

Columbia County Fire Chief's Association

General Meeting

January 20, 2015

Meeting was brought to order by President: Tom Rector

Members were welcomed by Chief Daryl Garafalo of the Ghent Fire Co.

Reading of the Minutes: Motion by John O/Gary Smith to accept the previous general meeting minutes – Carried. Minutes of the directors meeting were read for informational purposes only.

Treasurer's Report: Motion by Jose Ortiz/Paul Hoffman to accept the treasurers' report as read by Russ Wheeler – Carried. A copy of this report is attached to these minutes.

Coordinator's Report: John Howe gave an overview of year 2014. There were 3,738 fire dispatches in 2014, an increase of approximately 10% over 2013. The Fire Coordinator's Office responded to 95 incidents. The office attended 158 meetings and other special functions. There were 11 requests for the C&O Team, with 4 assists rendered by State Fire Investigators. There have been 5 confirmed incendiary fires with 2 arrests during 2014. The Haz-Mat Team had 6 responses with 3 assists rendered for Haz-Mat incidents.

Training continues to be well attended, with 26 schools completed, 399 students graduating, representing 7,803 student hours. 2014 saw our first group Fire Fighter 1 graduation at the Columbia-Greene Community College. There were 4 Battalion meetings conducted last year with 80 fire officers attending.

The high band radio project took a giant leap forward with the signing of a contract with Motorola. All the radio equipment has been delivered and we continue to look at the 2nd quarter of 2015 to begin installation. We also added an additional tower site in Copake to improve radio coverage in the southeast part of the county.

The Haz-Mat Cameo project that began in January 2014 was completed in October and is currently up and running.

No other reports from committees

No bills

Ghent Fire Company is donating the refreshments for the evening.

Old Business: Anyone with ideas and suggestions for 30 to 40 minute training session to be presented during general meetings please see Wally.

Communications: Jim VanDeusen made a motion to buy a ½ page ad in the 2015 Convention Yearbook at a cost of \$90. Ben Wheeler second the motion – Carried.

New Business: Russ Wheeler reported the cost of having the taxes done are the same this year as last.

Jim reported that an article on the Chiefs' Association will appear in the February issue of the Chatham Press. He also state that Ted is doing okay and is on his way to Florida.

John Howe asked that the secretary send a letter of thanks to the Columbia County Dispatchers.

Dave Chapman announced that there will be a Hudson Valley-Hudson Mohawk FASNY Legislative Outreach meeting in Red Rock on April 25th from 9 to 12.

Wally Engel announced that the smoke detectors are at Chatham Auto Parts. Please contact your chief.

The Annual Raffle was held and the winners were as follows:

Tim Calyer 1st prize

Will Mehan 2nd prize

Dave Whiteman 3rd prize

Wally Engel had the largest number of sales of raffle tickets

Doug Garrison won the 50/50

Jim asked we remember Mark Sheline Sr. Tom Rector asked the secretary to enter a blank page in the minutes in Mark's honor. A moment of silence was held.

**Next Directors meeting February 17th at the Vanderbuilt in Philmont.
Next General meeting March 17th at the Philmont Fire Station**

Motion to adjourn John O/George Huston – Carried.

Secretary, Irene Huston