

MINUTES OF THE 901st CORPORATION MEETING May 13, 2024

President Gina Kline called the meeting to order at 19:03

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: Present 47

Membership News:

- Introduced new probationary members Rakesh Kumar (who was present), Jennifer Rosado, and Andrew Lennon all with Company 3.

Member Comments:

- Pete Buonome provided information on a Safety Standard seminar taking place in Rocky Hill on June 14th and 15th. Anyone interested in attending can reach out to Pete.

Tori Haskins made a motion to accept the February 12th Corporation minutes with Captain Sanderson seconding. Motion passed.

Presidents Report: Gina Kline

- A brief update on the status of the Corporations 501(c)(3) application was provided. The members were informed that specific language is required in the Corporation's Articles of Incorporation and more research is needed to understand the implications of making this change to our foundational documents. We will be requesting an extension to respond to the IRS pending the completion of this research.
- There will be an Open House on Sunday, May 19th from 11am to 2pm. More details were shared by Captain Theriault in his committee report.
- At the April meeting, the Board voted to stop doing the annual blood drive.
- The Annual Dinner is confirmed for Friday, November 22, 2024.
- Our application for the 2024 Neighborhood Assistance Grant has been submitted. This year, we are requesting funding to replace the refrigerator and dishwasher with energy-efficient units.

Correspondence: Brian Baldwin

- Thank you notes were read.

Treasurer's Report: Kristen Shaw

- Treasurer Shaw provided an overview of department income and expense through April 15, 2024.

Town Representative Report: James Speich

- The Building Committee met on May 8th to review updated drawings from the architect. Additional feedback was provided for the architects to incorporate into the conceptual drawings for the June meeting. Chief Appell will be sharing the drawings from the May 8th meeting during his report to membership.
- The next meeting of the building committee will be at 7:30pm on June 12th at Company 1. All members are welcome to attend as the meetings are open to the public.

Chief Officer Reports

Chief Appell's report was given after the completion of Old Business so that he could present the Building Committee Conceptual Plan immediately following his report.

AV-2: Tom Kline

- Assistant Chief Kline provided a brief update on the status of the radio project. The new tower at the landfill is up and cellular carriers will be moved over soon. The pad should be poured at the Ridgewood Road site in the coming week with construction of the new tower for that site following once the concrete has cured. Acceptance testing for the dispatcher consoles will take place in June and targeting end of September or early October to complete testing for the new system. Once we receive approval to start using the new system, training will begin and equipment will be updated in the apparatus.
- Pagers that work with the new system have been ordered. They are more expensive than our current pagers, so responding firefighters and fire police members will be prioritized to receive the new pagers. Explorers will not be given pagers. Instead, the Department will be using the Zello phone app as a secondary means of communicating incidents and allowing members to listen to on-scene communications. Assistant Chief Kline proceeded to review the features of the Zello app and provided a visual demonstration of its capabilities. Members interested in having the app on their phone need to email AC Kline so he can set them up.

AV-3: Joe Speich

- AC Speich reported that hose testing has been completed for this year with minimal loss of hose.
- Apparatus maintenance is almost done. Engine 11 will be going out next, followed by Tanker 20 when it returns.

AV-5: Aaron Gelber

- Forcible entry training has been planned for Saturday May 18th. A sign-up sheet has been sent out.
- Summer Firefighter I classes have been filled. If any support members are interested in taking Firefighter I in the fall, they should reach out to DC Gelber as soon as possible.
- The training division is working on gaining access to train in an acquired structure on West Avon Road. More information will follow.
- Simsbury is holding a pump class. Anyone interested in driving who does not have a pumps class is encouraged to take the class.
- The last training night for CPR was cancelled. DC Gelber is working to reschedule it as quickly as possible.

Old Business:

- **Strategic Plan**
 - President Kline provided a brief overview of the Strategic Plan, focusing on the new steering committee structure.
 - The six Board Steering Committees include: Planning, Finance, Training and Safety, Communications, Policy and Compliance, and Member Services (Retention).
 - The final strategic plan approved by the Board has been posted to the Members Only portion of the website and will be emailed out for members to review.
- **Steering Committee Reports**
 - **Planning Committee** - Captain Theriault provided additional information on the Recruitment Drive/Open House scheduled for May 19th. Anyone interested in helping out can reach out to him or Ben Shapiro.
 - **Policy and Compliance Committee** – Anyone with experience in policy review interested in helping the policy workgroup review the By-laws, AOGs and SOGs to fix any contradictory or outdated language is encouraged to reach out to Assistant Chief Sedlak or Board Member Mark Wilson.
- **Building Committee Conceptual Plan** – Presented as part of Chief Appell's Report

Chief Appell's Report

- Everyone did a great job at the Avonwood fire. It was a great stop.
- Volunteers to participate in the honor guard for Maurice Dutcher's service on May 24th are needed. If interested, please reach out to Captain Bourgoin.
- Company 4 has a new flagpole that was donated by a family on Deer Run.
- Expecting Old Farms Road to be closed at Scoville Road for roadwork once school is out (after June 12th). Regular updates will be provided but use caution and proactively plan alternative response routes during closure.
- Chief Appell and AC Speich attended FDIC to evaluate new equipment for the Department. Members interested in the training opportunities and seminars at FDIC are encouraged to reach out to DC Gelber to attend a future conference.
- Some statistics pulled from First Due regarding average call response were shared. Members were also informed that reports to calculate the percentage of calls and training hours have also been developed. Information will be shared at the company level through the Company officers.
- Several new buildings will be going up in town and plans for additional buildings are in the works.
- He also shared information on some potential code change in front of the legislature that could adversely impact the fire safety code. More information will be provided as it becomes available.
- Chief Appell shared the conceptual site plan presentation from most recent Building Committee meeting so members could see how the changes they requested had been incorporated into the plans. Additional feedback was solicited from the members which will be shared with the architects ahead of the June 12th meeting.

New Business: None

Other Business:

- Checks for those that worked the election primaries are available for distribution. Members may pick up from Treasurer Shaw after the meeting or from the Headquarters staff during business hours.
- Attendance: Jason Mickus
- Pot O' Gold had no winner

Future Meeting Schedule:

- Board of Director's Meeting – May 30, 2024 @ 7 pm.
- Corporation Meeting – June 10, 2024 @ 7 pm.

Jeff Borges made a motion to adjourn with Kristen Shaw seconding. Motion passed.

Meeting ended at 2057. (GK)