

Columbia County Fire Chiefs' Association  
General Meeting                      March 21, 2023                      19:10

Welcomed by Past Chief Bob Adriance of the Churchtown Fire Company.

Meeting was called to order by President Gregg Gilliland.

Thank you to the Churchtown Fire Company for providing the meal.

Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of the previous General meeting  
Wally Engel/Gary Mazzacano – Carried.

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

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Office Activity

January 2023    February 2023

Fire Emergency responses 5

Fire Emergency Responses 11

C & O 1

Haz Mat Responses 1

YTD training facility usage 420 classroom training hours as of 2/28/23

Rustin Dolan has been appointed Deputy Fire Coordinator for Battalion 4.

Wayne Gearing has been appointed Deputy Fire Coordinator for  
Education, which will be developing in county classes for fire departments and  
public safety programs.

The County Board of Supervisors, with approval and cooperation from the Fire  
Advisory board and the Fire Coordinator's office will be conducting a study of  
all the fire departments within the county to help refine recruitment and  
retention initiatives as well as help to determine plans to address increasing call  
volumes and decreasing manpower.

We continue the joint effort between the Columbia and Greene County Fire  
Coordinator's office, Col-Greene Boces and OFPC to provide BEFO training  
to high school students in Columbia and Greene County. As the process is  
progressing we have asked fire departments for an estimate on how many

members they may have interested in taking these courses through Questar/Boces and have heard from 8 departments to date.

The classes will be taught at the Boces center on Route 66 in Greenport with the skills sessions being held at the training facility. We anticipate the course being approved in the Fall of 2023 and available in September of 2024 for both counties' school districts to send students.

The County Government committee and the Real Property tax office are expected to approve updating the property tax exemption law changes, and holding a public hearing in May with hopefully full board approval in May, as well. There will also be a meeting with school district business officials, real property tax office, representatives from Fire Advisory board and our office to petition all the school districts in the county to adopt the property tax exemption law for volunteer firefighters. Some school districts currently offer the current tax exemption. There are some towns in the county that are in the process or have already updated their town laws to reflect the increased exemption.

Fire schools for the upcoming year are posted on our website. Currently 2 BEFO classes are running.

The Fire Coordinator's Office is pleased to announce they have developed and are releasing an in-county:

### **Firefighter Survival Training Program**

Everyone on the scene of a structure fire shares in the responsibility of firefighter survival. Yes, those actually going into the structure need to have the knowledge, skills and abilities to get the job done and stay as safe as possible. However, those remaining outside of the building can assist those firefighters in many ways. Situational awareness, resource management, effective communication and rehabilitation are just a few of the many support activities that help our firefighters survive.

With this in mind, the Firefighter Survival Training Program being offered by the Columbia County Fire Coordinator's Training Staff will include ALL persons involved in responding to structure fires, not just the interior personnel. This program consists of a three-hour classroom session accompanied by two,

three-hour skills sessions. All personnel are invited to participate in the classroom session. Only those with interior firefighter authorization will participate in the skills sessions. However, all other interested personnel will be invited to observe the skills sessions.

The initial class offering will be held April 11, 13, 20, and 2023

Please refer to our website for registration information

Clothing fund: No gift cards were dispersed at the Valatie fire.

FAB: Laura Foster will be retiring at the end of this year.

Fair: Should we continue with bicycles as the prize for the raffle? Daily handouts need to be ordered by June. Currently there are enough helmets available. Suggestions were; Tote Bags, Temporary Tattoos, Band-Aid dispensers, Lollipops, & Inside Tot Finders. Gregg will look for best buys.

Thank you to Bob Adriance & Christine for their donation of a small refrigerator for use in the building during the fair.

Gregg Gilliland stated that Valatie Fire Company wants to borrow a Sparky Suit for the Recruitment Days in April.

He also noted we now have 2 Sparky Suits due to the return of one from years ago.

Treasurer's Report: As read by Christine Haas. Motion to accept the report made by Bob Adriance/Dick Howard – Carried.

Old Business: Wally Engel Donated \$100 of the raffle winnings back to the Assoc.

New Business: Bob Preusser brought to our attention that the Burn Band is already in effect. He has spoken with NYS Forest Rangers about presenting a class on fighting Wild Fires. He stressed the fact that these occurs every year and the importance of working as teams to combat them. Possibly a 4 hour course mid week or an 8 hour hands-on course on a Saturday.

Good of the Association:

Churchtown will be having a fund raiser.

April 2nd Breakfast with Bunny in Ghent

April 11<sup>th</sup> is Taco Tuesday in Lebanon.

1<sup>st</sup> Friday thru Apr 7<sup>th</sup> Philmont Vern Higgins Sub Sale

Fish Fry Friday thru April 7<sup>th</sup> Chatham, 5 to 7

April 16<sup>th</sup> Breakfast at Beacraft Station in Greenport

April 16<sup>th</sup> Poker Night in Stuyvesant

April 30<sup>th</sup> Clam Bake in Ghent

Ghent currently has a Raffle "A Back Yard Cook Out for 20 People"

Announcements:

Recruit NY is April 22 & 23.

CCFCA – Polo Shirts will be available, if you are interested please contact Gregg Gilliland.

Next Executive meeting April 18<sup>th</sup> at the training facility.

Next General meeting May 16<sup>th</sup> at Greenport Station 1

Location for the September meeting has not yet been determined.

Motion to adjourn Art Sherman/Wally Engel – Carried. 20:25

Secretary

Irene Huston

Columbia County Fire Chiefs' Association  
Treasurer's Report

Mar 21, 2023

General Fund

Checking Beginning Balance	\$13,028.08
Receipts	735.00
Disbursements	0.00
Interest Income	1.28
<b>Checking Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$13,764.36</b>

(Sunshine Fund in checking \$1,245.91)  
(Fire Safety & Prevention in checking \$4,577.33)

Change Envelope	20.00
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<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>\$13,784.36</b>
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Burned Out Victims' Clothing Fund

Checking Beginning Balance	\$55,616.42
Receipts	0.00
Disbursements	.00
Interest Income	5.11
Checking Ending Balance	\$55,621.53

<b>Total Burned Out Victims' Clothing Fund</b>	<b>\$55,621.53</b>
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<b>Total in all Accounts</b>	<b>\$69,405.89</b>
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