

MINUTES OF THE 852nd CORPORATION MEETING, November 14, 2016

President Robert Shillington called the meeting to order at 19:30 hours.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: Present - 69; Excused - 20; Absent -21.

The 851st Corporation Meeting minutes were approved.

Correspondence – Lt. Jean Barton

- Thank You notes and donations were noted.

LOSAP – Bud Desmond

- Bud explained LOSAP to the members and who is on the Board for the LOSAP. The Board members are: James Speich, Rick Solari, Bud Desmond, and Brandon Robertson with an investor David Miakowski to advise them on different markets.
- The Board meets twice a year. February and August.
- The same points system that is used for reimbursements is used for LOSAP.
- For a good year, each member must have 175 points and Headquarter personnel must have 100 points for a good year. \$300 is put in for each member that has a good year.
- To be vested each member must have 10 good years.
- Vested active members 60 or older can take money out of their LOSAP account, but only 80% of the total amount in their account can be taken out at any given time.

Treasurer's Report – Joe Kowalczyk- was absent Grace Bianchi Read Report

- There is total cash in the Corporation of \$771k down from \$876k in the prior month. Of this, there is approximately \$161k (159k in September) of funds that are free of restrictions and belong to the Corporation. The \$5.5k in recent donations from Avon Old Farms School that remained for the Burn Building were expended this month. There are now no restricted funds within the Corporation. The remaining cash breaks down to town grant money that we have received which totals \$610k. There is 552k of 16/17 grant funds and encumbered 15/16 funds of \$58k (various). The large drop in funds can be attributed to mostly points checks (\$78k) being done while not forgetting about the normal Budget operations for the month.
- The Corporation is closing out the year with \$46k of income from operations, up from the previous year of \$32k. This is mainly attributable to our strong fundraising this year and static expenses. The major increases over last year were fundraising collections on the letter increased over \$9k, donations over \$4k, and golf income almost \$2k. Keep in mind these are all increases in income with expenses being fairly level.
- Holding true over the last three months, the largest Corporation expense has been the Burn Building. To date we have spent \$33k (\$22k through September) of funds which is CLEARLY reflected in the Statement of Activities. For the Burn Building, \$5.5k of the increase in expense was directly offset by Avon Old Farms School remaining donated funds therefore lessening the impact. To date we have no funds from others for the Burn Building and all money going forward will be absorbed by the Corporation unless there are future donations. Keep in mind this was expected and we predicted somewhere around \$50k of additional money would be needed aside from what was raised and set aside previously by the Board.
- For Budget, we are still rather quiet other than points which comes out of encumbered. We spent about \$28k this month as compared to \$26k last year for the same month. We have spent \$126k of our \$678k in the current year as compared to \$94k of our \$665k in the prior year over the same period. To date we have \$552k to spend in the next 8 months. That's an average spend of \$69k a month up from \$64k last month.

Board Highlights – Rob Shillington

- The Policy Committee – The Board will set up an outline of what the committee is expected to do.
- Capital Improvement Budget – The Board put in Apparatus Replacement as follows: 17/18 \$550,000, 18/19 \$400,000 19/20 \$400,000. The extra \$150,00 in 17/18 is the \$100,000 the Town gave us for facility improvements and \$50,000 for a study for a new fire house.
- The total amount requested for SCBA is approximately \$1,905,000 for 183 packs and cylinders (and masks). The Town started to fund some of that need in 16/17
- Fire Station Facility Improvements 16/17 \$250,000, 17/18 \$100,000 and 18/19 \$100,000.
- Town Manager, Brandon Robertson, appointed members for a Committee to decide the need of a new firehouse and to look at the current condition of Company 2. There is money to do some work that the committee recommends.

The Members of the Committee are as follows:

- James Speich – Chairperson
- Rob Shillington
- Brandon Robertson
- Mike Trick or his designee
- Jamie DiPace
- Applicants for open Board seats are John Ryan and Tad Green. They both spoke before the membership about their applying for the Board. Motion was paid and seconded to vote them on the Board. Motion passed. They will take the Oath of Office at the January Board Meeting,

Mike Nolan asked to be acknowledged and requested to speak to the membership regarding the email he and other members sent out. (Attachments to the minutes). The President did allow him to address the membership.

Mike Nolan addressed the membership about his feelings on the way the Board and Officers are handling things. He felt that the members' voices are not heard. He feels the membership should have a say in how money is spent. The membership should have more power. (See attached email for more information).

John Ryan asked to be acknowledged and requested to speak to the membership about some points. The President did allow him to address the membership. John asked by show of hands how many members at the meeting had pagers and lived out of town? Then he asked how many responded to calls, most of the hands stayed up.

Tim O'Neil suggested that a motion be made to bring under new business a discussion of the issues on all the emails.

John Ryan made a motion to discuss under new business the details of the emails. Jack McGuire seconded and the motion was passed.

AV1: Assistant Chief Bruce Appell for Michael Trick –

- Thank you to all the members that turned out for all the calls this past weekend.
- Fire at Orfal – The sprinkler system did its job,

AV – 2 Assistant Chief Bruce Appell

- Simsbury will do standby for us during our Annual Dinner on Saturday November 19th.
- Simsbury requested us to standby on December 10th from 6 pm to 10 pm. Contact your Captain if you can do this standby.
- New Engine 7 is coming along. Tank is installed and the electrical is done.
- Vermillion Drive – Neighborhood is looking at cisterns in the area to see how to get more water in this area.
- Company 4 – Waiting for the architect to look at what can be done for the water problem.

AV3 – Asst. Chief Tom Kline

- Police Department will not work with us to update their CAD system,
- Radio Project – Chief Rinaldo will talk to the Town Council about money for the maintenance of the radios if there is a problem.

AV4: Asst. Chief Joe Speich:

- Training Facility is open but we can't burn in it until we hear from Farmington. The Training Facility is approved for 14 day of burning.
- Fire Instructor Class is a go.
- Fire Officer I next year will be with Simsbury.
- 2017 Training Calendar – Any suggestions call or email Asst. Chief Speich.

AV20: Jamie DiPace:

- John Ryan asked about the water problem at Company 4. The Architect is averse to dealing with the water. His plan first curtain drain north west drive entrance and 6 – 8 ft. trench front of bays. Put in drainage pipe stone and filters. In the bays ground smooth with hydraulic cement and waterproof epoxy. Considering a heating and air-conditioning unit for downstairs

AV22: Capt. Ramona Mansfield

- Sign up for the Fight for Air Climb or donate to the AVFD team.

AV33: Lt. Jeremy Kaswer

- There is now a pole saw on Ladder 12 check it out. Any questions talk to Captain Theriault or Lt. Kaswer

AV28: Medical Officer Adam Corrado: Reported by Lt. Jeremy Kaswer

- The members that need to get physicals please get them done.
- Please fill out the Active Fitness Survey if you have not done so.
- PPQ – This is a big project. Everyone can do basic firefighting skills.
- November 19th at MH Rhodes property for all firefighters. The public is invited to do the course after the firefighters are done.
- George DeVita asked why the members had to do this on Nov. 19th when we do them at drill.
- Nate Findley asked if the PPQ could be done at drill nights,
- Tim O'Neil asked if this is done annually per NFPA 1500 why does he have to do this on Saturday if he's doing it on Monday nights. Frank Lupis said this was just a physical pass.
- Jess Sanderson also asked why we must do this on a Saturday instead of on Monday drill nights.
- John Ryan said this is going to let everyone know that everyone can do it.
- Jason Mickus told the membership that the PPQ helped him to know what he could and couldn't do. It's not that bad.

Committee Reports:

- **Community Outreach- Dennis Bianchi**
- Children's Holiday Party will be held on Sunday, December 4, 2016. Please let Dennis know if you are going and the age of your child/children.
- 75th Anniversary Committee – Progressing well. The Firefighter Ball will cost approximately \$75 per person. We will be hosting the State Convention in September of 2018.
- There will be a Company 4 Basement Committee Meeting tomorrow night Nov. 15th at Company 4.

George DeVita made a motion to bring into New Business a discussion of the email Mike Nolan sent out to Avonfire with Tim O'Neil seconding. Motion was approved.

New Business: Discussion of Mike Nolan's Email

- Brian Baldwin asked for the following points to be entered as part of the minutes and discussed under new business.
 - The department is supposed to follow the By-Laws as its governance rules. However, there is a concern that the Board and Chief are not following these rules. The specific rules that are not being followed need to be identified and presented at the Special Meeting of the Corporation.
 - There is concern that the officers are being fired and removed from their positions without proper due process.
 - There is concern that officers are quitting their positions. The question posed is, 'Why are good officers quitting?'
 - There is an initiative by the management of the department to push a Physical Performance Qualification program. The concern about this item is (*many*) members feel it does not have merit or value as all the program is accomplishing is a simple means of 'checking the box' of compliance to NFPA 1500. There is a belief that this initiative should have been brought to the membership for a vote and not made a mandate.
 - The email indicates that there needs to be immediate action to hold the Chief and President of the Corporation accountable to the rules they have willfully violated. It is not clear in the email what the actual rules are that have been violated, these need to be identified and communicated at the Special Meeting of the Corporation for this item to be addressed.
- Mike Nolan expressed concern that money is being spent on items not needed.
- Andrew Ozmun asked the members to still respond to calls even if there are problems in the department.
- Peter Buonome – These allegations are important. We have a house divided and we should have a special meeting for this and work this out.
- A motion was made by Peter Buonome to have a special meeting and seconded by Andrew Bloom . Motion passed. December 12th was the decided date to have the Special Meeting.
- Peter Buonome made a motion to have an outside person chair the Special Meeting with Tim O'Neil seconding. After some discussion to keep this in house Peter Buonome withdrew his motion.

Good and Welfare- No Report

Pot of Gold and Attendance Award –

Pot of Gold – Bruce Appell \$3.50

Attendance Award – Dennis Bianchi \$10

Meeting adjourned at 21:50. (GB)