

MINUTES OF THE 893rd CORPORATION MEETING May 15, 2023

President Gina Kline called the meeting to order at 19:07
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: Present: 52 Absent: 39

Drew Bloom made a motion to accept the 892nd Corporation minutes with one correction under Treasurer's Report it should be pagers not pages. Motion seconded by Sid Shafran. Motion passed.

Member Comments:

- Mike Galliher noticed that the sign for joining the department should be taken down due to the phone number on the sign is no longer in service. The sign is at the 3 corners of West Avon Rd. and Harris Rd.

Secretary – Chip Carpenter

- No Correspondences.

Presidents Report – Gina Kline

- Town Council has on their agenda the fire department facilities to keep this item front and center. No information relating to the forming of a committee to work on these projects as of right now.
- Budget did pass. The Operating Budget was 5% more than last year. The Capital Improvement Budget was also passed. There is \$200,000 for designs of facilities and \$150,000 for a new SCBA compressor.
- April 6th Board Meeting:
 - Kristen Shaw was approved to be Treasurer and Steve Gwizdak as Assistant Treasurer.
 - New Company representatives were approved. They are Kristen Shaw as the HQ representative and Nancy Crozier as the Fire Police Representative Company 1 members can contact President Kline or Jamie DiPace with any questions or issues.
 - Approved a new policy the AOG for this policy is AA-7 Policy and Notice of Nondiscrimination. This policy is to comply with federal guidelines and due to the department receiving grants from Homeland Security.
 - Received a Freedom of Information complaint recently so the Board has been scheduled for mandatory training on FOI. Offices are encouraged to attend and any member especially those interested in being on the Board in the future are welcome to attend.
 - A member submitted a proposal to By-Laws Article VI Election of Officers. The board felt that at this time it was not a good idea to consider this change. The Town Council is invested in working with the department to improve all facilities and recruitment and retention and the board felt it would not be a good time to consider the request. The Board's concerns were discussed with the member and the proposed bylaw change was withdrawn. The board will be looking into what can be done to find out what caused this proposed change and try to work with the membership to resolve where possible.
- April 27th Board Meeting
 - Board discussed annual fundraising campaign. The communications committee is looking at all possible ways to do the annual fundraising campaign this year. Once they have information, they will bring it to the board. This year's fundraising campaign will be done in the fall with a lot of publicity on social media to let the citizens know the fundraising will be coming.
 - Avon Little League – We missed the deadline to sponsor a team, but we will have 2 banners up in the outfield and one at Movie Night.
 - Chief Appell is working on wording for a Safety Committee policy. He is checking to see what if anything is in the Ops Manual and then he will put all this information together to present to the board.

President's Report – Gina Kline cont.

- Assistant Treasurer Steve Gwizdak is looking into changing the department's 501c4 to a 501c3. He feels the department is missing out on some grants that can only be given to 51c3 organizations. He will be looking at the application process to see what needs to be done for this change.
- Neighborhood Assistance Grant – The board put in the application for new boilers at Company 2 and Company 4.
- This Wednesday May 17, 2023, there will be a fundraiser at Jefferson Fry Company at the Farmington Shoppes in Canton.
- The board approved hiring MV Film Productions to do recruitment videos for the department.

Town Representative Report: Jim Speich

- The Town Council approved the needs document to explore in more detail what is needed for a new station and renovations to existing stations. Expecting they will appoint the Building Committee in the next month or two.

AV-2 Tom Kline

- Received the proposal back from Motorola Assistant Chief Kline. Chief Appell and the chief of police will be looking over the proposal. The June 1st Town Council meeting will have this on their agenda for June.
- When at a call please use fire ground for communication. The pump operators should have wireless headphones while pumping to be in touch with what is needed. Assistant Chief Kline will be doing training on fireground procedures.
- Engine 14 and Ladder 12 are missing headsets.
- First Due
 - Record keeping started on 4/1/2023. Assistant Chief Kline is going to stop lamresponding and everyone will be moved to First Due. Explorers will be able to get the First Due app and Assistant Chief Kline will be working with them to get them up and running.
 - There should be First Due forms in all stations, but if not, you can come and print them off the copier in HQ. All those forms get updated every day at 5:00 p.m. There are some forms in the closet by Chief Appell's office. They are also in Dropbox, and you can print from there.
 - New Incident Forms – When using these forms, you must put the number of the apparatus by your name. Do not put a check by your name and do not put a D. First Due doesn't keep track of drivers.
 - Use your pagers and not your phones. The text from First Due is coming in late so you will not have information right away. Chief Kline is working with First Due to get this resolved. If you don't get a text message do not call the police department and let Assistant Chief Kline know.
- If there is a call but not an alarm is needed it comes across as Duty Officer which means only the Duty Officer will go. If the duty officer deems it necessary to have apparatus at this call, he will instruct dispatch to sound the alarm.
- Physicals – The paperwork that you need is in the closet by Chief Appell's office, or you can go online in the members only section of the website and print it out. Once you have your appointment scheduled you must tell Captain Lynn Sedlak when your appointment is so we can keep track of billing purposes. If you take yourself offline due to an injury or sickness, please fill out the correct paperwork and let your captain know. This paperwork is also found in the members only section of the website.

AV-3 Joe Speich

- Hose and ground ladder testing has been completed. We only have to replace some 5" hose which we will take out of next year's operating budget.
- All pump testing and maintenance are done.
- Tanker 20 needs some gauges to be replaced. That will be going out this week.
- SCBA Compressor – An application for a FEMA grant has been submitted. If we should not get the grant there is \$150,000 in the Capital Improvement Budget for this.
- SOG's are completed. Next months' time frame there will be a copy available for the membership.
- When there is a need for mutual aid there will be a 3rd alarm.

AV-4 Aaron Gelber

- Ladder training went well.
- June 4, 2023, there will be leadership training for anyone wishing to take it.
- Q Class – Looking to bring this training in-house. If there is anyone interested in taking this class, please let Deputy Chief Gelber know.
- Deputy Chief Gelber is looking into having a Firefighter I class in-house. Before he can proceed, he needs to know if there is enough interest before he commits to proceeding .

Lieutenant Adriane Wright

- Eamon Ferry is taking Firefighter 1.

Lieutenant Ray Crozier

- Jim Bayne is taking Firefighter I.

Committee Reports –

- Recruitment – Dave Theriault
 - Working on a few events.
 - Movie Night at Sperry Park.
 - Jefferson Fry in Canton this is both Recruitment and Fundraising.
 - Touch a Truck in June and September.
 - Working on doing a Fishing Derby next spring.
 - Working with a production company owned by a firefighter to do a Recruitment video showing the public what we do and who we are.
- Retention – Dave Theriault
 - Working on qualifications for Lifetime Tax Abatement for Out-Of-Town members with 25 or more years with the department.
 - Working on the qualifications of a Member in Good Standing.
 - Jim Bayne explained to the membership about the contest he entered and won with his Firehouse Fries recipe. In winning the contest he gets to have some friends come and make the fries and sell them to the public. The manager of Jefferson Fries is so excited that he decided to turn this into a fundraising event. Jim will be there all day, but he does need people to help him out. He has a sign up sheet. After the meeting if you can help, please sign up.
- Parades – The Memorial Day Parade will meet at Sperry Park to line up. If you need your uniform cleaned, please bring it to Battiston's. If you don't have a uniform, please contact Jean Barton and she will try to fix you up with one. If you are interested in the color guard, we can always use members, please see Captain Bourgoin.
- Communications Committee – Erin McCall
 - Working with Recruitment and Retention to get the department out there with our Social Media.
 - The Social Media items are getting great publicity for the department.
 - Public Relations for the department will be concentrating on getting the word out for the department's 80 anniversary this year. Working on different events to help with getting the word out to the public. One of the ideas is to have an Anniversary Party with tours of one station at a time. Another event we are looking at is to have pictures taken of the members.

Committee Reports cont.

- Community Outreach – Dennis Bianchi
 - Stop & Shop Food Drive will be June 10, 2023. Contact Dennis if you would like to help.
 - Touch a Truck June 1 from 4 pm to 7 pm.
 - Blazer's Backyard Blast – We will have a table there for fire prevention and recruitment. They are also going to ask people to bring nonperishable food items to help with our food drive.
 - At the Avon Little League Jamboree Dennis gave out a lot of items and he had 3 people ask for applications to be members.
- History Committee – Carol Baldwin
 - The History Committee now has an office at Company 2. It is the old fire police captain's office. We can now lock up some of the historical items. We are organizing everything by the year to make it easy to find things. There are 6 file cabinets full.
- Social Committee – Dave Theriault
 - Memorial Day Picnic is being held at the Senior Center starting at 2:00 pm. The Corporation supplies hot dogs and hamburgers. The side dishes and desserts will be provided by the attendees. If you haven't RSVP and you are going, please do so this week.
- Good and Welfare Committee – Dennis Bianchi
 - Sal Javaid has become a US citizen. Congratulations!

Other Business:

- Attendance Award: \$10.00 won by Ryan Bagley
- Pot o' Gold – \$35.25 won by Jamie DiPace
- Next meeting: June 12, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 20:30 p.m. (GB)