

Sandy Hook Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company

AMENDED Secretary's Minutes

Date: August 19, 2019

President Called the Meeting to Order: 19:32

Quorum: 16

Members Present: 44

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Secretary's Report:

A motion was made by Ray Wisniewski and seconded by Scott Allen to accept the minutes for August 5, 2019, as presented. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

No report.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Audit: No report.

Bylaws: No report.

Computer: No report.

Fire Prevention: Reminder that we have a birthday party request for Saturday, September 28, at noon. This is the event in our district where we have been asked to have Santa arrive on the truck. We can use the LA's Santa Claus outfit.

Fund Drive: As of tonight \$30,178 from mail ins, another \$3,232 received electronically, for total of \$33,000+ Second letter is out, and producing.

Grievance: Tim Whelan, who was not available for the August 5 company meeting, offered some backstory to the request for a leave of absence that Patrick Doherty had been turned over to Grievance for posting some things on social media that did not represent the company in good fashion. During the meeting with Grievance, some other things were brought up. Patrick mentioned during the meeting that he is going through some personal stuff, and said that he would be requesting a leave of absence.

House: No report.

Membership: No report.

Nominating: No report.

Outstanding Member: No report.

Pre-Plan: No report.

Refreshment: No report.

Water Supply: No report.

Welfare: No report.

Long Range Planning: No report.

Training: No report.

Juniors: No report.

LobsterFest: No report.

Christmas Trees: No report.

Commissioner: No report.

Golf Tournament: Tim Whelan and Pete Barresi met with representatives at Oxford Greens this week, who have held the prizes from last year. The committee could use some raffle prizes, so suggestions and/or prizes would be appreciated. Raffle ticket sales and general help on September 30 would be appreciated that day as well; Shannon Will volunteered to handle raffle ticket sales. President Richardson reminded the company that doesn't take too many people to put a good golf tournament together.

Craft Beer Tasting: Committee met tonight, and should be launching a Facebook Event page tomorrow. Updates will appear after that.

Election of Members:

John Grimardi, 77 Cedar Hill Road, wants to join as an Exterior FF; has a lot of potential for helping company. Committee makes recommendation for 6 month probation, which was seconded by Ryan Clark. Motion passed.

Also, no more new members at this time. The roster is absolutely full; there are no more sets of gear. New applications will be put on hold until an opening occurs.

Unfinished Business:

President Richardson: Hopefully everyone saw the copy of the budget that was sent with the August 5 minutes. The documents were presented on the screen in the meeting room, showing data that had been compiled by John Jeltema, Karin Halstead and bookkeeper Janet Knapp. President Richardson reiterated that the company would be voting on the proposed budget for the second half of 2019. A motion to vote on that proposed budget was made by Ryan Clark, and seconded by Rob Sibley. President Richardson said will the proposed budget for calendar year 2020 would probably be presented within the next few months.

No further discussion. Motion passed.

Communications:

Newtown Police Union doing fund drive.

Scores received from Bridgewater Parade; on front table if anyone interested.

New Business:

None

Election of Officers:

None

Remarks from the Chief:

Physicals due (Kyle Degenhardt, Archie Paloian and Jeff Thomas, in August; Patrick Doherty, Brian Engelke, Bill Halstead, Erica Knapp, Tom Ryer and Jeff Steinebrey in September) and overdue (Liam Ferguson, Kyle Keeping and Mike Macchiarulo, all due in July).

Shannon will reach out to Mike Macchiarulo, to see what his intentions are with the company. His leave of absence is up, in addition to having a physical approaching.

Would like to return to Patrick Doherty, and the topic of members going above and beyond away from the company. A letter was read during a recent meeting, from CT State

Police, concerning Patrick's actions during an MVA on I-84 in Danbury. Since, then two additional incidents have occurred, with members stepping up.

On July 27, Karl Sieling Jr was in a local drinking establishment, and assisted Newtown PD with breaking up a fight. Chief received a letter from PIO Aaron Bahamonde, who said Sieling's help was very much appreciated. It was, the letter continued, a good representation of SHVFR.

In addition, Ryan Clark was in Danbury, date unknown, and assisted with CPR, and the patient lived.

This is three members who went above and beyond, and represented well. It's nice that they have received recognition for what they did.

Work sessions ahead of the Labor Day Parade will be done August 28-30. A standby crew is needed for Monday, September 2, to stay with 442 or 443 on Church Hill at The Boulevard.

State convention parade is Sunday, September 15. Sign-up sheet has been posted; members are asked to register for marching, color guard, driver or rider – need to know who is going, and what they will be doing.

Standby crew will also be needed for that weekend, including Sunday from approximately 9 am until approximately 5 pm. Chief will also put Botsford or Hook & Ladder on notice for a two-company call, as had been done last Friday for the Bridgewater Parade.

For those who did not already know, the company brought home three trophies from Bridgewater: Best Appearing Fire Company, Most Firefighters in the Line of March, and The David Lathrop Host Award.

Budget items – please make suggestions to officers ASAP; Town will be looking for requests mid September or early October.

AFG grants coming soon; hoping to receive one for turnout gear, but Chief won't know until the awards are made. Right after that, grants for 2019 will also be done. Chief is hoping to put in for gear washer and/or a or dryer. Members should suggest if something else is needed.

Rescue boat arrived last week. Very short training class was offered by Mike McCarthy on August 13, but a full class will be led for all members. Tess Vogel will be doing lettering on the boat, and then the company will do full training, maybe on September 23. Pete Barresi pointed out that a recap of the new SOGs still needs to be scheduled. That and the boat training could work for September, which is still listed as TBA.

Karin Halstead: New members who are interested in attending the state convention, the company provides lunch, which is one of the reasons advance sign-up is asked for. Same for the family picnic on Sunday, September 1 – please sign up so that shopping and cooking can be planned for.

President Richardson also reminded new members that there is no reason to about giving parades a try. One new member participated in their first parade the previous week, in Bridgewater. The company can always find a uniform that fits, and then see how members do with marching, or they can ride in a truck. The convention is always a long day, Bridgewater is usually a fun parade, and Labor Day is OK. Bradley cannot remember the last time Sandy Hook won Most Marchers in Line. New Milford has combined companies, and Danbury has done the same, just to get that trophy. When a company

can put people on the street, as well as people in the truck, every 5 people means an incredible amount of points. That's helpful against points that can be lost for missing gloves, missteps, torn uniform, etc. If not in the next two parades, do consider giving it a try next year.

Labor Day is good practice, though, because it doesn't matter if members are out of step. This parade is not judged by CT Parade Marshals.

He also reminded the newer members in the room that they pay \$200 toward Class A uniforms, and the company covers the remainder of the costs; Karin pointed out that uniforms are now nearly \$500 each. Chief Halstead reiterated that Dick Conrod will help members put together a uniform until they purchase one of their own. Dick can also answer questions from those who want to get their own.

Labor Day Parade Monday, company photos will be done at 0830. Be in full uniform and ready for those photos at that time; arrive early if necessary. Company will then head in-town for staging; placement within parade's line of march hasn't been announced yet. Chief will know well before Labor Day.

Following the Labor Day Parade, Hook & Ladder traditionally hosts a picnic at its fire-house. The invitation for this year's event hasn't been received; it usually arrived just before Labor Day. Chief will also address that on Labor Day Monday.

Remarks for the good of the company:

Tim Whelan: Botsford Summer Bash is Saturday, from 5-11 pm. They support our stuff, so it would be good for us to return that favor.

Roll Call taken by: Shannon Will

Adjournment time: 20:06

Minutes taken by: Shannon Will