

MINUTES OF THE 887TH BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING February 7, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Robert Shillington at 19:00

Board Members Present: J. Barton, J. DiPace, M. Galliher, W. Green, J. Kowalczyk, R. Mansfield, J. Ryan, R. Shillington and M. Trick.

Others Present: D. Bianchi, A. Gelber, S. Gottlieb, T. Kline and R. Theriault

Minutes of the January 3rd meeting were approved with two corrections by a motion from John Ryan and seconded by Jean Barton. One correction was to correct Matt Gugliotti's name from Mike to Matt and grammar corrections.

Communication from Board Members:

- Jean Barton wanted to know if the Porta Potty at Company 4 was vented. Bob Theriault will look into this. Jean also asked when the bathrooms at Company 4 will be finished. Chief told the Board that Bruce Williams had this on his top priority list of things to get done.
- Tad Green told the Board that the hockey game went very well and it would be nice if this could be done again. All 30 tickets went fast. Maybe next time the department could check into getting a bus from the Board of Ed.
- Jamie DiPace told the Board that he was participating in an ESGR (Emergency Support of the Guard and Reserve) program to help Reserve personnel that are having issues with keeping or getting a job during or after deployment.
- Joe Kowalczyk explained to the Board that the EB Trust that we have been getting dividends from must be reinvestigated. He will talk to someone at Bank of America and get all the facts and report back to the Board. For right now all the money received for the past 2 years have been moved to a restricted account until Joe can meet with someone from Bank of America.
- Jean Barton asked if the sales tax was paid for the Annual Dinner. It has not been paid, but Jean will ask The Farmington Club to send an invoice for the sales tax so that we can pay that.
- Rob Shillington will go to the Budget meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Joe Kowalczyk

- There is a total cash in the Corporation of \$614k down from \$647k in the prior month. Of this, there is approximately \$144k (\$148k in December) of funds that are free of restrictions and belong to the Corporation. There is 7k of restricted funds within the Corporation and the remaining cash all relates to Town grant money that we have received which totals \$463k. There is \$434k of 16/17 grant funds and encumbered 15/16 funds of \$29k.
- The Corporation is very quiet except for annual dinner expenses (\$8K) and Live Burn Building expenses (\$6k). We have about \$17k loss due to our fundraising campaign not being underway, As usually we fully expect to have positive results in the next few months.
- To date for the Live Burn Building we have spent about \$39k of our own funds in addition to the \$75k the Board had set aside. Once again keep in mind this was expected and we predicted somewhere around an additional \$50k of money would be needed aside from what was raised and set aside previously by the Board.

- For Budget, we are fairly quiet this month and we spent about \$32k as compared to \$70k last year for the same month. We have spent \$249k of our \$678k in the current year as compared to \$221k of our \$665k in the prior year over the same period. To date we have \$429k to spend in the next 5 months. That's an average spend of about \$86k, a month up from \$73k last month. This year we have yet to spend over \$65k in a given month.
- 1099's are done, The 990 is in process.

Chief's Report – Chief Trick

- Would like the Board to approve a SCBA Committee to start checking into replacing the SCBA. The members that are interested in being on this committee are:
 - Rich Duffy, Chris Balich, Mark Wilson, Frank Lupis, Capt. Mansfield and Chief Speich. (The Committee will pick their Chairperson)
 - Evaluators are: Mike Nolan, John Ryan, Len Pearce, John Boullie and Capt. Bourgoin,
- Officer evaluations is being worked on and is in approval process,
- Sign Pro promotions that was discussed at the January meeting. Putting something on the bay doors to advertise certain events. The Chief received a price from Sign Pro and it is \$15.00 per square foot. Too expensive.
- The Chief was approached by an insurance representative about our insurance. The Chief just wanted the Board to know about this and to see if they would be interested in talking to this person. Board, Bill Vernile would have to approve and Chris Waldrop would have to be in on the talks. Jamie DiPace told the Board that he would talk with Chris Waldrop and this other insurance agent. The Board felt it would not hurt to talk to another insurance company.
- The Board is invited to attend the February 23rd officers' meeting for a Q & A on a fitness program.
- Mike Nolan is exploring the possibility of the color guard participating at a Wolf Pack game. This was due to the hockey game that our responders and their families went to in January.
- SAFER Grant period had opened. We should consider getting some help to do grants.
- There is free help for SCBA grant. Rob will look into this.
- No money has been put into the CIB for buildings. The Chief has a list of priorities for the end of the year funds.
- Looking at new software for inventory and tracking SCBA, training records management.
- Those members that had not had their physicals have been contacted and are in the process of getting them done or have gotten them done.
- Follow up to Adam Corrado setting up camera – Per the CT FOIA chapter 14 sec. 1-226 (Formerly sec. 1-21a) summarized. Any public meeting may be video recorded by anyone provided there isn't a previous rule against it. Or in matters of security. With this information, there will be no action taken against Captain Corrado and the Chief informed him what is contained in the law.
- AOG separation from the Operations Manual
 - The Secretary misled the membership and Board with her comments. The Chief referenced Board minutes December 6th page 3. "To have an AOG or AOG's changed by one individual with no representation to the Board is unprofessional and should not be allowed."

- As outlined in the Operations Manual and By-Laws it is very clear on the process, the Chief cited By-Law Art. VII section 3 paragraph 3, Ops Manual section 1.3.8 line 9 and 11.
- We have emails and Board meeting minutes that shows the Secretary, Jean Barton was very responsive to moving the AOG's as well as Ramona Mansfield. Jean Barton wrote the verbiage that was used. What has changed?
- The Board has voted to separate them. The Secretary will be provided a copy of the documents as shown on the Web page. After they have been separated and approved in accordance with the vote at the December meeting they will be uploaded,
- The paid staff has been notified they will not be tasked with this project. They will be allowed to assist in limited reference gathering. The staff has too many other tasks that are to be accomplished.
- This task should be accomplished by the Secretary and she should report to the Board her progress,
- Because of this sudden and unnecessary change Gina Kline has wasted 2.5 years on this task.
- Jean Barton not being truthful to Board*
 - At the January Board meeting Jean and Tad questioned the President and Chief on the enabling of a cost prevention measure on the copy machine at HQ
 - During this exchange, it was stated by the Secretary that she was only going to print enough copies of the Matt Gugliotti complaints for the Board. The question was restated for clarification about the amount and scope and it was stated that there was a misunderstanding and copies were not going out to the whole membership. We have the recorded transcript for review if needed,
 - We have an email dated 11/15/16 that was sent to Mr. Gugliotti stating the contrary.
 - I have compiled some information as to the cost of such printing. The total cost of 145 copies would have cost approximately \$1,240.03 to support claims made by a retired member that was filled with personal opinions and baseless accusations,
- Tad Green
 - Has been speaking to persons in and out of the department on his complaint. This behavior is unprofessional,
 - He has called into questions my reputation by speaking about his complaint without allowing the other side of the story to be told. Because of his indiscriminate associations on this matter I have been asked about this complaint from a fellow chief outside of our community,
 - He acknowledged that he may have not understood what I said in the transcript of the special meeting in early December. A review of the transcript is available on line on the members only site to verify.
 - For the record, I did not initiate the conversation. I told him that he did not understand the whole background and he should back away until all the facts are known. I did not tell him I had a lawyer. I told him an attorney was involved and I was not supposed to talk about it. This was no threat; it is a statement of fact. I have also hired by own attorney on this.

*Jean Barton took exception to the Chief's Report that she lied to the Board.

Unfinished Business:

- Bonus Points – Committee will look into this. The committee will consist of Jamie DiPace, Ramona Mansfield and Mike Galliher.
- Open Board Seats – Some discussion on whether officers should be allowed to run for the Board. The AOG was never changed to say officers could not be on the Board. It still states non-officers preferred. All Board members were given the resumes of members interested in being on the Board. There are 2 open seats. One is for 3 years and 1 is for 1 year. The one year vacancy was never filled when Rich Shillington resigned from the Board. At the time, there was no one interested in taking this seat. There is nothing in the By-Laws or AOG's that states the resumes should be posted. The Board decided to at least post the names of the qualified members who are running

Joe Kowalczyk made a motion to bring under new business with Ramona seconding the Corporation paying the registration fee of \$285 for the AVFD Ski Team to participate in Firefighters Ski Race being held March 5th. Approved.

Ramona made a motion to bring under new business with Mike Galliher seconding the approval to form an SCBA Committee to look into replacing the departments SCBA. Approved.

New Business:

- Registration fee for the AVFD Ski Race Team Participation in the Firefighters Ski Race
 - After a short discussion, a motion was made by Joe Kowalczyk and seconded by John Ryan to have the Corporation pay the registration fee of \$285. Motion was passed unanimously,
- Approval of SCBA Committee
 - After a short discussion and with names of members to be on the committee Joe Kowalczyk made a motion with Jean Barton seconding to approve the SCBA Committee as brought before the Board by Chief Trick. Motion was passed unanimously.
- Funding Request from the 75th Anniversary Committee
 - Mike Galliher brought before the Board a request from the 75th Anniversary Committee to subsidize the Firefighters' Ball for all members who are attending. It was decided to wait until someone from the committee could do a presentation with more information.
- Exit Interviews
 - The Board discussed some processes for this, but decided to have the Recruitment and Retention Committee work something up and bring it to the Board.
- Fundraising Letter
 - Last year we made a profit of \$77,000.
 - Dennis needs a wish list of things to put in the letter for this year.
 - Need the final letter by the end of March to bring to the printer.

- Permission to do the Golf Tournament again. Board approved.
 - Some of the tournament money could go towards a donation to the Connecticut Fallen Firefighters Memorial and possibly other items the Board might want to purchase. Is the Training Facility in need of funds? Joe Kowalczyk suggested that the wording in the golf brochure be worded very carefully, He would like to see the brochure before it goes out. Board Approved
- Food Drive – Dennis would like to do the food drive again this year. Board approved.
- Family Picnic – Dennis would like to do a family picnic in either June or July from 12 to 3. He would have some games for the kids, a candy hunt and would also ask the town if the families could use the pool without paying if they do not belong to the pool club. Board approved.
- Dennis would like to do a family trip to New Britain to see the New Britain Bees play baseball. He will get all the information and report back to the Board.
- Dennis would also like to do some bus trips for either members or families. He will get information on this and report back to the Board.
- Funding for a Fire and Drum at Collinsville Parade. Jean found out that there is not going to be a parade in Collinsville this year. She suggested maybe doing the Fife and Drum for the Winsted Parade. She will check into Fife and Drum outfits for that parade and report back to the Board.
- Mike Galliher requested the Board to fund a sign at the Buckingham field. After some discussion Joe Kowalczyk made a motion with John Ryan seconding to sponsor a sign for 2 years at a cost of \$1,500 with Corporation funds. Motion was passed unanimously.
- Changes to AOG AA-4 – After some discussion the Board decided to have someone from the Board go over the proposed changes with Capt. Corrado. John Ryan told the Board he would work with Capt. Corrado in these proposed changes.

Mike Galliher made a motion with Joe Kowalczyk seconding to bring into New Business a discussion and vote for an Honorary Membership for the owner of Fairway Cleaners.

- Honorary Membership for Tom, the owner of Fairway cleaners who has retired from the business. After a short discussion with Jean telling the Board all that this man has done for the department as far as getting uniforms cleaned and altered for parades that he should be given an Honorary Membership and award at the Annual Dinner. John Ryan made a motion with Joe Kowalczyk seconding to have him made an Honorary Member and award at the Annual Dinner. Motion was passed unanimously.

Joe Kowalczyk made a motion to go into Executive Session with Jean Barton seconding. Motion passed.

Board went into Executive Session at 21:22

Board came out of Executive Session at 22:30.

Joe Kowalczyk made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 22:30.

Meeting was adjourned at 22:30 (GB)