

MINUTES OF THE 903rd CORPORATION MEETING September 9, 2024

President Gina Kline called the meeting to order at 19:18

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: Present 44

Oath of Membership:

- Ron Gilman took his Oath of Membership administered by Assistant Chief Ken Sedlak.

New Members to the Department:

- Jacob Theriault – New Explorer Member

Probationary Members To Regular Members:

- Eoin Mogilewsky-Wilson from Company 1
- Jamie Appell from Fire Police

Explorer New Officers:

- Andrew Kline was sworn in as the new Captain.
- Abigail Stamp was sworn in as the new Lieutenant.

Member Comments:

- Sue Jansen – The clambake was not well attended. There are a lot of volunteer hours and she would like to see those hours put to another type of event such as a family picnic. She feels that because children are not allowed to attend the event is a deterrent for some members. She also stated that she feels the event is too long and to shorten it to one meal.

Tori Haskins made a motion with Bobby Sanderson seconding to approve the June 10th Corporation minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Presidents Report: Gina Kline

- 501c3 application – The IRS responded to our application with certain changes we had to make before they would approve us and we are not prepared to make these changes at this time.
- Fundraising Letter is being worked on. The Finance Steering Committee sent in an application which was approved for a nonprofit mailing permit which we have received approval on. The printer was also asked to print the permit on the mailing envelopes.
- The board made the decision to switch banks from Liberty to Northwest Community bank. The Finance Steering Committee looked into CD yields and Northwest Bank would give the corporation a higher yield than Liberty. The Finance Steering Committee also recommended putting some money in 6 month and 9 month CDs for a better return rate on the money.
- The Board approved moving \$65,000 to the operations budget. This is to supplement the 24/25 fiscal year grant money from the town. This money is usually what the Board would have to approve every time the clambake came up and the annual dinner and other items that would come out of the corporation. The board looked at what the amount was and voted to approve supplementing the grant money to these items so that the board didn't have to approve these items.
- In the process of updating the accounting platform that we use to an online web based application.

President's Report cont.

- The 25/26 budget planning is in process. Assistant Chief Joe Speich is in the process of doing the Capital Improvement budget. Once he is done with that, he will present it to the planning committee and then to the Board for approval. Assistant Chief Tom Kline is in the process of working on the operating budget and when that is ready, he will present it to the Finance Steering Committee and then to the Board for their approval.
- The recruitment videos are ready. They were shown at the clambake and earlier this evening before the meeting. President Kline will have one of the videos put on the website.
- The next Board meeting will be held on October 24th instead of the 31st.
- The department will be doing an open house at Company 2 on Halloween.

Correspondence: Brian Baldwin

- Thank you notes were read.

Treasurer's Report: Kristen Shaw

- Treasurer Shaw provided an overview of department income and expense through July 31, 2024.

AV-1: Bruce Appell

- Thank you to all the members who helped with the rescue on the mountain.
- Duty Shift Program seems to be doing well. There were a lot of members who signed up for different shifts. While you are at the stations look around to see if there is anything that you can do or would like to see done or would like to have while you are doing your shift. The chief has gotten helpful feedback from members.
- The department won quite a few awards at the East Hartland parade.
- Member in Good Standing was explained to the membership. It started as of July 1, 2024. Every member should know how they are doing. If you are not sure, please talk to your captains.
- Training: Next week rope training is scheduled and the following week is live burn.

AV-2 Tom Kline

- The radio project is moving along. Two sights are up and running. They did test to make sure the signal was clear.
- Tom will be working on the budget. If anyone, not just officers, has something to consider putting in the budget, please let him or Assistant Chief Speich know.
- Explorers have started up again. New for this year if an Explorer has been particularly good with their training and if the advisors feel they are responsible enough they will have a sticker on their helmet that will say Explorer Responder so that the members know they are allowed to help at a scene and can ride in the truck.
- Planning Committee – He is hoping to meet next week.

AV-3 Joe Speich

- Ladder will be going out for its annual testing and some repairs.
- The new trucks will not be delivered until 2026.
- SOGs if you have any suggestions for new SOGs or changes to the current ones please let Assistant Chief Speich know. Joe will be getting the revised edition in January so please let him know as soon as possible.

AV-4 Ken Sedlak

- There are books on all the trucks that will help if you are at a call and a person doesn't speak English, they can point to the language they do speak and you should be able to have an app on your phones that will help with translation.
- Life Scan Schedule – February 25, 2025, to March 1, 2025, and the second dates are March 3, 2025, to March 6, 2025. This is with Simsbury fire department at their station.

Steering Committees:

- Communications will meet on September 17, 2024, at 7:00 pm
- Outreach – Dennis Bianchi
 - September 13 and 14 Italian Festival
 - September 21, 2024, West Avon Congregational Church, and Carr Hardware Yellow Bucket Sale fundraiser for the department.
 - October 5, Carr Hardware Fire Prevention
 - October 11, 2024, is Fire Prevention Education.
 - Farmington Valley Academy October 25, 2024, 5 to 9 pm
 - Trunk or Treat is on October 26, 2024.
 - Halloween open house at Company 2 October 31st 5 to 9 pm
 - Captain Bourgoin will be taking Engine 7 to a Wishes on Wheels event in East Hartford. Engine 10 will be moved to Company 1 this Sunday. If anyone would like to go with him, he will be leaving at 5:15 am from Company 1.

Old Business:

- Member in Good Standing:
 - Chief Appell talked about this in his report. We now have the capability to run reports to see how the members are doing. If you have any questions, you can ask your officers because they will be getting a report monthly. The officers will decide how often they want to share this information with a member, so if you are attending drills and showing up at calls the officers may just want to meet with you quarterly.

New Business:

- There are 3 open seats on the board. The Secretary will send out information on how to apply and the vote will be at the Annual Corporation Meeting in November. You have until October 9th to get your resume in if you are interested in joining the board. The board will look at all the candidates at their October 24th meeting and will email out the slate to the membership. The voting will take place on November 18th due to Veteran's Day is the second Monday in November.

Other Business:

- Welfare and Cheer – Dennis Bianchi
 - Sent out some get well cheer over the summer. There are 3 members that Dennis has to send out get well wishes to.
- Attendance: Sharon Levine-Shein
- Pot O' Gold: Carol Baldwin

Future Meeting Schedule:

- Board of Directors Regular Meeting – September 26, 2024 @ 7 pm.
- Corporation Meeting – October 21, 2024 @ 7 pm.
- Board of Directors Regular Meeting October 24m 2024 @ 7pm

Jack McGuire made a motion to adjourn with Carol Baldwin seconding. Motion passed.

The meeting ended at 20:13. (GB)