

Columbia County Fire Chiefs' Association
General Meeting November 21, 2017 19:35

Meeting was called to order by President Ben Wheeler.

Training and Education: OFPC Deputy Chief Pat Hurley, Fire Specialist Robert Jewell, and Brenden Newgent presented a video and discussed the precision and operational benefits of the UAS (Unmanned Aircraft System) during emergency situations, such as; hazmat, search & rescue, arson investigation, and fire suppression. They presented a video from several actual incidents and had a UAS on display.

Minutes: John Onufrychuk made a motion to accept the reading of the minutes second by Bill Hunt all in favor, none opposed. So – Carried.

Minutes from the Directors meeting of October 17, 2017 were read for informational purposes only.

Treasurer's Report: A motion was made by Wally Engel to accept the report as read by Russ Wheeler and second by Daryl Garafalo, all in favor, none opposed. So – Carried. A copy of this report is attached to these minutes.

Coordinator's Report: Bill Hunt stated that the new training facility is progressing. The heat should be completed by now. Accommodations have taken place for the Sheriffs' Boat, Fire Safety Trailer, and EMS Gator. There will be a meeting of the Fire Advisory Board, Monday, Nov. 27th regarding the Training Tower, which may be similar to Greene County's. A rough estimate of the cost is \$370,000.

A new program is being written for Live Fire Training, but the current program will remain in effect until further notice.

A letter has gone out to Chiefs in an effort to address increasing False Alarms.

Bill has asked for mileage reimbursement for all special teams.

December 9th is Graduation at the Columbia Greene Community College

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Bill requested a letter of appreciation be sent to the Board of Supervisors for their work in acquiring the new facility.

Reports of Committees:

Membership: A motion was made by Gregg Gilliland second by Gary to accept George Lucas of the Chatham Fire Company into membership; all in favor none opposed. So – Carried

The application from Patricia Lukas is currently being held in relationship to a possible change in the By-Laws.

Haz-Mat: The team will be working on a regional plan with Greene County at the up-coming meeting.

C & O: This year there were 10 responses, the most recent to a house fire in Tagkanic.

Education and Training: Suggestion was made for a repeat of the night's training held elsewhere. Bill indicated the possibility of a 2 weekend class again.

Banquet: Laura Foster reported a small turn out, but enjoyable evening out.

CCVFA: The applications for Firefighter of the Year have gone out.

Scholarship: The new application will be on the WEB site and Laura Foster will send copies to all Chiefs.

Bills: Lebanon Valley Protective Association has donated the night's refreshments.

Dick Howard will check on the due date of the vehicle registrations.

A motion to pay the bills was made by John Onufrychuck and second by Daryl Garafalo, all in favor, none opposed. So – Carried.

Communications: Bill Hunt made a motion we take out a ½ page ad at the cost of \$90, in the 2018 Convention Year Book. Wally Engel second the motion, all in favor, none opposed. So – Carried.

Jim Brady presented a donation from the Taconic Hills Fire Prevention Association for the use of the Smoke House. The secretary will send a thank you letter.

Old Business: Some fire companies stated they never received the letter requesting a donation toward the Safety Trailer, so the secretary will send new

letters for the Year 2018 to all the fire company secretaries. Laura Foster will provide a list with the names, address, and labels.

Jim Brady reported he will be sending letters to all schools concerning recruitment.

Nothing has been heard from Lowes concerning the smoke detectors.

Russ Wheeler has itemized the bill to be presented to the CCVFFA.

Greg Gilliland made a motion we split the cost 50/50 as agree previously. The motion was second by John Onufrychuck all in favor, none opposed. So – Carried.

Tom Rector will be contacted to apply for the grant from Greene County Bank.

New Business:

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, a provision is being attached to this 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 Directors positions unfilled, made by Gregg Gilliland and second by Bill Hunt, all in favor, none opposed. So – Carried.

The slate of officers for the year of 2017 is as follows:

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| President | Ben Wheeler |
| 1 st Vice President | Wally Engel |
| 2 nd Vice President | Dick Howard |
| Secretary | Irene Huston |
| Treasurer | Russ Wheeler |

The Board of Directors is as follows:

Chairperson (due to the passing of Jim Van Deusen this position is unfilled)

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| Director | Garry Smith |
| Director | Gregg Gilliland |
| Director | Daryl Garafalo |

Two Directors positions remain open.

