

Columbia County Fire Chiefs' Association, Inc.  
General Meeting Minutes 11/17/09

Meeting called to order at 19:33, Dave Goold presiding.

Dave Goold welcomed the membership.

The regular order of business was suspended in order to present Certificates of Commendation to Brooke Chastain and Tara Golden who, early in the morning of September 25, 2009 discovered, reported, & aggressively extinguished a trailer fire while also alerting the occupant and neighbors. Their quick and selfless action averted a tragic loss of life and property.

Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as read, Hunt/Sheline – carried. Minutes of the 10/20/09 BOD meeting were read for information only.

Minutes of the most recent FAB were read at the last general meeting.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as read by R Wheeler, Engel/Sheline – carried.

Coordinator's Report: Jim VanDeusen reported that Mike Stelling is doing very well. He is off dialysis and is expected to return to work in a couple of weeks. When he does he will also resume his schedule as a County instructor. Jim reviewed the status of the current fire schools which are generally well attended and going well. Scene Support with 19 students is just about done. FFI ends next Monday with 21. Ladder Co. in Red Rock is full and ongoing. Truck Co is in progress in Hudson and Fire Officer 1 has 27 or 28 students in E Chatham where Wayne Gearing leads the class. Ted Beck recently completed Incident Safety Officer. Jim will pick up the new County smoke machine tomorrow. The generator for C&O 16 is here. The WMD trailer is now housed at the County garage in Greenport. The new Fire Police School will be run next spring. Sheriff Harrison and Deputies Stelling & Proper will be the instructors. HazMat Ops will be a prerequisite. Jim pointed out that HazMat Ops has been required for all firefighters since 1987 but many people are not in compliance. OFPC is working on a new course on Engine Company Ops. Jim recently attended a meeting with regional fire coordinators. The group is working towards compiling a set of recommended qualifications for fire officers. He also noted that there are required classes for Commissioners now. Jim said that recently a disgruntled firefighter who had been kicked out by a Board turned around and sued based on the incompetence of the Board. That fire district is now out of business.

C&O: Bill Hunt reported that there have been 18 calls YTD. 5 team members

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attended the annual Fall Seminar at the Fire Academy early in November. Bill felt the program there was among the best ever.

HazMat: Matt Larabee reported that the HazMat Team responded to a gasoline spill call in Philmont recently. Dan Baker led a decon drill on 11/14 which was well attended.

Fire Safety & Prevention: Dave Goold reported that the Price Chopper event was cancelled as expected. However, the Niverville Dalmation Day event was very well attended with over 100 people going through the trailer. There was a lot of positive feedback. The program will have to restock handout supplies. The trailer is now in its winter quarters at the Schor Conservation area. We may need to get a tarp to cover the trailer because the pole shed in which it is parked is also home to a flock of pigeons.

Training Tower: Ted Beck said that he got a tarp to cover the 30 bales of hay stored outside at the tower site. He requested that anyone using the hay please recover it when done.

Publicity: Ted Beck will submit the photo and caption of the award presentation to the Hudson & Catskill newspapers.

Legislative: Mark Sheline recently attended the FASNY Legislative Conference. For the most part the agenda is a carryover from the previous year. One big change is that there will be a \$3.00 check-off option for fire service recruitment and retention funding on this year's state tax bill. Mark said it is a big accomplishment to get a change on a state tax form. Some of the ongoing initiatives are: HIV testing, the blue light law, and the energy costs bill which picked up our Assemblyman Gordon as a sponsor. A complete FASNY Legislative Scorecard is attached to these minutes

Constitution & Bylaws: R Wheeler provided the wording of the amendment for the change in dues which was approved at the last meeting. The proposed wording of Article IV Dues Section is: "All active members of the Association shall be required to pay the sum of five dollars (\$5.00) per annum as dues with two dollars (\$2.00) to go into the Sunshine Fund and the same shall be due and payable at the annual meeting of the Association which is held the third Tuesday of November of each and every year." Motion to adopt the change, VanDeusen/Foster – carried.

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Banquet: Bill Hunt said that he raised the topic of banquet plans at the last meeting of the CCVFA. They still have not formed a banquet committee. Since they have the outgoing president this year Bill feels there is not much else he can do to move things along. It was pointed out that several years ago the two associations agreed to schedule the banquet annually on the second Saturday of March. Laura Foster said she would talk with them about going forward with plans.

Scholarship: Bill Hunt said that he has not heard from Jan Koweek about the current status of the scholarship. It was awarded but we have not received a bill for our share.

Bills: R Wheeler had a bill for \$91.75 for trailer inspections. Tri-Village Ladies Auxiliary donated the evening meal. Motion to pay the bills, Larabee/Engel – carried.

Correspondence: Ben Wheeler has been exchanging emails with Tracy whose spirits are good. Although he is doing well he still has to undergo almost a year of continuing maintenance therapy.

Old Business: Matt Larabee asked Russ Wheeler if he had looked at the insurance policies for the Safety & Education trailers. Russ said the Safety House trailer is covered for \$52,000.00 and the small trailer for \$2,595.00. Portable equipment is covered for an agreed value of \$2,000.00. There is a \$500.00 deductible for emergency apparatus and a \$250.00 deductible for portable equipment. The liability premium is \$922.00 and has a limit of \$1,000,000 for each occurrence and a limit of \$5,000.00 for medical expenses. Wally Engel reported that the raffle stands at \$1,702.00 worth of tickets sold so far. Ed Goldfrank expressed concern that the Sunshine Fund needs more than an annual addition of everyone's \$2.00 in extra dues. He wondered if we could also raise the meal fee \$1.00 so there would be a little coming in at every meeting. Bill Hunt pointed out that we used to hold successful fund raising events which he thought would be a better way to go. Wally Engel suggested we finish with the current raffle before initiating other fund raising efforts.

New Business: The AB Shaw Ladies Auxiliary donated \$300.00 to the Clothing Fund. The Nominating Committee consisting of Matt Larabee and Mark Sheline proposed that, since Dave Gould declined serving a second year as president, all officers move up one rung on the ladder with Wally Engel filling the open Director position. The full slate is: President, Ted Beck, to serve the remaining  
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year of the current term and a subsequent two year term; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Mark Sheline; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Tom Rector; BOD Chair, George Huston; Directors in order of seniority - Ed Goldfrank, George Hoover, Jose Ortiz, Ben Wheeler, Wally Engel; Treasurer, Russ Wheeler; Secretary, temporarily open. For FAB representatives both Wally Engel and Ron Rifenburg were nominated for another term. After Matt called three times for any other nominations from the floor B Wheeler/Ortiz moved the nominations be closed and the Secretary cast one ballot for the slate – carried. The meeting schedule for 2010 was set: Jan, Ghent; Mar, Philmont; May, Germantown; Jul, Ancram; Sep, LVPA; Nov, Stuyvesant Falls.

Good of the Association: LVPA, Fish Fry – 11/21, 16:00-19:00, \$8.00

Motion to adjourns at 21:02, Rector/Larabee – carried

Respectfully submitted, Ed Goldfrank, Acting Secretary