

MINUTES OF THE 888TH BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING March 9, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Robert Shillington at 19:10

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

Others Present: A. Gelber, S. McMahon and M. Polesel

Minutes of the February 7th meeting were approved with Jean Barton taking exception to the Chief's report that stated she lied to the Board. She requested that a footnote be added to the minutes stating this.

Communication from Board Members:

- Steve McMahon requested the Board approve to pay for all members who are attending the Firefighters' Ball. The ball is going to be on April 28, 2016. The Board asked Steve to have the committee submit to them a draft of what the events will be and what the approximate cost will be. The Board already allocated \$10,000 to get the committee started.

Communications from Board Members:

- Tad Green asked the Board to purchase tickets to the March 24th Hartford Wolfpack Hockey game for the Color Guard and members who would like to attend. This will be brought up under New Business.
- Tad Green also questioned the Chief on his changing portion of the Operations Manual that Tad thought was under Board control. It was clarified that the Chief cannot change any item that comes under the Board's control but can change any item effecting the line.
- Jamie DiPace:
 - Informed the Board that the insurance carrier to the Vermillion Dr. property has sent out an FOI for all reports pertaining to that fire.
 - Informed the Board that Don Griswold (retired Chief) is now at Apple Rehab. He has a long road ahead, but he would like visitors.
 - The Marketplace Restaurant is now open.
 - Finishing up the STEP program with Dennis Bianchi. Jamie had Liz DiPace bring her rescue dog into the class one day and the kids enjoyed seeing what he can do.
 - Urge the Chief or Board to write a letter about the UCONN Health Center Fire Department closing and what that means to the town of Avon and our fire department. Jamie did have a talk with Brandon and asked him to write a letter about the effect on the town if the UCONN Fire Department closes. The Chief will get the addresses to Rob Shillington for the letters.
- Mike Galliher told the Board Jack Escher who is an Eagle Scout was given approval to go ahead with his project to build Modular SCBA Maze. Jack will need a place to build these and the Chief suggested MH Rhodes along as there was enough notice of when Jack would be doing this project. Mike Galliher told the Board most likely in May. All the material needed will be purchased from Sanford and Hawley at cost.
- Jean Barton informed the Board that Mike Kachmar has been fighting cancer and is now in Hospice at home. Mike told Jean a few months ago, that he would like a full Fire Department funeral. Jean will keep the Board up to date.

Treasurer's Report: Joe Kowalczyk

- There is total cash in the Corporation of \$577k down from \$614k in the prior month. Of this, there is approximately \$148k (148K in Feb.) 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 \$421k. There is \$405k of 16/17 grant funds and encumbered 15/16 funds of \$16k.
- The Corporation is very quiet with exception of annual dinner expenses (\$8k) and Live Burn Building expenses (\$6k), We have about \$21K (\$17k in prior) loss due to our fundraising campaign not being underway. As usually we expect fully to have positive results in the next few months. Just on Monday we received a \$30k donation which will review for restriction and determine the accounting treatment,
- 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. This is consistent with prior month.
- For Budget we were fairly quiet this month and we spent about \$29k as compared to \$11k last year for the same month. We have spent \$273k of our \$678k in the current year as compared to \$232k of our \$665k in the prior year over the same period. To date we have \$405k to spend in the next 4 months. That's an average spent of about \$102k a month up from \$86k last month. This year we have yet to spend over \$65k in a given month.

Chief's Report – Chief Trick

- UCONN Fire Department Closure – The Chief is working on letters to address this issue to be sent to numerous people that might be able to help keep it going, He suggested that the Board also write letters.
- Would like the Board to approve up to \$1,000 for mugs and refreshments at the Push In of new Engine 7 on April 9th. This will be taken up under New Business.
- Bay door times have been disabled at Companies 1 and 3. The others will be done also.
- There is money in the Encumbered Funds that was set aside for pre-emption of the traffic light at West Avon Rd, and Country Club, there are some issues with that intersection that the Chief of Police would like a left-hand turn lane and the State wants the Town to pay for this and the Town wants the State to pay. The Chief would like to take the money that was Encumbered for this signal light and use it to purchase a extractor and 4 rack dryer to be put into Company 4. The Chief has one quote of \$16,031 and the Encumbered Funds is approximately \$13,000. If we have to we can take difference out of the Operation Budget. The Chief would like the Board's approval to do this. This will be taken up under New Business.
- Engine 9 is at GK to shorten the front bumper and also looking into making changes so that it will fit into Company 2. Will have to see what the quote is before doing any other modifications.
- The SCBA committee will be meeting on March 16th.

Unfinished Business:

- Bonus Points Review – John Ryan has taken Matt Caron's place to help with this project. Ramona wanted him to get up to speed with what they were looking at. They will be working on this and bring their suggestions to the Board.

- Open Board Positions – After some discussion, it was brought to the Board’s attention that the By-Laws state that the Board has to endorse a candidate for each open position. There were 5 members who sent in resumes. Jamie DiPace stated that he felt Captain Corrado should not run for the Board because he works for them, but the other members felt he should be on the ballot. John Ryan made a motion with Jean Barton seconding to table this until after the New Business so that members could think about who they want to endorse. Motion Passed.
- AOG-4 Taking sections 8.2 and 8.3 out of the Operations Manual and putting it back into AOG AA-4. John Ryan met with Captain Corrado for an explanation of why he thought these two sections should be put back into AOG AA-4. John Ryan recommended that the two sections in the Operations Manual should be moved back to AOG AA-4. Ramona made the motion to move Section 8.2 and 8.3 back to AOG AA-4 with Mike Galliher seconding. Motion passed. The Board suggested that Captain Corrado do this and present it to the Board for approval. John Ryan will let Captain Corrado know the outcome of the vote and inform him to do this task.
- Fundraising Letter – Need some suggestions to put in the letter as to what we will use the money towards. One suggestion was to put in for a new roof at Company 2 since the Corporation owns that building we can’t expect the Town to pay for this, the other suggestion was putting some of the money toward refurbishing the Mack. Mike Galliher will work on the wording of the letter and will send it out to the Board for approve. Rob Shillington said he would help if Mike needed him to.

New Business:

- Golf Brochure – It was decided that some of the proceeds could go to the Connecticut Firefighters Memorial. The Board has to look into the wording which Joe Kowalczyk said he would do. Jean Barton made a motion with Ramona seconding that some of the proceeds could go to the Connecticut Firefighter Memorial. Motion passed
- Funding Support for Fitness for First Responders – The Board asked Aaron Gelber to get all the information with what the cost would be and come back to present to the Board. It was suggested that maybe Jeff Fleming could come to the department and show his program to all the members so that the Board can get feedback on whether this is something that would interest them. The Board is still behind this initiative.
- Repurpose old Engine 7 into AVFD Fitness & Community Outreach Vehicle. The Board asked Captain Gelber to get a proposal together with what this would entail and what the cost to the Corporation would be along with what the liability would be to the Corporation. Captain Gelber and Captain Corrado will work on this and come back to the Board with all this information. The Board is on board with this, but they still need all the answers to a lot of questions.
- Mike Galliher made a motion with John Ryan seconding to move into New Business the use of Encumbered Funds to purchase an extractor washing machine and a 4 rack dryer for Company 4. Motion passed.
- Jean Barton made a motion with Mike Galliher seconding to bring under New Business a discussion of spending up to \$1,000 for the new Engine 7 Push In. Motion Passed.
- Ramona Mansfield made a motion with Mike Galliher seconding to being under New Business the purchase of tickets to the Hartford Wolfpack Hockey game on March 24th for the Color Guard and any members that wish to go. Motion passed
- Mike Galliher made a motion with Jamie DiPace seconding to use Encumbered funds for the pre-emption of the traffic light at the intersection of West Avon Rd. and Country Club

Rd. to purchase an extractor and 4 rack dryer to be put in at Company 4. Motion was passed.

- Ramona Mansfield made a motion with Mike Galliher seconding to purchase 30 tickets for the Hartford Wolfpack Hockey game on March 24th. The tickets would be for the Color Guard and any member that would like to go. Motion passed.
- Ramona made a motion with Jean Barton seconding to use up to \$1,000 for mugs and refreshments for the Push In of the new Engine 7. Motion passed.
- Endorsing Board Candidates – Since the Board could only endorse 2 candidates and there were 5 members who applied a secret ballot was passed around to all voting members of the Board so that they could make their choices. Jean Barton counted the votes and the results were John Boullie and Matt Polesel. All 5 names will be on the ballot, but President Shillington will let the membership know that the Board is endorsing John and Matt.

Ramona made a motion to go into Executive Session with Mike Galliher seconding. Motion passed.

Board went into Executive Session at 21:55

Board came out of Executive Session at 22:07.

Jean Barton made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 22:30 with Ramona Mansfield seconding. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 22:07 (GB)