

967th Board of Directors Meeting, October 26,2023

The meeting was called to order by President Gina Kline at 19:02

Pledge of Allegiance

Board Members Present: Bruce Appell, Brian Baldwin, Jeff Borges, Nancy Crozier, Jamie DiPace, Steve Gwizdak, Gina Kline, Tom Post, Kristen Shaw, and Jim Speich

Other Members Present: Tom Kline and Dave Theriault.

The September 28th board meeting minutes were approved with a motion from Jamie DiPace and seconded by Nancy Crozier.

The October 19th special board meeting minutes were approved with a motion from Jeff Borges and seconded by Kristen Shaw.

Communications from Members: None

Communications from Board Members:

- Tom Post
 - There are some new Explorers and another candidate will be interviewed.
 - Tom asked if the Explorer captain would be able to attend the fallen firefighter's dinner. No one on the board had any concerns about her going to the dinner.
 - There is a new Boy Scout council head and he attended one of the Explorer drills, He was very impressed with our Explorer program.
- Jame DiPace
 - Jamie received some comments and gave them to Chief Appell one of the comments was actually a question of upping the Pot O' Gold to a \$1.00 and the other comment was the officers don't seem to appreciate the Explorers.
 - Jamie also asked the board to look into getting the town on board with a policy or procedure on firefighters getting cancer. The state has taken the initiative to implement a program and Jamie feels the town should make an ordinance addressing this concern.
 - Jamie also would like the board to work on the lifetime tax abatement for members who pass and has this benefit continue to the spouse on the members' death. This would mean an ordinance change.
- Gina Kline
 - Kristen Shaw, Steve Gwizdak, Tom Kline and Grace Bianchi met to go over the finances of the corporation and the town grant money. We are trying to work out how the finances should be kept and reported to the corporation members. It was decided that every month the treasurer (Kristen Shaw) would look over the finances for the month to see what are the big, ticketed items that the members and the board should be aware of to see how the money is being spent.
 - After the November 13th Corporation meeting the board will convene to look over what the chiefs are proposing for the operating budget from the town.
 - October 31st fire police and some recruitment team members will be at Company 2 for the annual Company 2 Halloween party for the citizens of the Secret Lake area.
 - The annual dinner is on November 18th. Invitations went out to retired veterans, honorary members, and town officials. A flyer and RSVP cards were emailed out to all members of the department.
 - Gina would like the board members to think about a possible board award to be given out to a member that has done a lot for the department without being asked or someone who has contributed to the department year after year and doesn't usually get recognized. Any suggestions please contact President Gina Kline. If there is no one this year that is fine. This award doesn't have to be given out every year.

Treasurer's Report: Kristen Show

- Kristen went over the big, ticketed items from the grant money. There were no questions from the board members.

Old Business:

- **23-11 Fundraising Campaign**
 - As of this meeting there is \$30,722 donations from checks and \$4,527 from online donations. Gina will ask Erin McCall to do a big asocial media blitz to get more online donations.
- **23-20 Safety Committee**
 - The chief is still trying to get some members to be on this committee. Tom Post volunteered to be the board representative on this committee.
- **23-22 AVFD Tax Status Change Exploration**
 - Steve Gwizdak has put in the application along with the \$600 filing fee which he is donating to the corporation. He doesn't want to be reimbursed, Now it is just a waiting game. IRS can take up to 180 days to render their approval or disapproval. Steve feels there should be no problem getting approved.
- **Fire Chief Performance Appraisal**
 - Jamie DiPace sent out what he thought and feels that the appraisal should follow the AOG chief's job description. He has not gotten any feedback from board members. He asked again for the board members to look them over and be prepared to meet.
- **Capital Improvement Budget**
 - The board met with the chief to go over this budget. The board did not see anything that shouldn't be in this budget and approved it.

New Business:

- **23-44 Board Candidate Slate**
 - There are two 3 year term seats open and one seat that is a vacant seat which will be a term from date of election to 12/31/2025. The two candidates that have put in for their seats are Jamie DiPace and Nancy Crozier. Both are already members of the board. As of this date there were no other members applying for a board seat. Jeff Borges made a motion to accept these candidates with Kristen seconding. Motion passed.

Town Representative's Report: James Speich

- Nine architects submitted Statements of Qualifications for Design/Renovations of Company one, Company four and Company three.
- After a scoring process, four finalists were chosen. (Kastle Boos, LaBella, Tecton, and Mitchell).
- The four finalists were interviewed on October 11th and October 12th.
- One architect will be chosen at the Building Committee's November 1st meeting.
- Following the selection an RFP will be requested with results submitted to the Town by November 30th.
- The committee will review the RFP response at its December 13th meeting and submit it to the Town Council for funding at the January 4, 2024, meeting.

Chief's Report: Bruce Appell

- The operating budget is done and will be ready to be presented to the board. The chief doesn't anticipate any changes.
- So far there have been 609 calls. There are a total of 107 members the breakdown is as follows: 30 entry firefighters, 26 support firefighters, 11 fire police, 18 Explorers and 22 HQ members. Fire Police will be short this winter.
- Jamie DiPace suggested the chief look into adding money to the budget for members' health such as getting a nutritionist to come in to teach members what and how to cook and to give members higher gym subsidies instead of the \$60 per quarter. The chief said he would look into some type of health program for the members, but there won't be any money in the 2024/2025 budget. Will have to see if maybe a nutritionist would come in the winter months to do some training.

Meeting Schedule:

- Corporation Annual Meeting – Monday November 13th at 7:30 pm.
- Special Board Meeting – Monday November 13th immediately following the Annual Meeting.
- Board Meeting – Thursday, November 30th at 7 pm.