

959th Board of Directors Meeting, February 7, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Gina Kline at 19:07

Pledge of Allegiance

Board Members Present: Bruce Appell, Brian Baldwin, Chip Carpenter, Jamie DiPace, Gina Kline, and James Speich. Excused: Jeff Borges, and Joe Farzinzad

Board Members Present on Zoom due to illness: Nancy Crozier and Tom Post

Other Members Present: Connor Goldie, Victoria Haskins, Sue Jansen, Tom Kline, Nick Mathein, Erin McCall, Jim Reber, Dave Theriault, Robert Theriault, and Mark Wilson.

Minutes of the 958th Board meeting were approved.

Communications from Members: None

Communications from Board Members:

- President Gina Kline
 - Budget Workshop went well. Discussed key areas under Retention and Recruitment that will require more money in the operating budget.
 - Fire Police board representative. Nancy Crozier was asked if she would take this over. She will let the board know at the next meeting.
 - Need new signers for all bank accounts. Letter from Secretary has been signed.
 - Owl camera if purchased can come out of operating budget and corporate budget.
 - Board Members were given their roles and responsibilities for 2023. **(See Attachment A)**
- Company 1 – Joe Farzinzad Not in attendance
- Fire Police – Chip Carpenter – Nothing to report.
- Company 3 – Brian Baldwin - Members at Company 3 have some operational concerns, and they are waiting for a response back.
- Company 4 – Jeff Borges Not in attendance
- Headquarters – Tom Post has not gotten together with HQ members as of this board meeting,
- Executive Committee Report – Jamie DiPace
 - Fundraising Letter – The 2022 fundraising letter generated \$52,983.08 in donations; This is down \$23,722.83 from the 2021 fundraising letter.
 - Welfare and Cheer – 5 gift cards were given out to members of the department that were out of service. There is a retired member at Cherry Brook in Canton, and he would like visitors. Dennis Bianchi went to visit him.
 - Public Education – Dennis Bianchi will be in the schools teaching,
 - Citizens' Fire Academy – Looking into doing this again. It has not been done for a few years.
 - Blood Drive being held April 7th, Good Friday, at Company 1
 - Informational table was set up at the town meeting where the citizens were voting on new apparatus for the department.
 - Connor Goldie is working on a Recruitment video,
 - Possible fundraising was suggested. i.e., Fishing Derby and Turkey Trot. Must make sure there are people to do these events before committing.

Communications from Board Members cont.

- Explorers – Tom Post
 - There are 2 new members and another applicant.
 - Looking to do Relay For Life – The Explorers' team name is Kicking Cancer's Ash, and it will be on May 20-22. The Explorer are hoping to raise \$1,000.
 - Explorers would like to do a Bake Sale at Company 3 on April 2. Using the Explorer parking area. It was suggested Tom Post check with the high school since they will be using the exit onto West Avon Rd. next to the Explorer parking.
 - Wednesday night, February 8th the Explorer will be drilling at the Training Facility.

Treasurer Report: Acting Treasurer Susan Jansen

- Discussed some of the operating budget year to date. President Kline asked if Sue would do a breakdown of the reports and send them to the board before the meeting so that if the board members have any questions of what is being spent and what is coming in on the corporate budget, they will be better informed.

Old Business:

- Proposed By-Law Change re: Article V Section 6 Retired Status. After some discussion the board decided to present the proposed changes to the membership at the February 13th Corporation meeting to get any feed back from the membership. **(Ser Attachment B)**
- Lifetime Tax Abatement – Will have the retention committee work on Qualification Criteria and report back to the board at the Match Board meeting,

New Business:

- Approve change in Board Secretary – Brian Baldwin has a new job and has a new work schedule. He feels that he will not be able to do the tasks that Secretary does and has asked to step down. Chip Carpenter told President Kline that he would take over the Secretary position if the board approved. Jamie DiPace made a motion with Tom Post seconding to have Chip Carpenter take over the Secretary position from Brian Baldwin. Motion passed.
- Approve Board of Directors Annual Plan for 2023 - Brian Baldwin made a motion to approve the 2023 Annual Plan for the Board of Directors with Jamie DiPace seconding. Motion passed. This plan will be brought to the membership at the February Corporation meeting,
- The Board of Directors will be meeting the last Thursday of the month starting February 23, 2023.
- AOG Review:
 - AOG EX-1 Add Verbiage - Any unbudgeted expenditures more than \$1,000 utilizing Corporate funds will require a vote of the membership before authorization to purchase is granted. Tom Post made a motion to except this change with Chip Carpenter seconding. Motion passed,
 - AOG's Job Descriptions for Board members and Chiefs will be given to the Policy Review Committee to look over and report back to the Board. Chief Appell will look at all the job descriptions for his officers and present any changes to the board.
- Station Design Conference – May 32 through Mary 24 in St, Louis. The board feels Chief Appell should go along with Jim Speich and Jamie DiPace and maybe someone from the town. Chief Appell will check with Brandon Robertson and Grace Tiezzi to see if either of them would like to attend.
- Annual Dinner – Jamie DiPace will talk with someone from Avon Old Farms School to see if we could hold the annual dinner there. The date is November 28ot, 2023. Will poll the membership at the February Corporation meeting about keeping the dinner in town.
- Explorer Advisors Appointments – Chip Carpenter made a motion with Jami DiPace seconding to reappoint the following Advisors. Tom Post as head advisor, Gina Kline, Adriane Wright, and to approve as new advisors Victoria Haskins and Connor Goldie. Motion passed, Jim Speich asked about training for all advisors. He was told that all training is done online through the Boy Scouts.

Chief Report: Bruce Appell

- Renovations are just about done. They went fast. Roughly 5 weeks since start of demolition. This Thursday, February 9th the cleaning company will come and strip and was the meeting hall floor and the lounge floor.
- The new carpet has some defects from the manufacturer. Chief Appell has been in contact with the company to see if they will give us the carpet for free, He would rather not have it replaced or have just the areas that are defective taken out and replaced He is waiting to see what the answer will be. Also, the floor vendor will be giving us 10% discount of the floor in HQ since they ordered the wrong flooring.
- Avon Vacuum donated a new vacuum for us to use when it is needed to clean after the meeting room has been used by members.
- New Apparatus – The contracts have been signed. The trucks won't be built until sometime in October of 2024 and hopefully the town will receive the new trucks in January of 2025.
- The Lion's Club is hosting a carnival. We don't have to do anything if we don't want to. The dates are September 22, 23, 24, 2023. There will be fireworks on Friday night with Saturday night as a rain date. We will have to supply a truck during the fireworks. It would be good to have a truck there and maybe a table for recruitment. There will be a few food trucks there. Not sure if the membership would want to do hot dogs, hamburgers, and fries. The department doesn't have to do this.
- Working on having a Firefighter I class at Avon High School. It is in Windsor High School and it is doing very well. There are still a lot of issues to investigate and get permission for. Will keep the board apprised of any developments.

Executive Session:

- Tom Post made a motion with Brian Baldwin seconding to go into Executive Session. Went into Executive Session at 20:55
- Brian Baldwin made a motion with Jamie DiPace seconding to come out of Executive Session. Came out of Executive Session at 21:18

Next board meeting will be February 23, 2023

Meeting adjourned at 21:20 (GB)