

MINUTES OF THE 896th CORPORATION MEETING September 11, 2023

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:

President Gina Kline called the meeting to order at 19:01. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Attendance:

55 Members present. A quorum was confirmed: 46 present out of a total 73 possible active voting Members.

Introduction of New Members, Member Recognition, Explorer Officer Appointments:

- New Probationary Member (reinstatement) Mike Transue was introduced.
- Explorer Lead Advisor Tom Post introduced the Explorer officers: Captain Zoe Hatinen (not present), new Lieutenant Chris Albert, and new Lieutenant Andrew Kline. The Oath of Office was administered to the Explorer Lieutenants by Assistant Chiefs Tom Kline and Ken Sedlak.

Communication from Audience:

- None presented.

Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting, July 10, 2023; (August 14, 2023 unofficial meeting- no quorum):

- Member Phillip Kholond motioned to accept the 894th Corporation Meeting minutes as presented; Member Graydon Salonia seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

President's Report - Gina Kline:

- Assistant Treasure Steven Gwizdak continues tax status change from 501(c)(4) to a 501(c)(3).
- Member Brian Baldwin will assist the vacant position of Board Secretary until a Board Secretary is officially appointed in November.
- The FOI complaint was resolved. The AOG CM-1 will reflect a correction to indicate the regular meeting minutes deadline for posting is within seven calendar days.
- The Members attending the Symposium in the Sun 2023 in Florida TBD.
- The Corporation-contracted CPA will file a partial 990 Form from 11/1/2022 through 6/30/2023 to now align with the Town of Avon's fiscal year and grant money period for AVFD going forward.

Correspondence:

Member Brian Baldwin first thanked all who helped with the very successful 2023 9/11 memorial ceremony events. He read aloud correspondence from Avon residents Nancy and Jim Rosen in appreciation of both Fire Police Member Sharon Levine-Shein and Co. 4 Lt. Adriane Wright, and especially for Lt. Wright's special attention to the Rosens' son. Member Levine-Shein read aloud her personal statement honoring Lt. Wright's efforts in the matter.

Financial Update - Treasurer Kristen Shaw:

- No update.

Communication from Town Representative – James Speich:

- The next AVFD Fire Station Expansion, Renovation, & New Construction Building Committee meeting will be held on September 13, 2023. Meetings are open to the public.

Officers Reports:

Chief Bruce Appell:

- The Department's Safety Committee needs representatives from across the Department demographic; contact the Board President or Chief if interested. One meeting per calendar quarter will be held.
- Two station generators issues and the Co. 3 water leak remediation efforts were discussed.

- Department insurance claims: The deductible increased significantly to \$1,000.00/claim. The insurance company stressed the reduction of small claims per historical data. Members will need to better care for Department items. The company now requires yearly background checks for personal driving records of those who drive Department vehicles. The Administrative Coordinator will need copies of driver licenses for all Department vehicle drivers. Members will be notified to submit copies of renewals upon expiration. Personal record driving violations will affect permissions to drive Department vehicles.
- Lions Club carnival, Prince Thomas of Savoy Italian Festival, and a W. Avon Congregational Church will occur.
- Incident responder access to various Avon commercial buildings was discussed.
- There will be a sign-up genius for a September live burn and pump class. Please join.

Assistant Chief Tom Kline:

- The updated radio site will be completed in an approximate year and three months' time.

Assistant Chief Joe Speich:

- New foam and upcoming PPE orders will arrive shortly. Contact him if gear is needed.
- Avonwood Apartments virtual key and Knox box locations indicated- no master key.
- Ladder engine delivery period update: 2025-2026.

Assistant Chief Ken Sedlak:

- Use of the Department EAP is increasing. The EAP is a benefit to all. A member requested that the EAP company representative again visit the Department in-person.

Chief Appell and Co. 3 Captain Dave Theriault:

- Outgoing Member Connor Goldie was honored with a history of his exemplary service over the last four years. He was presented with a black helmet as he transitions to a career firefighter in SC.

Captain Theriault:

- All 2023 Annual Clam Bake volunteers were thanked.

Lieutenant Wright:

- Connor Goldie was thanked for his high participatory rate, always willing to assist all.

Committee Reports – Committee Executive Jamie DiPace:

- Member Dennis Bianchi: The Annual Clam Bake of 2023 raised approximately \$6,000.00 from donations and raffle sales. He will be stepping back to an extent from in-person fundraising solicitations and all-day event hosting, citing physical burdens.
- Member Carol Baldwin, History Committee Chair: Files at Co. 2 were now organized by decade, but help is needed to organize further by year. The Communications Committee email is pr@avonvfd.org; members can forward photographs from Department events.

Old Business:

a. 23-03 AOG JD-1 Board of Directors changes:

President Kline reviewed the changes. No Member feedback was received. Three Board position vacancies will be filled in November. She encouraged Members to review requirements, look at the meeting schedule, and apply for the positions. Other individually proposed qualifications would be considered if evidenced with strong reasons.

b. 23-11 Fundraising Letter:

A new appeal letter was approved. A mailing will occur by the first week in October latest, with concurrent social media appeal.

c. 23-20 Safety Committee:

Chief Appell already briefed the Corporation.

New Business:

- **23-42 Honorary Member Nomination – Alex Trujillo:**

Former Avon Town DPW Deputy Director Alex Trujillo's Honorary Member status was presented to the Corporation due to his long-standing efforts to support the AVFD. Alex would receive the social benefits of the Department- permanent invitations to the Annual Clam Bake and Annual Dinner.

- Member Tom Post motioned to grant Alex Trujillo Honorary Member status; Vice President Nancy Crozier seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Other Business:

a. Welfare & Cheer

None presented.

b. Pot of Gold & Attendance Drawings

Pot of Gold, \$13.50, winner Fire Police Probationary Member Jamie Appell not present- funds returned to pot. Member Carol Baldwin was Attendance winner.

Adjourn Meeting:

20:25 p.m.

Minutes:

Susan Guimaraes, Administrative Coordinator