular class until they have a physical. They cannot go to calls. They can attend training, but they can only observe. They may attend meetings. This will make our physical policy consistent for both inactive/LOA members and new members.

We now have a scanner in the renovated day room at Station 2. Thanks to M. Belensky for purchasing it and to T. Mason for programming it.

## **OFFICER REPORTS**

### **CHIEF:**

- Four BOGs regarding tag status have been updated to reflect the changes to our physical policy. These should be available on the website shortly.
- Regarding the SCBA grant update, a memorandum of understanding between the five departments applying for this was requested, which is a good sign that we might get it. No grants have been announced yet. We had a second meeting with MES and also had a MSA demo. We have another Scott presentation on Wednesday by a different company. The five departments have been meeting almost on a weekly basis for this grant.
- The order will be placed soon for replacing our air bags. This will need a membership vote this evening because the cost will be more than \$5000. The money for this is already saved and designated for this in our outlook budget.
- Fire new bladder packs were placed into service. After Saturday training I found out that they are leaking and I placed a phone call to the company about this. They are brand new, so they shouldn't be leaking.
- We received new pager tone codes for the new paging system along with a new preliminary county dispatch policy. They are working on a few ways to limit the concerns we have regarding communications. At this time all pertinent information will be transmitted on both systems.
  - (R. Bealo): All size-ups, life information, and cancellations should be repeated to paging; otherwise all other communication will be on the ops channel.
- Appointments to appointed officer positions as per the bylaws:
  - Safety: K. Battaglini
  - Training: J. VanKuren
  - EMS Lieutenant: Pending discussion with EMS Captain.
  - Fire Police Lieutenant: Pending discussion with Fire Police Captain.
  - Fire Marshal: I sent a proposal to the bylaw committee to have this position removed from our bylaws because the role of the fire marshal in our company does not reflect the true definition of the role, which is to be involved in arson investigations and other matters that our company does not perform.

**FIRST ASSISTANT CHIEF:** None.

**SECOND ASSISTANT CHIEF:** None.

**DAY CAPTAIN:** None.

**NIGHT CAPTAIN:**

- Thank you to those who attended Saturday training on March 18, 2017 and helped with shoveling out hydrants.

**FIRST LIEUTENANT:** None.

**SECOND LIEUTENANT:** (Vacant)

**FIRE POLICE CAPTAIN:**

- Both the Utility and the Brush now have maps between the front seats for detour use. They show available detours for Twist Run, 38B, and 26 North and South. The idea is to use them to help motorists who need extra help.

**EMS:** *(This report was not read at the meeting as it was not received until after the meeting was over.)*

- I had training on March 19, 2017 for the BLS rollout. We had some attendees; for those who did not attend, please forward me your attendance at another agency's training.
- We are looking to have some new interested firefighters become EMTs. We will support you as you go through your classes and it will be rewarding when you finish them. Let me know if you are interested as summer classes are coming up.
- Keep up with the call coverage and keep taking the EMS vehicle home with you.

**FIRE MARSHAL:**

- Starting to build the new EMS ePCR template. Training on this should begin in the fall and cutover should take place in January.

**SAFETY OFFICER:**

- C. Hoyt and I completed two classes and I am now a certified and official safety officer.
- The board is meeting on April 10, 2017 to review our policies and make sure that we are up to speed. Some training will be forthcoming.

**MAINTENANCE:** None.

**AIR/CASCADE:**

- One air pack on the Tanker is out of service. It will be put back in service once it is repaired.

## **TRAINING:**

- There are two state classes being offered in Maine. The first is Leadership Accountability and it will take place on Tuesday, April 18, 2017. The second class is Leadership So That Everyone Goes Home and it will take place on Tuesday, April 25, 2017. Each of these is a one-night class and will take the place of scheduled training. If you plan to attend either or both, you need to go online and sign up for the state class in order to get your approval letter.
- The driver training BOGs that G. Roberts and W. Miga worked on should be on the website shortly. Please review all three forms, which are the minimum requirements for all drivers, the driver training and request form, and the driver training performance evaluation. J. Mann just went through some driver training and he said that it looks like it will all work.

## **HEALTH/SAFETY:**

(R. Bealo):

- I talked to the County today and they will not be offering an 8-hour OSHA class until the fall (September/October timeframe). The board talked this over and, since our cut-off time to have OSHA training completed is September, our only option at this point is to use the online courses and whatever OSHA topics are covered during Tuesday and Saturday training.

(W. Miga):

- We are going to explore whether we can offer some OSHA training classes here at Union Center.

## **AUDIT:**

- We are currently awaiting a response from S. Meschter to schedule an audit.

**PARADE:** No report.

## **AUXILIARY:**

- Recruitment Day is April 29, 2017 from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Our stations have been added to the Recruit NY website. We need the large sign moved out front. Lawn signs are available on the website and I will price these out and see if I can print them. We have some ideas for activities such as Stop, Drop and Roll training for children if we can find a floor mat to use (S. Drake said that he has wrestling mats that can be used.) We also thought about having a display of firefighter equipment and truck tours, for which we obviously need the assistance of firefighters.
- The next Auxiliary meeting is on April 12, 2017 at 18:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.
- The UCFC annual picnic will take place on August 19, 2017 at Greenwood Park. I will be calling to reserve a pavilion. We will supply camping information to those who are interested; last year some of us camped and it was fun.
- The Auxiliary has offered to help A. Silvestri with the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary planning.
- We would like to have a social night and are looking for ideas. We are thinking about a game night or a movie night.

**BYLAW:**

- Tonight we are voting on the proposal that was sent out which would allow us to vote to leave officer positions vacant, if no one is willing or able to fill them, until such time as someone is willing to accept the position. This prevents us from having to continuously go through the process of opening the nomination board and asking for nominations each month until the position is filled. We did not receive any questions or feedback on this.

YES: 17

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 2

- C. Hoyt mentioned the proposal he submitted regarding the fire marshal position and we will be working on this.

**B. C. FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION:**

- High-band paging should start in the early summertime and will have to be completed by December 31, 2018. (We will try to coordinate this with Maine.) At this time they are thinking that Western Broome will go first and then EMS. It will then be hit and miss as to when departments will have the funds to buy the pagers.
- The next meeting is this Friday in Kirkwood.

**WEBSITE:** No report.

**RETENTION/ RECRUITING/ MEMBERSHIP:**

- Sayword Hover put in an application a couple of months ago and we were checking her references and background, but her personal situation has changed and we are not sure what she is going to do. She is supposed to be calling us about this, but we have not received a call from her yet.

**ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS:** None.

**MEMBERS COMING OFF PROBATION:** None.

**SUNSHINE:**

- We sent a sympathy arrangement for D. Kerila's grandfather.
- A representative from the Broome County Legislature reached out to us, asking for one of our patches to send to a sick child, so we will be sending that out.

**TRUCK COMMITTEE:**

(W. Miga)

- We had a meeting with the board and our bookkeeper to go through all of our accounts to try to maximize the amount for the down payment for the truck and minimize the interest. It looks like we can afford a 4-year term. We found out that we might have to put a legal notice in the newspaper, with the Town then holding a public hearing regarding both the truck and the finances, followed by a town

resolution. C. Hoyt got a tremendous interest rate for the truck and we are currently on the path to do this. The legal notice should be in the newspaper tomorrow. We will hold the public hearing here at the station. We will be signing the paperwork and coordinating the payment, specs and signatures to make this happen.

(C. Hoyt)

- Once the financing stuff is done and we have signed the paperwork, they will start building the truck. We have never gotten a municipal rate before, but this is a huge savings at under 2.5%. Buying a truck previously was probably a lot easier because we paid a lot more in interest because we used the traditional route for obtaining a loan.

**ELECTION OF COMPANY OFFICERS:** (Tonight we voted to accept changes to the bylaws enabling us to vote to leave vacant positions if no one is willing or able to run. At this time the 2nd Lieutenant position is still open; however, S. Drake has reconsidered and has agreed to run for this position. No one else has come forward.)

C. Hoyt nominated S. Drake for 2nd Lieutenant, seconded by W. Miga.

YES: 11

NO: 1

ABSTAIN: 0

### ***OLD BUSINESS***

We are still waiting on parts to repair the lights on the monument at Station 1.

We are still waiting on prices for the LED bay lights at Station 2 and the exterior LED lights for both stations.

The maintenance room floor at Station 2 is stripped and the mastic is removed, so it's not sticky anymore. We will leave the concrete exposed and will not replace the flooring. K. Battaglini thinks that wind-driven rain might have come in through cracks in the walls and this is how water got underneath the floor. He will be looking into having the walls pressure-washed, cracks repaired, and the walls painted. He will be getting prices for this work.

The door to the parking lot at Station 1 has been tweaked and it seems to be working for the time being. There is one more thing that we can try if problems arise again. We will have to get a new doorframe if that doesn't work.

The work on the generator at Station 2 may or may not be completed; W. Miga will be calling to find out the status on this.

Regarding replacing the insulation in the bay ceiling at Station 2 and possibly replacing the heating system there, we are looking into options, getting prices, and budgeting this for next year. Trying to insulate the walls would be incredibly expensive. K. Battaglini believes that replacing the drop-down ceiling and installing blown-in insulation and a

new hot-water heating system will be safer and will save us a great deal of money over time. The fiberglass insulation in the ceiling is practically worthless in terms of retaining heat in the station.

K. Battaglini thought that he had found the magic formula for operating the washing machine at Station 1; however, when he tried to show G. Greenlee, the machine did not work. He will be calling the Maytag repairman.

Service on the boilers at Station 2 and Station 1 is complete.

The door from outside into the hallway at Station 2 has been fixed. Syracuse Time and Alarm had to replace boards. It was an electronic issue, not a latch issue. K. Battaglini also talked to Syracuse Time and Alarm about replacing the key fob system. He was told that this should be good for a long time, given its age and the activity level.

The ant problem at Station 1 is more significant than we thought, probably due to the heated floors. The exterminator used a gel-type industrial version of ant traps that will pose no health threat once it is dry (it dries very quickly). The exterminator will be coming on a monthly basis to provide treatment for ants and spiders to the exterior and interior of the building and bay area.

### ***NEW BUSINESS***

(C. Hoyt): Regarding the air bag replacement vote, I do not have the exact cost. Outlook savings for this contains \$20,000; I would like to vote to not exceed \$15,000.

YES: 18

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 1

(K. Battaglini): I would like to add that we owe a real debt of gratitude to B. Dieffenbacher because he did a great job with budgeting for the outlook during the time that he was the treasurer. All the big expenditures have money put away for them. Thank you, Bill! (*Applause!*)

Many, many thanks to the Polhamuses for providing the excellent dinner this evening 😊

**REFRESHMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING:** R. McConnell

**NUMBER ATTENDING:** 21

**VOTING:** 19 voted for everything except the officer position; excluding Auxiliary and business members, the number voting for that was 12.

**TIME ADJORNED:** Motion to adjourn made by R. Bealo and seconded by R. Fiori at 20:54. Everyone was in agreement.

**NEXT MEETING:** May 1, 2017

Respectfully submitted, *Karen S. Miga*