

MINUTES OF THE 899th CORPORATION ANNUAL MEETING February 12, 2024

President Gina Kline called the meeting to order at 19:06
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: Present 44

Membership News:

- Michael Transue is now at full member status.
- Dave Cappello is active at Company 3 and can drive Engine 10.
- Probationary member Rakesh Kumar is at Company 3

Member Comments:

- Alex Trujillo thanked the members for voting him an Honorary Member of the Department.

Sue Jansen made a motion to accept the January 8th Corporation minutes with Ben Shapiro seconding. Motion passed.

Presidents Report – Gina Kline

- The January corporate meeting was held as a hybrid with members in person and members on Zoom. President Kline asked for member thoughts on this type of meeting. Captain Bourgoin said he likes it better in person you get to see people. Jennifer Albanesi said she had problems with the audio. President Kline will talk to the board about what can be done.
- Board Meetings – The board is looking into having hybrid meetings via Zoom and posting the audio on the member's only site. If you have any comments on this please contact President Kline.
- President Kline did an online seminar on Social Media and Communication. There are a lot of requirements that have to be met and looked into along with special training. The board will be looking into training options more before scheduling the Communications Committee meeting.
- President Kline also did an online seminar on the new OSHA regulations published on February 2, 2024. The OSHA regulations for safety will be following NFPA. President Kline will keep the membership informed of any official changes in the regulations.
- Chief Appell and Assistant Chief Speich met with the town council about the department's budget. We went in with a 3% increase which is \$25,000.

Correspondence:

- Thank you notes were read.

Treasurer's Report: Kristen Shaw

- Total income to the Corporation for the current fiscal year through January 19, 2024, is \$940,445.86.
 - The grant from the Town of Avon was received in August and accounts to \$833,864 of the income received year-to-date.
 - Other revenue (\$15,623.94) received originated from the annual Fundraising letter, donations other than from the annual Fundraising letter and other miscellaneous income including interest, income from the EB Trust, dividends income and the sale of AVFD clothing.
- Total Expenses to the Corporation for December 31, 2023, through January 19, 2024, is \$22,097.

Town Representative Report: James Speich

- January 29th the officers and board members met with the architects to discuss some ideas for the buildings project. All members will be able to meet with the architects.
- A meeting will be set up and notices will be sent out when the dates have been confirmed. The next meeting of the building committee will of this Thursday, February 15th at Company 1. If any members are interested in coming all meeting is open to the public.

AV-1 Chief Appell

- The Mack went out for some repairs which cost approximately \$10,000. We were given an estimate of \$350,000 to repair the Mack from the ground up. We also got an estimate of between \$200,000 to \$250,000 to just do the outside.
- Company 3's generator is being repaired. Co. 4 generator is offline right now.
- A new SCBA compressor has been ordered.
- Our request for the CIP budget has been accepted by the Town Council. The request includes \$200K for architectural fees, \$375K for the first installment to replace Tanker 20, \$35K for a new generator at Company 2.
- Assistant Chief Speich asked the chief to let the members know that meter calibrations will be done this week.
- Deputy Chief Gelber asked the chief to let the members know that the leadership training will be on 2/17/24 from 9-1 and lunch will be served. April 6th and 7th there will be an inhouse pump operator class here. The houses on 44 are still available to us so we will be training there again.
- Assistant Chief Kline asked the chief to let the members know that the radio project is still going on. All radios have been ordered.

Committee Reports:

- **Fire Public Education**
 - Roaring Brook School is scheduled to have Dennis Bianchi go in and teach fire safety. He is still trying to get some dates at Pine Grove School.
- **Community Outreach**
 - Farming Valley Academy asked if they could raffle off a fire truck ride to school. Dennis will coordinate this.
 - Thank you to all the members who helped out with the Santa Express. The kids enjoyed having Santa come in a fire truck.
- **History**
 - The committee met last Saturday to look at old pictures and see if members could be identified. Dennis has some time during the week if you would like to meet him at Company 2 to help with what the committee is doing. Just let him know.
- **Good and Welfare**
 - There were 3 sick members that were sent get well cards and gift cards.
- **Bingo Night**
 - Dennis will be doing bingo on Friday night March 22, 2024. There will be a charge of \$5.00 per adult but kids are free. There will also be refreshments.
- **Trivia Night**
 - Looking into having a trivia night sometime in April.
- **Recruitment- Jamie DiPace**
 - There will be an open house at Company 2 to hopefully get more members from the neighborhood to join the department.
 - If you have any ideas or would like to join this committee, please let Jamie or Dave Theriault know.

Old Business:

- **Strategic Priorities – Status Update**
 - The top areas that the Board will be focusing on are Staffing, Training, Recruitment and Communication. There will be a joint meeting with the officers and the board to go over what is needed to accomplish these priorities. The board will update the members with what was decided.

New Business:

- **AVFD Blood Drive** – The blood drive will be held here on March 29th from 8:45 am to 5:00 pm. We need volunteers to work the day of. Dennis will be doing the canteen, but we need volunteers to help with the people coming in to get them registered. If you can help or would like to take over coordinating with the department and the red cross, please let President Kline know. President Kline will have a link for people to sign up to give blood added to the website.
- **AVFD Member Talking Points**
 - Members were given talking points if approached by the Media to comment on Department business.
- **AOG MEM-2a Revision**
 - The following verbiage was added to this AOG. Effective January 1, 2024, any new member applying to the Firefighter member classification will be required to enroll in a Firefighter 1 program within their twelve (12) month probationary period. A one-time six (6) month extension of this requirement may be granted on a case-by-case basis by the Fire Chief. This requirement may also be waived at the discretion of the Fire Chief on a case-by-case basis to meet the needs of the Department.
- **Tax Abatement W2**
 - Social Security and Medicare were taken out of the tax abatement. President Kline talked to the finance director for the town and told him that there is a law that was passed making the benefit for tax abatement nontaxable. The finance director told President Kline that he will look into this and get back to her this Friday. Once President Kline hears back, she will let the membership know what is being done to correct this.

Other Business:

- Attendance: Phyllis Wilson
- Pot O' Gold had no winner.

Future Meeting Schedule:

- Communications Committee Meeting – TBD
- Board of Directors Special Meeting – February 22, 2024, at 6 pm
- Board of Director's (Regular) Meeting – February 29, 2024 @ 6 pm.
- Online Seminar: Must Have By-Laws for NFP Fire Department – February 29, 2024 @ 7 pm.
- Corporation Meeting – March 11, 2024 @ 7 pm.

Looking Ahead – Other Events

- Family Bingo Night – March 22, 2024, at 7 pm
- AVFD Blood Drive – March 29, 2024, at 8:45 am to 5 pm.

There was a call during the meeting and some members had to leave to respond. Did not have a quorum to make a motion to adjourn.

Meeting ended at 20:15 p.m. (GB)