

Columbia County Fire Chiefs' Association
General Meeting July 21, 2020 19:35

Meeting was called to order by the President, Wally Engel.

Wally introduced Christine Hasse as guest and candidate for Treasurer.

Members were welcomed by the Matt Larabee, Chief of the Lebanon Valley Protective Association.

Minutes: Motion to approve minutes of the previous general meeting

Bill Hunt/Daryl Garafalo - Carried.

Minutes from the Directors meeting were read for informational purposes only.

Treasurer's Report: Read by Gregg Gilliland is attached to these minutes.

Motion to accept the report Bob Adriance/Bill Hunt - Carried.

Gregg stated that CDs are not worthy investment, therefore the money will remain where it is.

Coordinator's Report: George Keeler stated there had been:

11 Structure fires

3 Large brush fires

3 Mutual aid rescue type calls

4 Cause & Origin calls (1 fatal where we assisted OFPC Arson Investigators)

1 Haz Mat stand by

He updated his report on the Emergency Services Facility:

Classrooms will be ready for use by July 27

Offices are structurally ready, furniture delivery is scheduled for August 4.

Remaining renovations areas will be on going through mid September.

Propane burn props for the tower are scheduled to be installed September or early October.

Vehicle fire prop has been installed and training for instructors will be completed in the next few weeks.

Forcible Entry Simulators were received. The office staff and instructors

spent a Saturday being trained on how to use them.

Highway and Facilities personnel have been doing a great job in helping us get the job done.

He also stated:

Re-starting in-person Fire Schools at the new facility will begin July 28.

There is a limited number of classes available as we work through the logistics of student and teacher safety, personal hygiene, and disinfecting of equipment and will be following guidelines from CCDOH, NYSDOH, and NYSOFP.

NYS Senate has a bill before them regarding Recruitment and Retention. I will email the Presidents of CCFCA and CCVFA regarding this bill.

Publicity:



Bill Williams was in attendance and was presented with a leather helmet shield as a means of thanks and appreciation for all the years of promoting the fire services. He can be heard on Columbia-Greene Media.



Russell Wheeler was the recipient of a leather helmet shield and an embroidered vest for his 20 years of service as Treasurer of the Association. Unfortunately he was unable to attend. His son Ben accepted the award in his honor.



Bill Hunt received an embroidered sweatshirt and leather helmet shield as a means of appreciation and thanks for his years of service as County Coordinator and all the years leading up to it.

Greg Gilliland made a motion to amend Bylaw Article 10, Qualifications of Officers, Section A, Sub-Section 2 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”. Second by Ben Wheeler - Carried.

Burned-Out-Victims-Fund: The voucher system is no longer in use. Instead we will now present \$75 Gift Cards for each person.

We will also ask Bill Williams to mention that on his show.

Wally stated he’d given out 3 combination smoke & co detectors to persons in West Ghent. If you know of people who are in need of them please file a request.

Trailers: The renewal of the Commercial Insurance Package on the trailers and Inland Marine Policies are due to expire/renew with Arch Insurance Company on August 14, 2020. Under the current circumstances of no county fair, no county

convention, and no other events to be held where these trailers would be used, it has been suggested that we reduce the cost of insurance by having only basic coverage. The cost break down for the Fire Safety Trailer, insured for \$52,000 in physical damage is \$385 a year and the cost for the American Hauler Trailer insured value of \$2,595 is \$19 for the year.

A motion was made to suspend use of these trailers for the year Ben Wheeler/Rich Lindmark - Carried.

Motion to carry basic insurance coverage and save on the cost was made by Daryl Garafalo and second by Bob Adriance.

At a previous meeting there had been discussion on obtaining a RV cover for the Safety Trailer. George Keeler will obtain the dimensions and the cost.

Ben wheeler motion to buy a cover for the Safety Trailer, motion second by Gregg Gilliland - Carried.

Wally has patched the roof of the trailer.

Legislation: George Keeler stated that OFPC is continuing with the banning of the chlorinated foam. Companies will have 2 years to use up their supply. They are trying to find an alternative product with the help of DOH. Information will be provided as it becomes available.

NYS Coordinators Association is sponsoring a bill in conjunction with Recruitment & Retention that will allow fire training classes be taught at BOCEES and Community Colleges.

Sunshine: Russ Wheeler is staying safe at home.

No Convention/No Fair/No Banquet:

Laura Foster stated there will be a ZOOM meeting.

If you haven't sent in your yearbook ad please do so.

The Secretary will prepare the ad for the year book and email it to Gregg to submit

it with payment.

Bills: Rich Lindmark motioned to renew the Post Office Box for a year, second by Ben Wheeler - Carried.

The night's refreshments were donated by the Lebanon Valley Protective Association.

Communications: Berkshire Bank has made the requested changes to the accounts. Russell's name has been taken off the checking accounts and Gregg's & Wally's names have been added. Russell's name remains on the 2 CD's that come due in the fall.

New Business: Wally Engel inquired about moving the accounts to The Greene County Bank. They have more accessible branches and are very supportive of the fire service. Motion to change banks Laura Foster/Ben Wheeler - Carried.

Elections of Officers: Laura Foster nominated Christine Hasse to the position of Treasurer, Charlie Niles second the motion - Carried.

The Secretary cast one ballot, all in favor.

For the good of the Association:

AB Shaw will be hosting a Lobster Bake September 19

Next Directors' meeting August 18th presumably at the Ghent Fire Station.

Next General meeting September 15th at the West Ghent Fire Station.

Motion to adjourn Daryl Garafalo/Bob Adriance - Carried.

20:36

Secretary,
Irene Huston