

MINUTES OF THE 895th BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING October 3, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Robert Shillington at 19:04

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Others Present: M. Caron, A. Gelber, S. Gottlieb, S. Levine-Shein, C. McDermott, S. McMahon and Bob Theriault

Minutes of the September 5, 2017 meeting were approved with the following correction: Punctuation and under Town Representative's Report the last bullet correct the cost estimate from \$100,00 to \$100,000

Communication from Members:

- Steve McMahon brought to the Board's attention that Harvey Reeser had asked Chief Trick for permission to hold the Irregulars' Meeting and dinner at Company 1 in January to start off our 75th Anniversary year. The Irregulars do pay \$20 when they come. The Board and the Chief had no problem with this taking place.

Communications from Board Members:

- Ramona Mansfield had some members ask her about the department contributing to the LOSAP program. President Shillington will talk to Bud Desmond about this suggestion to see if it is at all possible.
- Jamie DiPace asked the Board if they would consider purchasing shirts for members. Suggested maybe polo shirts, but a different color from the officers' shirts. This will be brought under New Business.
- Jamie DiPace told the Board that the department did a great job with getting out in the community and having a presence at Celebrate Avon.
- John Ryan asked the Board if they saw Retired Chief Reeser's email asking approval of reinstating the Department Family Holiday Dinner. This will be brought under New Business.
- John Ryan put together some suggestions to change By Laws Article III for the Board to look over and discuss. This will be taken up at the November Board meeting. John would like to bring these proposed changes to the membership at the January Corporation meeting,
- John Ryan attended the Cancer Symposium in Phoenix and came back with a lot of information. He will get together with the Health and Wellness Committee and go over everything.
- Jamie DiPace informed the Board that Retired Chief Deckers had been chosen to be Chief of the Westwood, MA fire department.

President's Report:

- Capital Improvement Budget is being worked on.
- Received information on a trailer for the ARGO that Assistant Chief Appell would like the Board to approve for purchase. This will be brought under New Business.

Treasurer's Report: Joe Kowalczyk

- There is total cash in the Corporation of \$880k, down from \$954k, which was about our top cash amount, this was mainly driven by a rather large month of spending Town funds. Of this money there is approximately \$189k (195k PM) of funds that are free of restrictions and belong to the Corporation. There is \$41k (38k PM) of restricted funds within the Corporation and the remaining cash relates to Town grant money that we have received and totals about \$650k (\$722k PM). Of this \$650k there is \$88k of encumbered 16/17 grant funds and \$562k of current year grant funds.

- The Corporation fundraising has slowed considerable as expected. Like previously reported, results were solid once again. To date we have collected over \$78k (\$77k PM). Compared to last year we are ahead on what we collected by about \$500! The bulk of this cash has turned into new income for the Corporation to the tune of about \$40k.
- The largest cash expenses for the Corporation to date are the golf expenses (\$9k), Annual Dinner (\$9k), Live Burn Building (\$6k) and of course, fundraising expenses (\$6k). Keep in mind we still have the Live Burn Donation of \$30k to spend when future expenses come in related to the facility. The golf tournament numbers to date are \$19k of income with \$9k of expenses for a net of about \$10k. As compared to last year, we had a net of about \$11k. All and all, it has remained fairly consistent.
- Over the three months for Budget we have spent about \$130k, \$70k in the current month, as compared to \$91k last year for the same three months. To date we have \$562k of our \$692k left. At this point last year, we had about \$587k left of \$678k, a ratio of 81% left as compared to 86.5%. On average we can spend about \$62k per month over the next 9 months.
- Regarding the 501c(3). Joe did a little digging at his work and has the following to report back on:
 - ✓ Overall, I'm not sure how great of an idea this is, given the relatively small/limited mission and the costs to set up and annually maintain a 501(c)(3) charity. Part of the problem is when a group like us wants to help distressed individuals/workers/family members/etc. the recipient technically has to recognize income if the financial assistant comes directly from the public (although 99% of people don't understand this and never pick up the income or get caught by the IRS). There are some exceptions when the President declares a disaster area after a storm, etc., but that wouldn't be the case here.
 - ✓ The IRS did just come out with a streamlined application process for small charities that are applying for 501(c) (3) status. I don't have the filing thresholds yet, but I'm sure we would be eligible for the new process knowing what we want to do. We as a Firm have yet to be involved with one of the new apps as we have slowed in our work with doing the charity applications since they historically are not that easy and take a great deal of time. A discounted cost to do one would be about \$5,000+. The regular app is 23 pages versus the small of 4 pages.
 - ✓ On last check, the IRS had over 60,00 charity applications in its backlog, and waiting 9+ months wasn't uncommon.
 - ✓ Lastly if we file an application with the IRS in good faith, you can usually operate on the premise that we will get the exemption. If you ultimately don't, you have to go back and unwind everything, and may be taxed retroactively as a taxable corporation.
 - ✓ One suggestion could be to partner up with an established charity. That may or may not be an option depending on your thoughts.

Town Representative Report: Jamie DiPace

- Assistant Chief Appell is very frustrated with the progress on Company 4 renovations and purchasing of Truck 6 replacement.
- The final proposals were received for the chassis.
- Company 4 – There is roughly \$50,000 left from the \$150,000 that was budgeted for facilities. Jamie DiPace recommended that the President and Vice President talk to the town manager to see if this project can get moved to a higher place on the list of items the Public Works is working on. There is a hold up with the electrician because he works for the Board of Education and he has other projects that he is working on. The President and Vice President will talk and possibly send a memo to the Town Manager.
- Jamie DiPace suggested that the committee look into what type of floors they want in the bathrooms and get a layout of the kitchen so that when the project gets to those areas they have all the information and this will help the project along.
- Farmington and Avon fire departments will be holding their Annual Car Show on Oct. 21, 2017 with proceeds going to the maintenance of the Training Facility.

- Jamie DiPace and Assistant Chief Joe Speich met with the town of Farmington officials to discuss what needs to be done at the Training Facility. Some of the things that were discussed that have to be done right away is planting shrubbery and trees to block the Training Facility from the neighbors. There is a need for better controls and a few safety issues. Both towns would like to put up a shelter and a storage shed. The Corporation received a donation for the Training Facility of \$30,000 which will be used for these expenses.
- Jamie DiPace feels that some Board members should be on the Recruitment and Retention Committee to work on projects and propose ideas to the Board to retain memberships.

Chief's Report – Chief Trick (Could not attend meeting)

Committee Reports:

- SCBA Committee – Ramona Mansfield informed the Board that Frank Lupis is now the Chairperson of this committee.

Unfinished Business:

- Bonus Points – Still in review and needs some more work.
- Insurance Representative to meet with Board tentatively schedules for November Board meeting.

Bring Under New Business:

- Peter Buonome made a motion to bring under New Business the purchase of Polo shirts for all members with Joe Kowalczyk seconding. Motion was passed.
- John Ryan made a motion to bring under New Business the proposal from Retired Chief Reeser to have a Family Holiday Dinner with Peter seconding Motion was passed.
- John Ryan made a motion to bring under New Business the discussion and purchase of a 24' trailer to house the ARGO with Matt Polesel seconding. Motion passed.

New Business:

- Board of Director's Applications – There are three open seats and 3 people have applied. Jean Barton and Michael Galliher reapplies and Andy Ozmun sent in his resume. Ramona Mansfield will talk to Andy to just explain the workings of the Board and to find out if he has any questions.
- Polo Shirts for Members – After some discussion Peter made a motion to spend up to \$5,000 for Polo shirts for the membership with the details to be worked out at a later date. Tad Green seconded and motion was passed.
- Family Holiday Dinner – The Family Holiday Dinner would be on December 16th with Prime Rib and Baked Stuffed Shrimp being served. Retired Chief Reeser feels that \$1,400 would cover the cost of this dinner and the total to not exceed 110 people since that is what the hall can hold comfortably. Matt Polesel made the motion to approve the Family Holiday Dinner spending up to \$1,400.00 with Peter Buonome seconding. Motion passed.
- 24' Trailer for ARGO – Casey McDermott answered some questions about the trailer such as it does have heat and air conditioning which the ARGO needs. The old Hazmat trailer is too small to hold all that is needed for the ARGO. The new trailer will be able to be used as a Rehab trailer also. After some discussion Matt Polesel made a motion to purchase the trailer for the price quoted at \$17,229.00 from Trailer Company, Inc. with Michael Galliher seconding. Motion passed with Tad Green opposed.

Meeting was adjourned at 21:15 (GB)