

Columbia County Fire Chiefs' Association  
General Meeting      January 21, 2020      19:30

Meeting was called to order by the President, Wally Engel.  
Members were welcomed by the Tony Brahm, Chief of the Ghent Fire Company.

Minutes: Motion to approve minutes of the previous general meeting  
Gregg Gilliland/Bob Adriance – Carried.  
Minutes from the Directors meeting were read for informational purposes only.

Treasurer's Report: Read by Russ Wheeler (attached to these minutes). Motion to accept the report John O./Bill Hunt – Carried.

Fire Advisory board: Gary Massacano is asking for input concerning the Recruitment and Retention of Firefighters which is of major concern. FAB will be joining FASNY at a seminar on this topic. If you are interested please sign up.

Coordinator's Report: George Keeler read the status report for 2019.  
He announced that OFPC is taking into consideration the issues concerning NYS training and are looking for possible ways to resolve interior and exterior fire operation and approval of training other than by NYS.

Membership: Applications were received and approved by the directors for David Shea, East Chatham Fire Company and Michael Lawson, Germantown Fire Company.

Motion to accept the applications Greg Gilliland/Rich Lindmark – Carried.

Constitution and Bylaws: Due to the retirement of the Treasurer and that currently no candidate has come forward, an amendment was proposed to the bylaws under Article 10, Qualifications of Officers, Section A, Sub-Section 2, that states:  
"The Board of Directors may appoint a Secretary to the organization. The office of Secretary does not need to be held by a member of the Columbia County Fire Chiefs' Association or be a member of a Columbia County Fire Company or Department. It is recommended that the Secretary make no less than 3 meetings per year".  
Be amended to include the office of Treasurer and to read as follows: "The Board of Directors may appoint a Secretary or Treasurer to the organization. The offices of Secretary or Treasurer does not need to be held by a member of the Columbia County Fire Chiefs' Association or be a member of a Columbia County Fire Company or Department. It is recommended that the Secretary and the Treasurer make no less than 3 meetings per year". Gregg Gilliland/Russ Wheeler – Carried.

In conjunction with the current situation of not having a Treasurer, a resolution was made to amend the bylaws authorizing the Chairman the power to sign checks, when or if one of the signers is unavailable or incapable and time is a factor.

Let it be resolved on this date of January 21, 2020, that the President, Treasurer, and Chairman of the Board of Directors be the signatures on the checking accounts of the Columbia County Fire Chiefs' Association. Motion to adopt the resolution Daryl Garafalo/Art Sherman – Carried.

Safety Trailer: Per Dick Howard said the roof of the black trailer needs repair.

Legislative: Ben Wheeler informed the members that OFPC is revisiting the new law prohibiting the use of chlorinated Foam in lieu of replacement products.

CCVFA: Laura Foster reviewed the up-coming convention. Because there is no designated host, the Firefighters' Association is working with the Village of Chatham and the Agricultural Society to secure the use of the Chatham Fairs grounds for July 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>

Nominations for Firefighter of the Year and Lifetime Achievement awards should be presented for consideration. The selections will be made April 8<sup>th</sup> at the quarterly meeting at the Stuyvesant Fire Station.

Scholarship: The committees for both the CCVFA and CCFCA, per Ben Wheeler, have chosen Kayley Gier of Valatie as the recipient of the scholarship. She will be invited to the next general meeting March 17<sup>th</sup> at Spencertown.

Bills: Russ Wheeler said the voucher from Wal-Mart has been paid. The night's refreshment were donated by the Ghent Fire Company.

Communications: A motion to buy a 1/2 page black & white Ad at the cost of \$95.00 in the yearbook made by Dick Howard and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Art Sherman – Carried.

Old Business: Gregg Gilliland suggested the mailbox be kept at the Lebanon Post Office and He, Ben or Russ would see to it that the mail is picked up and brought to the meetings. A motion to keep the mailbox at the Lebanon Post Office by Art Sherman/Bill Hunt – Carried.

New Business: John O. pointed out that Bill Williams of '98.5 - 'The Cat' who has been a longtime advocate of the fire service, is no longer in their employ. He made a motion that William's be invited to the March 17<sup>th</sup> general meeting and be awarded for his years of support, the cost should not exceed \$150.00. The motion was second by Rich Lindmark and - Carried.

Tony Brahm called on the members to collectively establish a system designating one person from each battalion who will meet with each company within their battalion and discuss the real issues of their group. Those persons will then bring that information to the association to find ways to resolve them.

Gary Massacano recommended that everyone view OFPC's Video 'Fire Fighter, Decon'

Election of Officers:

Daryl Garafalo made the motion for the Secretary to cast 1 ballot to re-elect:

President, Wally Engel

Vice President, Dick Howard

Secretary, Irene Huston

Directors:

Gregg Gilliland -Chairman

Daryl Garafalo

Bob Adriance

Second by Bill Hunt – Carried.

Daryl Garafalo made a motion to elect Bill Hunt to the position of Director. The motion was second by Chris Pierro and – Carried.

The annual raffle was held. 1<sup>st</sup> prize of \$500.00 – Sarah H.

2<sup>nd</sup> prize an escape ladder – Chris Barrett

Wally stated this year's raffle did quite well.

For the good of the association:

Stuyvesant pizza & wings Fridays.

Philmont subs, pizza, & wings the 1<sup>st</sup> Fri of the month.

Chatham breakfast the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Sunday of the month.

Bea-Craft breakfast the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month.

Clermont Station 2, roast beef dinner March 28.

The 50/50 was won by Ben Wheeler.

A presentation by George Keeler on the training tower followed the meeting.

Motion to adjourn Greg Gilliland/Bob Adriance – Carried. 20:45

Secretary,  
Irene Huston