

Columbia County Fire Chiefs' Association, Inc.  
Board of Directors Minutes 4/20/10

Attendance: Engel, Goldfrank, Hunt, Huston, Ortiz, Sheline, B Wheeler, R Wheeler, VanDeusen.

Meeting called to order at 20:40, Huston presiding.

Minutes: The February BOD meeting was cancelled due to a winter storm and the Acting Secretary was unable to transcribe the 3/10/10 general meeting minutes in time for this meeting so no minutes were available

Treasurer's Report: Motion by Ortiz/Hunt to accept the report as presented by Treasurer Russ Wheeler – carried. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

Coordinator's Report: Jim VanDeusen said that FFI is ongoing in Hudson and FF Survival is being held in Copake while a 2<sup>nd</sup> class will be offered in Spencertown in May. A full battalion meeting is scheduled for May 17 in Chatham. There will be a presentation on the Linstar accountability system with a view towards seeing if it may be feasible to consider a consistent County-wide approach to facilitate mutual aid operations. OFPC will talk about bailout systems and rope issues. The Healthcare Consortium will have a presentation on colorectal cancer. Rob Lopez will talk about progress on the new radio system. The new open burn laws are posted on the DEC website. Sheriff Harrison is looking into getting Ockawamuk school or some other large venue to present an awareness level class on a new threat to emergency responders – the aftermath of chemical suicides. Any indication of a possible chemical suicide should trigger a HazMat response. The target now for offering the new Fire Police school is a class in October for students who have never been Fire Police before and a class in February for refreshers as well as new student. All prerequisites for the class have now been dropped. Each class will have a limit of 30 students.

C&O: Bill Hunt said there have been 4 or 5 calls YTD. There are 2 or 3 new members about to gain full membership on the Team. The Team received a certificate of appreciation from Germantown. At the last team meeting the issue of standardizing the reports was discussed. OFPC Deputy Chief Randi Shadic will be sending someone from the Arson Bureau to help with that effort. There are a variety of issues to be dealt with re the reports including who writes them, how they are reviewed, & how to provide for level II credentials on all reports which was suggested by OFPC. Bill said there was a recent fire in W Ghent which seemed to involve high expansion foam as a heat source. More research needs to be done on such things as the MSDS, water reactivity and potential heat build-up.

HazMat: George Huston said Team members attended the challenge event at the Academy in February. They came in 2<sup>nd</sup> by a 1 point margin. Monies are finally being made available from a grant that was received by Columbia/Greene some time ago. Greene Co. HazMat is due for meters, detectors, boots and turnout gear. Columbia Co. HazMat is expecting a new weather station and a 2<sup>nd</sup> Porta fit test unit. George is about to fit test HPD. 288 firefighters were fit tested last year. George mentioned that Dr Silvernale is no longer doing firefighter physicals. George is doing research on alternative options.

CCFCA, Inc., BOD minutes 4/20/10, p.2

Fire Safety & Education Committee: Mark Sheline said there is one request for use of the safety house trailer so far this year. The program will not receive a grant from Hudson City this year. We need to look for other sources of funding. Mark suggested canvassing banks & businesses including insurance companies. The program needs to be promoted actively.

Banquet Committee: Bill Hunt said the banquet went well. We owe \$96.00 to make up the difference between ticket sales and expenses.

Old Business: Mark Sheline said Dick Howard should collect advance payments before ordering the shirts. Russ Wheeler contacted various people, including the attorney who helped us apply for 401(C)(3) status, about the idea of other organizations hitchhiking on our organization for their own fund drives. The answer is that our tax # is ours alone & it is not advisable to let anyone else use it. The consensus of the BOD was to recommend such a policy.

New Business: Wally Engel raised the idea of sponsoring a foam demo for county fire companies. He has been in touch w/ a NJ Captain Lou. Perhaps the training could be organized as a 2 day even w/o any live burns. Maybe insurance companies or foam dealers would be interested in helping sponsor the event as both types of business would benefit from more general use of foam. Mark Sheline said that he has been thinking about organizing an educational presentation on lightweight construction issues. Wally suggested a raffle aimed at firefighters & fire companies with the 1<sup>st</sup> prize being a FDNY style leather helmet and 2<sup>nd</sup> prize being a pair of leather boots. These would be customized for the winners. Perhaps the drawing could be during the fair.

Bills: VanDeusen/Engel moved we pay \$26.00 for a Past President's badge for Dave Goold.

Communications: Ben Wheeler said that it is possible that Tracy Jahn is now out of remission. Ben hasn't heard from him recently so he is concerned. He does know that Tracy's white blood cell count is off. Russ Wheeler will get a card for members to sign at the next meeting. The BOD members sent their best wishes with notes on a letterhead page.

Motion to adjourn at 22:05, Hunt/Sheline – carried.

Respectfully submitted, Acting Secretary, Ed Goldfrank.