

MINUTES OF THE 904th BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING August 7, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Michael Galliher at 19:05

Pledge of Allegiance

Board Members Present: Ray Crozier, Jamie DiPace, Michael Galliher, Tad Green, Steve Gottlieb, Andrew Ozmun, Matthew Polesel, John Ryan and Michael Trick. Excused Joe Kowalczyk.

Others Present: Jean Barton, Aaron Gelber, Matt Gugliotti Tom Kline, David Theriault, Robert Theriault and Mark Wilson.

Andy Ozmun made a motion with Steve Gottlieb seconding to add to the Agenda Oath of Office. Motion Passed and Ray Crozier took the Oath of Office

Minutes of the July 3rd. minutes were approved.

There is no audio recording due to equipment failure.

Communication from Members:

- Bob Theriault informed the Board that the 4-foot LED lamps for all station bays were ordered and received. The town will put them in when there is bad weather. Public works paid for them. The 2-foot LED fixture panels were ordered and will be put in. The lights in the HQ office will be dimmable. He also told them that the hot water heaters at Company 2 will be tomorrow and Company 4 will be later.
- Matt Gugliotti addressed the Board (See Attachment A)

Communications from Board Members:

- **Company Reports:**
 - Co. 1 – Tad Green No Report
 - Co. 2 – Andy Ozmun told the Board that the apron at Company 2 is not in good shape. When it rains the rain puddles, and, in the winter, there is ice buildup and it is hard to back up the apparatus without fishtailing. This needs for be taken care of as soon as possible. Jamie DiPace said he would check with the town about whether they can do it or is it up to the Corporation to do. Andy Ozmun also mentioned that now that it is summer more people are parking in the area for firefighters and would like to have No Parking signed put up.
 - Company 3 – Matt Polesel told the Board that he has met with members of Company 3 and they have decided on appliances and have suggestions for them. Wanted to know when this project would get going. The Chief told the Board that Bruce Williams approves the department to take this task over because he has so many other projects on his plate.
 - Company 4 – Chief Trick told the town of the problem with the cabinetry not getting installed and this is holding up the CO. The Chief would like the Board to do some type of letter to let the town know how they feel about this delay. Vice President Galliher will draft a letter.
 - Fire Police – Steve Gottlieb No Report
 - HQ – John Ryan told the Board that Assistant Chief Kline sent out an email to Avonfire regarding First Net for department members. Any members that have questions contact Assistance Chief Kline.
 - Explorers – Vice President Galliher asked Assistant Chief Kline if Explorers have a department email like Avonfire. Assistant Chief Kline told him that they do, but each Explorer must give him their personal email address, so they will receive emails.

Treasurer's Report: Joe Kowalczyk

- There is total cash in the Corporation of \$971K (304k prior month). Of course, the reasoning for the spike is receiving our Town grant money. Of this money there is approximately \$180k (172K prior) of funds that are free of restrictions and belong to the Corporation. There is \$28k (30k prior) of restricted funds within the Corporation and the remaining cash relates to Town grant money that we have received and total about \$762k there is \$79k of encumbered funds and \$23k of encumbered 17/18 grant funds. The remaining \$660k related to the current 18/19 budget.
- As noted in prior month fundraising season had begun and resulted in some money. Timing was a little behind this year but that is OK, and donations still continue to come in. Last month we had received about \$55k thus far and through July we are up over \$63k. We are lagging compared to prior year but because of timing it is hard to say how we will end the year as amounts still do come in through October. We are about \$8k behind right now and it might be difficult to equal or best our prior year numbers. All and all though this is still amazing if you realize all we do is send a letter. 9 months into the fiscal year for the Corporation and we are showing a small gain of \$3k as compared to 3K loss last month. This is amazing considering at the end of May we had a loss of almost \$47k, our largest that I had seen in the 5 years I have been here.
- Like the previous 4 months the largest cash expense for the Corporation remains the 75th Anniversary expenses \$38k (38k prior). In addition to these expenses we also have the annual dinner for \$10k (\$10k prior) and the Live Burn Building for \$20k (19k prior). Like previously pointed out the 75th expenses are largely offset by over \$23k of fundraising resulting in a net impact of only \$15k to the Corporation. The same holds true for the Live Burn Building expenses which are offset completely because we had temporary restricted funds to cover this cost. The results in these amounts showing ZERO in the statement of activities. To date we still have over \$10k for Live Burn expenses that we **HAVE** to spend and that will have zero impact on the Corporation's bottom line.
- If you remember June ends our budget year so July is the first month. We have just over \$714k this year for budget, in the first month we spend about \$55k of the \$714k compared to \$22k in the first month of the budget in prior year.

Town Representative Report: Jamie DiPace

- A new ladder truck was brought to Company 1 to look at with the new Town center approved it is something that has to be considered. There is a lot of changes in the area,
- Larger project going on at the base of the mountain with Raymour and Flannigan going in there.
- Avon Old Farms are doing extensive renovations.
- The Capital Improvement Budget has started.
- Jamie will talk to Bruce Williams regarding the apron at Company 2.

Chief's Report: Chief Trick

- 77 ft. ladder pumper was brought in for us to look at. The Town Council was invited and only two members could not come. They were taken for a ride in the rig. This truck could replace Engine 9 and Rescue 8 and could be housed at Company 1.
- SCBA – The committee settled on MSA. Now we can work on what is needed for the new SCBA.
- Had some discussion about Facebook access for more members. This was discussed with Assistant Chief Kline, Laura Ward and John Ryan and it was pointed out that we have to be careful what is put on our site, so this will remain restricted to the people that already have access. It was suggested that maybe one member of the Board should have access to be able to input items. It was suggested that we should look into something like dropbox, so members could send in pictures and Laura Ward could look at them and put them on the Facebook page if appropriate. Andy Ozmun feels that we are not using the social media enough to promote what the department does. Maria Brighenti is now the department's photographer. The Chief purchased a new camera for her.

- Chief Trick read a letter from Captain Aaron Gelber regarding recommending Tara Wheeler's for an award for her action at an MVA on July 29, 2018. (See Attachment B). Matt Polesel also wrote something regarding this and emailed it to the Chief, the President and Vice President (See Attachment C)
- The Chief requested the Board think about awarding the 75th Committee and the SCBA Committee. The Board approved his suggestion.

Committee Reports:

- **75th Anniversary Committee: Dave Theriault**
 - We are now 6 weeks away from the big event. Sing up genius was set up by Vice President Galliher. The committee is looking outside the department for help (i.e. Church groups).
 - This Saturday will be the Touch A Truck at the Library from 10 to 12.
 - In October there will be a Memorial Service held at the Congregational Church.
- **Recruitment and Retention Committee: John Ryan**
 - The committee is working on the Community Challenge and the Empty Nester Program. Both will be in September. The committee will be at Stop and Shop to promote the department. One of the Board members asked why it couldn't be done in Avon at Big Y. It was explained that Big Y does not allow any type of solicitation. It was suggested using Walmart because they do allow organizations to solicit.
- **Chief Selection Committee: Matt Polesel**
 - Letters of Intent were received from 4 members. The committee looked at all the qualifications and put together what each candidate had and didn't. There is one member who will not be moved the others will be moved to the next step which is the Oral Board. The committee will be finalizing that process.

Unfinished Business: None

Motion to Bring Under New Business:

- Ray Crozier made a motion with John Ryan seconding to bring under New Business the award for Tara Wheeler. Motion passed.

New Business:

- Ops Manual CM-1, CM-2 and CM-3. John Ryan presented a draft of the wording for all three of these AOG's which will be moved from the Ops Manual once the Board Approves them. The Board did give John some suggestions on wording and John will work up a new draft of all three and present them to the Board in September.
- Facebook Adverting for 75th Anniversary Carnival: Laura Ward told the Chief that it would be \$200 to advertise on Facebook. The Board did not have to approve since they gave the Committee up to \$75,000 for items needed.
- Ray Crozier made a motion to award Tara Wheeler with Andy Ozmun seconding. Motion passed.

Andy Ozmun started a motion to go into Executive Session, but it was decided that it was not necessary.

The Board voted in John Ryan as Secretary and Andy Ozmun as Committee Executive.

Meeting was adjourned at 21:24 (GB)

Mr. Trick-

Many years ago when you first became chief I extended an olive branch to you, and said I would be happy to do whatever it took for you to be successful. Your response to that olive branch was to run me out of the department and damage my reputation as much as you possibly could with your lies and vindictive nature. Mike Farrell was the first, then me, and once we were gone no one would question you; so you thought. The most terrifying thing for you is to have a smarter more articulate person question you, that's why you get rid of us.

Members at that time believed the chief had some moral standing, some ethics and exemplified what it meant to be a man of character. So to run us out, given your corrupt board of cronies seemed like an easy task. But you were not that man. You lied, violated our rights, wrote false statements, you ignored all the rules that would have reasonably prevented the situation from escalating to the levels it did. But that's simply your inability to reason, lead, or demonstrate interpersonal skills.

It wouldn't have been so bad if the retaliation stopped with Mike and I. Wolmets, Reller, Kunzelman, Deckers, Plourde, Reeser, O'neil, Barton, Buonome, Nolans and the list of dead firefighters goes on. You might have been able to convince a few people I'm a bad egg, and I was the problem with this department, but you can't convince us all that all of these people are bad eggs. It's been 6 years since I have had any significant involvement in this organization, and it continues to get worse by the minute. The facts don't lie. So, if you want to continue to live in your fantasy land thinking you have what it takes to be a chief, you are only fooling yourself. You are a failure. Chief in title alone.

You have been under fire since the minute you took office. You have done nothing positive or productive for this department or this town. Avon VFD is the laughing stock of the state and it's because of your arrogance, stupidity, ignorant, hateful, retaliatory policies. Moreover, you can make a cat in a tree sound like 9/11. Your own officers, those that have a 1/2 a brain have even stood up publicly against you.

Your time as chief has come to an end. There is nothing more you can do to "help" this department, but only send it further into chaos and failure. And don't think we all don't see the nefarious reason you removed Jean and Pete from the board, to stack it in your favor. You violated their rights! Corruption.

There is a group of over two dozen firefighters past and present who have and are joining the ranks of the Avon Dead Firefighters Association. This group of fire fighters have one mission: to hold you accountable for the horrible things you have done to them and their brothers; and to save this organization. You are a bully; not a chief. You are an insecure, uneducated, hateful person, not a chief. Your reign of terror ends now.

It is our sworn promise to you, that if you run for chief for a third term we will fight every moronic decision you make, every retaliatory policy, every idea that even has a whiff of giving you more authority as you have not been able to act responsibly with the authority you

currently have. Every by-law or AOG you usurp you will be called out publicly. We will be a thorn in your side to the point you will be so inundated with FOI requests, state investigations, Press inquiries, and challenging you in public (just to name a few things to look forward to,) you will rue the day you ever decided to run again- You will accomplish nothing, in brining the "trick regime" any further than it has already come.

You have harmed too many good people at this point, and for no legitimate reason. We are no longer going to stand idle as you lynch the next person who questions your idiocy. Do yourself and all of us a favor, if your are considering running for chief: DON'T. Just go away quietly.



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Chief Trick,

August 7, 2018

I'm writing this letter to recognize the invaluable contributions from an off duty EMT at a recent Motor Vehicle Collision. On Sunday July 29th at 6:33 PM, units from the Avon Volunteer Fire Department, Avon Police Department and American Medical Response were dispatched to a reported MVC on Hollister Rd between Tollgate Ln and Millstone Dr. While en route, responding units were advised by dispatch that there were multiple 911 calls reporting a two-car head on motor vehicle collision with a single reported pediatric injury. As the first arriving Company Officer, I confirmed the MVC was a 2-car head on collision, established command and began evaluating the parties involved and would start the triage process. I had identified the need for Multiple ALS Ambulances and requested additional resources, shortly after my arrival, off duty AMR EMT Tara Wheeler, who was driving home from her shift came upon the accident. EMT Wheeler provided excellent care and showed the highest level of compassion to the two pediatric patients she had rendered care to. EMT Wheeler continued her tremendous assistance upon arrival of additional resources and remained on scene until all patients were in care of on scene AMR units. I, Captain Aaron Gelber, am recommending EMT Tara Wheeler be presented with the Citizen Life Saving Award, the highest recognized civilian award the Avon Volunteer Fire Department Inc. has for her actions at the above incident.

Thank You for This Consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Aaron Gelber", written over a horizontal line.

Captain Aaron Gelber

From: Matt Polesel
Sent: Thursday, August 02, 2018 11:02
To: Michael Trick <mtrick@avonvfd.org>; Rob Shillington <rshillington@avonvfd.org>; Michael Galliher <mgalliher@avonvfd.org>; Jose Matias <Jose.Matias@amr.net>; john.kirby@amr.net; LaRose, Robert <Robert.LaRose@amr.net>; Rob_Retallick@amr-ems.com
Subject: EMT Tara Wheeler

7/29/2018

AMR Incident #13878773, Avon FD Incident #18-370

This message is meant to recognize EMT Tara Wheeler for going above and beyond the call of duty.

While on her way home from her shift in Farmington, EMT Wheeler was travelling on Hollister Drive in Avon and came to a road closure. She was told there was a head on collision ahead of her with multiple victims and that no fire apparatus or ambulances had arrived yet. EMT Wheeler went to immediately come to the aid of 2 pediatric patients from the same family, offering them reassurance and assisting in their treatment when Avon Volunteer Fire Department and Avon Police Department first responders arrived. Upon Paramedic Polesel's arrival, EMT Wheeler gave an accurate assessment of both pediatric patient's and allowed Paramedic Polesel time to determine additional resources for all victims involved. EMT Wheeler's presence was welcome in light of scarce EMS resources available and her ability to offer reassurance to those victims involved. EMT Wheeler along with AVFD members were able to triage and direct EMS resources upon their arrival. A total of 4 patients were transported, all of which were treated in the Trauma Room.

I believe EMT Wheeler's actions were above and beyond and certainly added to the positive outcome of this incident.

Matthew Polesel, BS, NR-P, EMS-I,
Avon Volunteer Fire Department
Firefighter, Co.3
Member, Board of Directors
Fire Inspector, Town of Avon
Cell (860)985-2628