

**Columbia County Fire Chiefs' Association**  
General Meeting                      November 15, 2016                      19:32

Meeting called to order by President Tom Rector

Welcomed by Chief Mike Layman of the Mellenville Fire Company.

Minutes: A motion to accepted the minutes of the previous general meeting                      Gregg Gilliland/Laura Foster – Carried.

Minutes of the previous directors meeting read for informational purposes only.

Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept the treasurer's report as read by Russ Wheeler, Wally Engel/Bill Hunt – Carried.

Reports of Committees:

Advisory Board: Members had taken a tour of a facility in Green County for the purpose of actually seeing a design layout and usage.

Coordinator's Report: Bill Hunt stated that he had attended an Arson seminar and the Coordinators' Conference.

The Haz-Mat and the C&O Teams are shorthanded. If you are interested please get involved. Haz-Mat will be meeting Sunday, November 20 at the Greene County D.O.T. building.

The radio system installation is continuing.

Ted Beck officially retires as of December 31, 2016 and therefore is no longer Columbia County Car 6. His permanent residence will be Florida.

Constitution and By-laws: Tom Rector stated that the board is working on updating the by-laws.

Safety Trailer: Dick Howard reported that locks for both trailers have been acquired.

Legislative: Laura Foster reported that FASNY will be pressing for a Lemon Law for fire apparatus. The Sale of Fireworks in Columbia County is up for approval again this year against all our efforts to stop it.

Banquet: Laura stated that everyone had a good time and again thanked Tom for his service as President.

Education and Training: Jim Brady of CCVFFA reported on the October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting with State Senator, Kathy Marchionne concerning Recruitment and Retention Meeting Attendees. Those in attendance were: FASNY – President, Ken Pienkowski; CAO, David Quinn; Secretary, John D’Alessandro; Columbia County Representatives – Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Matt Murrell; Supervisor Ron Knott; Comptroller Ron Capanera; Fire Coordinator Bill Hunt; CCVFA President Mike Cesternino; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Laura Foster; Secretary Jim Brady; Chiefs Ben Webster, and Paul Jahns; Company Members Glenn Aldrich, Doug Park, and Mark Krizar. Money will be available for recruitment and retention through FASNY.

Jim also presented a donation of \$100 to the Smoke House on behalf of the Taconic Hills Fire Prevention Association (Ancram, Churchtown, Copake, Craryville, Hillside, Mellenville, Philmont, and Taghkanic Fire Companies). They recently instructed the children on the need for smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Numerous children went through the smoke house and learned about fire safety.

Scholarship: Laura expressed the need to get applications and information out to potential candidates right away. Bill Hunt will send out reminders to all companies.

Bills: A motion to pay the bills Mike Layman/Wally Engel – Carried. Mellenville donated the evening’s refreshments.

Communications: Russ Wheeler read a request from Kleeber Insurance regarding the items borrowed from the home for display at the fair.

Old Business: A discussion was held on recruitment and retention of members. Mike Layman expressed the continued need for Officer training. He and others felt this past years’ training after general meetings has made a difference in how officers respond, command, and report incidents.

Laura Foster suggested using questionnaires to find out what types of training members would like. She also recalled the Bob Novak Award, given to the company that recruited the most members during the year.

Ben Wheeler asked the members, “What would interest you enough to attend the meetings, training in management, apparatus, and legal advice?” There is a need to encourage up-and-coming officers as well as past and present to join and attend. Melissa Eigenbrodt suggested NFPA changes and legal issues are definitely needed. Radio communications when on the scene. She also suggested hands-on- training at your local company. How to develop a plan and if there are not enough people to complete the planned training, how to adjust it to something else.

The team would need a months’ notice to prepare for each training class.

Bill Hunt suggested how best to handle multiple incidents, such as, severe thunder storms, heavy wet snow storm where numerous wires and tress are down, and other conditions causing massive power outages. What apparatus is NOT available.

The CCVFFA will re-introduce the bill for costs at the fair.

New Business: Richard Lindmark will be retiring. Ben made a motion to acquire a plaque in appreciation of his service. Invite him to the January general meeting at which it will be presented. The motion was second by Greg Gilliland and – Carried.

Election of Officers:

Currently Ben Wheeler is the candidate for the office of President. He needs prior approval of the NYS OFPC Ethics Review Board before accepting the office. He has not yet received that approval. Therefore, it has been suggested that a provision be attached to the election as follows:

If Ben is not allowed to hold the Office of President then all the officers will move up one position (making Wally Engel the President) and Ben Wheeler will become a member of the Board of Directors.

In addition to the above provision, two Directors positions will remain unfilled.

Motion to accept the slate of officers as is, with the provision as stated, and leave two Director positions open Bill Hunt/Mike Layman – Carried

A nomination was made from the floor to elect Daryl Garafalo as a Director. Motion by Wally Engel/Jim Van Deusen – Carried.

The slate of officers for the year of 2017 will be as follows:

President	Ben Wheeler
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Wally Engel
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Dick Howard
Secretary	Irene Huston
Treasurer	Russ Wheeler

The Board of Directors is as follows:  
Chairperson            Jim Van Deusen  
Director                Garry Smith  
Director                Gregg Gilliland  
Director                Daryl Garafalo  
Two Director positions remain open.

Delegates to the Fire Advisory Board are as follows:  
                              Jim Briscoe  
                              Laura Foster

It has been suggested that if necessary 2 officers' positions could be eliminated. They would be 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and one Director. This type of change would require an amendment to the By-Laws.

Scheduled meetings for the year 2017 are as follows:

January	Ghent
March	Philmont
May	Germantown
July	Claverack
September	Mellenville
November	New Lebanon

Directors meetings will be held at the Vanderbilt in Philmont.

Next Directors' meeting December 20<sup>th</sup> at the Vanderbilt, Philmont.  
Next General meeting January 17<sup>th</sup> at the Ghent Fire Station.

Motion to adjourn Laura Foster/Wally Engel.

21:17

Secretary  
Irene Huston