

MINUTES OF THE 873 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, DECEMBER 01, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Robert Shillington at 19:20.

Board Members Present: J. Barton, J. Boullie, M. Caron, J. DiPace, M. Galliher, W. Green, J. Kowalczyk, R. Mansfield, R. Shillington, R. Solari, M. Trick.

Other Members Present: D. Wilson, S. Jansen, and A. Gelber.

Communication from Department Members:

- Minutes of the 872 Board of Directors meeting were reviewed. J. Boullie noted that a correction to his name was necessary. J. Kowalczyk requested that a copy of his e-mailed Treasurer's report be used in the minutes in the future. R. Mansfield made a motion to accept the minutes with the necessary changes. M. Caron seconded. The motion passed.
- Company 1- no report.
- The Explorers will be drilling at Lost Acres in Simsbury all day on Sunday, December 6th.
- Company 2 – We could have a slushy machine at no cost (normally it would cost \$14,000). Brian Corrigan would maintain it at no cost. It has four compartments and requires a CO2 hookup. The machine runs on 220v of power. He also has a pretzel warmer. The board felt that these possible donations were appreciated, but not necessary.
- Company 4 – no report.

Secretary Comments: Jean Barton

- Thank you note from Mike Kachmar. A thank you card from Chief Trick was also read.

Treasurer's Report: Joe Kowalczyk

- There is total cash in the Corp of \$745k. This includes the following: a.) Encumbered Funds of \$37k (points were paid of course) b.) Town of Avon Grant Money of 551k c.) Live Burn Funds of \$67k (about \$6k is related to outside sources) d.) Corporation Funds of \$90k that is free of restrictions. Currently, as a reminder, there are donated funds of about \$6k that we hold that can only be used for the Live Burn. All remaining Live Burn Funds are Board restricted which means we can un-restrict at any point in time or restrict more.
- First reporting month for the Corporation, not much to report.
- For Budget, we spent \$21k as compared to \$3k year over the same period last year (not sure what we were doing last year). Overall we have spent \$111k of our \$663k. Prior year at this point we had spent \$114k of \$642. Tracking is very consistent, without figuring in our increase.

Town Representative's Report: Jamie DiPace

- The new Town Center project has been approved. Unfortunately, we cannot get a new apparatus as a result of the project. There are no emergency service impact fees in the state of Connecticut. Each building will have code-compliant smoke detectors and sprinkler systems.
- The used car dealership project should be approved next week. The dealership will sell certified used BMW vehicles.

- A meeting will take place on 12/02/15 regarding the new ice rink at Avon Old Farms School. More details will soon follow.
- Co. 4 – A meeting was held with Shepard Steel last week. They will give us a cost estimate on strengthening that building (to adequately support the weight of current day vehicles). The town engineer's calculations have not yet been finalized. We could choose to renovate the basement as an option.
- The Verizon contract has been approved, signed and delivered.
- Grace is returning to the office next week Monday (12/07/15). Chief DiPace thanked and recognized Katie's extra efforts in the office during Grace's absence.

Committee Reports:

- The Planning Committee has not met.
- The 75th Anniversary Committee will meet on the third Tuesday of this month (12/15/15).
- The operations manual still needs to go through a final review.
- The Recruitment and Retention Committee wants to primarily focus on retention right now. They might implement a mentoring program as well.
- The Membership Committee did meet. The committee has some commentary on restructuring the Board. The committee will provide a report in February.

Chief's Report:

- The door for the MACK Garage is on special order.
- The operating budget for the new year is a work in progress. A meeting to discuss the budget will take place on 12/07/15.
- Anyone is welcome to accompany the Chief in his review of a UTV (utility terrain vehicle) called an ARGO at 9am on Saturday, December 05, 2015 at Fisher Meadows. A UTV can come with 6 or 8 wheels and can transport through swamps, rivers, and streams.
- Attended a "What I Do" meeting with HQ staff. The meeting was very informative. Another meeting will take place on 12/14/15 at Company 1.
- Received a letter from the Town about keeping track of items in inventory. Will discuss with Diane Theriault.
- John Widing stepped down from "Welfare and Cheer". We may need to find someone else to assist.
- The Chief wants to make sure we improve our methods of keeping track of attendance (unexcused/excused absences). Everyone should be using "I Am Responding" with keeping track of attendance.
- David Theriault has volunteered to orient/train new members.
- New Engine 7 and Engine 11 are coming along. Laura Ward would like to take photos of the new apparatuses with the next trip down to GK.
- Dr. Corrado will be meeting with Hartford Medical Group to discuss our complaints with their service.
- A fire pack for Co.4 was finally turned in after 8 years of being missed. It will be inspected by Shipman's and our inventory file will be updated.

Unfinished Business:

- Peer Fitness Program (PFT) - The Board discussed the need for support of two goals of the program: (a) paying 1,000 tuition payment for the training program (b) awarding 75 points (stipend amount) to each participant of the program.

New Business:

- The Board discussed the benefits of raising the \$15 cover charge for the holiday party to \$20.00. R. Mansfield made a motion to approve the increase. J. Boullie seconded. The motion passed.
- The Board discussed the benefits of changing the job shirt of members every four years when new stripes are awarded. The topic was tabled for the time being.

R. Mansfield made a motion to adjourn the meeting. J. Barton seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:41.