

## MINUTES OF THE 892<sup>nd</sup> CORPORATION MEETING MARCH 13, 2023

Company 1 Meeting Room

1. Call to Order: 19:15 p.m. Roll call: 45 Present, 31 Absent. A quorum was established.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Introduction of New Members:

- There were no new members to introduce.

4. Minutes from Preceding Meeting, February 13, 2023:

- Motion to approve the minutes draft as presented made by Captain Andrew Bloom, seconded by Member Victoria Haskins. Motion passed with none opposed.

5. President's Report:

- The Connecticut Siting Council application for the new SBA Communications Corporation radio infrastructure was approved. A great deal of time and energy has been dedicated to obtaining the approval. President Gina Kline thanked Assistant Chief Thomas Kline in particular for all of his efforts over a long period of time.
- The Department will not participate in an upcoming Avon Lion's Club event due to low Department interest.
- President Gina Kline asked Town-appointed Representative James Speich to report on the status of the Avon Fire Department Plan for the Future. He indicated that the Town Council will prepare a Charge for a Building Committee in planning renovations. He mentioned that a Town referendum will be held likely in June of 2024. There would be funds bonding for several projects including the radio system, facilities upgrades to Co. 1 and Co. 3, among others.

6. Treasurer's Report:

- In the absence of a current Board Treasurer, President Gina Kline stated that there was no formal Treasurer's report for this meeting. CPA Stephen C. Gwizdak has been recommended to the Board by former AVFD Treasurer Ryan Deming. A new Board Treasurer will review the financials and present a formal report. She indicated that it was a slower time of year and that the following approximate amounts have been spent in line with budgets, including: \$1,000 for recent Board business; \$6,000 for pagers; \$3,000 for PPE; \$7,000 for a new hose; and \$1,400 for maintenance on the air compressor.

7. Correspondence (Secretary):

- No correspondence was received by the Department.

8. Committee Executive's Report:

The Committee Executive James DiPace was not present at this meeting. President Gina Kline called upon individual committees to present their reports, the following:

- Recruitment Committee: Representative Connor Goldie stated that the meeting previously scheduled for March 14, 2023, had been cancelled due to the impending nor'easter.
- Retention Committee: Representative David Theriault stated that the next meeting is March 21, 2023, and it will follow directly after the March 21st Recruitment Committee meeting. On March 31, 2023, there will be Bingo night- people should RSVP by March 29, 2023. There will be a pot-

luck picnic in the spring. He asked the membership of the meeting when the event should occur; the verbal consensus was that the event should directly follow the 2023 Memorial Day parade.

- Communications Committee: President Gina Kline stated that the Board will be looking for volunteers to kick off this committee. The committee would be involved with PR, social media, etc.
- History Committee: Representative Carol Baldwin stated that almost all historical items previously stored at Co. 1 had been moved to Co. 2, for inventory, storage, and possible display. She mentioned that 2<sup>nd</sup> floor room organization related to presentation would occur.
- Fundraising and Public Education Committee: Representative Dennis Bianchi stated that he just started work again in the schools.
- Blood Drive Committee: Representative Erin McCall stated that the Annual Blood Drive would occur on April 7, 2023, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Co. 1 Meeting Room. She stated that donations this year were significantly lower than in previous years, and donors will be needed. Six to eight Department volunteers would also be needed.

#### 9. Chiefs' Reports:

- Chief Bruce Appell thanked new Probationary Member James Bayne for volunteering his skills to re-install the newly configured picture frames of the Chiefs, and of awards, prints, and photographs around Co. 1-Headquarters. He stated there were newly revised Town maps for the company stations, which included hydrants, building complexes, plazas, access road, etc., that he would distribute to stations. He mentioned specific new businesses that would be occupying commercial buildings in town. The building which Dakota Steakhouse formerly occupied has been scheduled for demolition in May 2023, and the AVFD will be allowed to use the building for training drills likely over a two-week period prior. There will be a Touch-a-Truck event at the Thompson Brook School parking lot planned for September 9, 2023, at approximately 11:30 a.m. Chief Appell stated that Deputy Chief Aaron Gelber will be offering an upcoming CPR/AED training and notification of the training will be sent to members.
- Assistant Chief Thomas Kline restated that the Connecticut Siting Council approved the radio infrastructure replacement at the Avon Town landfill site. He was awaiting Motorola pricing. Motorola pricing will be an agenda item slated for approval at the May Town Council meeting.

#### 10. Old Business:

- Annual Dinner 2023: Steward Jean Barton will be chairing the Annual Dinner Committee 2023. This year's Annual Dinner will be at the Farmington Polo Club. Next year, the search will be expanded to include even more venue comparisons.
- Open Board Seat – Election: President Gina Kline stated that there are two openings for the positions of Treasurer and open Board. Member Kristen Shaw applied to the open Board position. There was also interest from a new member; however, the current by-laws indicate that a member must have four years of active service or equivalent fire service to be an eligible candidate. The Board will review this requirement going forward. Member David Theriault motioned for Board Secretary Anthony Carpenter to elect Kristen Shaw to the open Board position, seconded by Member Victoria Haskins. The motion passed with none opposed.
- Proposed By-Law Change Re. Retired Status – Vote: President Gina Kline stated that probationary members were not eligible to vote. Secretary Anthony Carpenter read the names of the members eligible to vote and President Gina Kline distributed the ballots to those members. Member Brian Baldwin motioned to vote on a by-law change to Article V, Section 6:

Member Statutes - Retired Status, seconded by Captain Andrew Bloom. Member Baldwin read aloud the language as follows:

- Current Language: Status assigned to a member with twenty-five (25) or more years of service who notifies the Board and/or the Chief or his/her designee in writing of their desire to retire from active duty. Members with twenty-five or more years of service failing to meet the obligations of the member type to which he or she is assigned may be moved to Retired Status with Board approval.
- Option #1 - Proposed Language: Status assigned to a member who has reached the age of fifty and has served satisfactorily for ten (10) years or who has not reached the age of fifty but has served satisfactorily for twenty (20) years and who notifies the Board and/or the Chief or his/her designee in writing of their desire to retire from active duty. Members who have reached age fifty and have ten (10) or more years of services or members who have not reached fifty and have (20) or more years of service failing to meet the obligations of the member type to which he or she is assigned may be moved to Retired Status with Board approval.
- Option #2 – Proposed Language: Status assigned to a member with fifteen (15) or more years of service who notifies the Board and/or the Chief or his/her designee in writing of their desire to retire from active duty. Members with fifteen or more years of service failing to meet the obligations of the member type to which he or she is assigned may be moved to Retired Status with Board approval.

Members Kristen Shaw and Brian Baldwin counted the ballots. President Gina Kline read the results for the counted ballots as follows: Current Language – 3 votes; Option #1 Proposed Language – 29 votes; Option #2 Proposed Language – 13 votes. The votes for, Option #1 Proposed Language, passed by majority ballot count.

#### 11. New Business:

First Due – Introduction and Training (Assistant Chief Kline): This item was not addressed during the meeting. Assistant Chief Thomas Kline indicated that this was training for entry and support firefighters only and would be held post-meeting adjournment that evening.

#### 12. Other Business:

- Welfare & Cheer: Representative Dennis Bianchi mentioned those Members and Retired Members who were recovering from illness at their homes. He stated that several Department members have 50 years of service and that they should be recognized.
- Pot of Gold & Attendance Drawings: There was no Pot of Gold winner to receive \$10.10 collected at this meeting. The attendance winner was Michael Frost.
- Communication from Members: There was none.

#### 13. Adjourn:

Clean-up – Co. 3. Member David Theriault motioned to close the meeting, seconded by Member Marjorie Bourgoïn. The motion passed with none opposed. Adjournment at 20:01 p.m.

Susan Guimaraes  
AVFD Administrative Coordinator