

**Columbia County Fire Chiefs' Association
General Meeting January 19, 2016**

Meeting called to order by President Tom Rector

Welcomed by Chief Anthony Brahm of the Ghent Fire Company.

The President announced that in light of the new training sessions, the meeting will be held first, then refreshments, followed by the training.

Corrected Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of the previous General meeting Jim Van Deusen/Wally Engel – Carried.

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

Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept the report as read by Russ Wheeler, Ben Wheeler/Gregg Gilliland – Carried.

Reports of Committees:

Coordinator's Report: Bill Hunt reported recent completion of FOI in Chatham with 100% graduation.

There are some issues with Ports-Count being compatible with newer computers. Pete Hotaling is working to solve the problem.

A memo is out soliciting resumes for the position of Deputy Fire Coordinator in Battalion 3. The present deputies will advance up the chain of command 1 position, with the new man starting as Car V (5).

There will be a critique tomorrow night January 26th at 7:00 pm for personnel involved in the trench collapse incident in New Lebanon.

Battalion meetings next week are as follows:

Battalions 2 & 3 Monday, Jan. 25th, Taghkanic station, 7:00 pm

Battalions 4 & 5 Tuesday, Jan 26th, Kinderhook, 7:00 pm

If you cannot attend your Battalion meeting please feel free to attend the other one.

Classes continue to be well attended. Recently graduated class of Firefighter I in Chatham.

Firefighter I at Canaan is still at full complement of those who began the course.

The new Haz-Mat Trailer is complete, but is going back to Heavy Haulers for the roof leak.

The new Special Opts Trailer is to be done this week and then go to the county garage for lettering.

Advisory Board: Meeting is tomorrow night January 20th.

Haz-Mat: Inventory on the trailer has been done.

Spec-Opts: The trailer is not ready yet. But will be able to carry the C&O equipment and be a command center. There will be a meeting Thursday January 21st.

Safety Trailer: Dick Howard stated that the simulator is back and working. Tab Eigenbrodt brought to the member's attention that it is the responsibility of the Coordinators Office to oversee the use of the simulator. Tab made a motion that it be returned to the coordinator's office second by Bill Hunt – Carried. (1 opposed).

Fair: Dick Howard stated that some of the items to be given away at the fair need to be restocked. Russ Wheeler stated that there was not sufficient funds to do that. Jim Brady suggested changing the types of items to give away, thereby cutting the cost. This will be reviewed by the fair committee.

Legislative: It was reported that the Governor has signed the Batteries Bill and the Seat Belt Bill. Tom asked for a volunteer to take over the Legislative Committee. Even though Dave Chapman has been asked it appears he does not have the time.

Banquet: Laura Foster announced that the application for Firefighter of the Year is available.

Scholarship Fund: Ben Wheeler reported 1 application was received and reviewed by the committee, they felt it should be granted. A motion to award Mitchell R. Black of Germantown the scholarship Ben Wheeler/Wally Engel – Carried.

Communications: Applications for membership were received from 9 firefighters from this evenings meeting. They will be reviewed at the Directors' meeting and they will be voted on by the membership at the next general meeting. Jim Brady announced that a class on Cancer & the Firefighter is being set-up. All firefighters should try to attend.

Old Business: It was suggested that a committee look into the up-dating and reprinting of the By-Laws. The last time this was done was in 1998. All new members should receive a copy of the by-laws.

New Business: Gary Smith asked that the minutes show that any remarks he makes are not those of the Tri-Village Fire Company, any other fire company, the CCVFF, or the CCFCA. It is strictly his request to ask for the resignation of Ben Wheeler from the Board of Directors, for actions taken that lead to complaints with the State of New York against the Austerlitz, Claverack, and Tri-Village fire companies. Gary feels that it is conduct unbecoming an officer by putting those companies in a negative light with state, the county, and the people.

Ben presented the situation as it had occurred and apologized for any hard feelings his actions may have caused.

The President noted that this will be brought to the Board of Directors for discussion.

Ben Wheeler welcomed Bill Hunt as the new County Coordinator and thanked John Howe for all his hard work.

Ben also brought to light due to a recent Trench Incident in Lebanon, should any company have this or other type of technical rescue/recovery, put in a request for mutual aid assistance as soon as you come upon the scene. There is a team in Latham but it does take time to assemble.

The night's refreshments were donated by the Ghent Fire Company.

The annual drawing was held and the winners are as follows:

Kathy Leeman - Chatham

Russ Wheeler - Lebanon

Lyn Kane – Schodack

Craig Haig - Hudson

Good of the Association:

Saturday, February 13th Claverack Spaghetti Supper

Announcements: Next Directors' meeting February 16th the Vanderbilt, Philmont.
Next General meeting March 15th Philmont Fire Station.

Motion to adjourn Wally Engel/Gary Smith – Carried.

Secretary
Irene Huston