

Sandy Hook Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company

Secretary's Minutes

Date: December 2, 2019

President Called the Meeting to Order: 19:30

Quorum: 16

Members Present: 26

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Secretary's Report:

A motion was made by John Will and seconded by Scott Allen to accept the minutes for November 18, 2019 as presented. Motion passed.

Final reminder that tax abatement paperwork was due by the start of this meeting. If you have not turned it in or made arrangements to get it to me this week, you will not be receiving a credit in 2020.

Treasurer's Report:

Total in all accounts is \$156,530.78. A motion was made by Archie Paloian and seconded by John Will to accept the report as presented, subject to audit.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Audit: No report.

Bylaws: Any change, concerns, anything to be considered, please submit to Rob Sibley via email.

Computer: New laptop for door system and 404 is on order, with delivery expected by later this week.

The printer in Treasurer's office, at 18 years old, may have met its days. A temporary workaround being used, but the committee would like \$200 to look for new black and white printer. Rob Sibley made the motion, which was seconded by Archie Paloian. Motion passed.

Fire Prevention: We have received a request for a visit from Santa to a residence on Farm Field Ridge Road on Sunday, December 15, at 3 pm. Pete Barresi will cover driving, but we need a Santa Claus. Please let Shannon Will know ASAP if you'd like to do that. Two families will be at one house, and will make a donation to the company for this visit.

It was suggested that moving forward, the company offers a truck and driver but tells those making these requests that they need to provide their own Santa.

Fund Drive: \$36,753 received through 617 mail-ins so far, and another \$4,207 through 68 electronic donations, for a total of \$40,960 (685 total donations) to date.

Last year at this time we had received \$42,860 through 722 mail-ins, and \$4,655 through 69 electronic donations, for \$47,515 (791 total) donations. We're \$16,000+ behind this time last year.

Grievance: No report.

House: Clean up for December is Jeff Thomas (second time), Tess Vogel (second time), Shannon Will and Ray Wisniewski for the main station, and Ted Warzoha for the substation.

President Richardson would like a monthly report from the House committee on pending issues to be resolved, projects under work, and

completed projects. No more than 4-5 lines of things going on, but he would like to see this become a regular report.

Also, Archie Paloian's name should be pulled from House Committee because he, as Vice President, is an Ex-Officio member of every committee, per bylaws, just like President.

- Membership:** President Richardson asked the Membership Committee to begin offering regular reports on the membership, including the number of active members, probationary members, etc.
- Nominating:** No report.
- Outstanding Member:** No report.
- Pre-Plan:** No report.
- Refreshment:** No report.
- Water Supply:** No report.
- Welfare:** Gift purchased for John Moore, who recently had knee surgery.
- Long Range Planning:** No report.
- Training:** Sunday is driver recert; Bruce Clark and Tim Whelan will be leading. There are things for others to do, not just drivers, so all should be attending.
- Juniors:** New member, a young man named Bryce Maksel, so the group currently has four members.
- LobsterFest:** No report.
- Christmas Trees:** Off to a great start, with 269 trees sold as of 9 pm last night. Small wreaths were also a big seller.
- As of this evening, Patrick Doherty, John Fellin and Randy Muller still need to pick up a fourth shift. This should have been taken care of before last Friday morning's work sessions.
- Few reminders: arrange for replacements if you cannot cover any of your shifts.
- When possible, keep filling the tree racks during your shifts, but make sure they are full at the end of the night. Wreaths should be brought in at 9 pm, and put back out first thing in the morning. Remember to plug in and check the Open sign. It's a little wonky so you may have to jiggle the cord to get it to light up.
- If this is your first year in the company, please ask in advance if you have questions about what is expected during tree sales shifts.
- President Richardson: also receiving a lot of suggestions, especially during short season this year. Tall trees need to be brought up front in the future. Any suggestions, and constructive criticism, is welcome. Please step up and help, especially if you have shifts toward the end of the season, when we may not have trees left to sell. There will be something to do, but it would be better if members can step up sooner rather than later.
- Garbage collector requested last year that a second dumpster, for organic materials – pine needles, branches, etc – be used so that dumpsters aren't as heavy.
- John Guglielmi mentioned he made a delivery of trees over the weekend to a Sandy Hook resident, but didn't receive a tip, or hardly a thank you. He wondered if we should tell people they need to pay an additional fee if they want their tree delivered. President Richardson said we should be telling people No. We don't do deliveries. Pete Barresi pointed out that that statement is made each year, and then

people working are being told to take trees to homes. President Richardson reiterated: no deliveries.

John Jeltema suggested checking with insurance company to see what the liability would be if a tree falls off a vehicle while in transit. Many places will not tie trees to vehicles, for that reason. They will instead hand the materials to the person who just purchased the tree and tell them it's on them to fasten it to their vehicle.

Commissioner:

Chief Halstead reported that the Commissioner's budget meeting is Wednesday night, at which time each chief will present. The budget will be submitted to the Finance Director after that.

EMS Captain:

Congratulations to John Eisele and Billy Sieling, who are now EMRs. Anyone who took the Narcan class offered last year with the red pouch for the Narcan, get rid of the pouches. They cannot be used as they have expired.

Update following the October 17 I-84 Exit 11 median MVA with extrication: the patient was discharged from Danbury, and transferred to Spaulding, and then discharged from there on October 28. He suffered a cervical spine fracture from C7, paralysis, alcohol intoxication, a nasal fracture, and traumatic neurogenic shock.

Following a suggestion from Billy Sieling, Karin will look into Stop the Bleeding training.

CME Day is Saturday, 8 am, at NVA. There is no cost, but those attending are asked to bring with them a canned good for FAITH Food Pantry. Lunch will be provided. There are two sessions in the morning, and then two in the afternoon, for total of 8 CME credits for all day.

Bruce Clark:

Next Monday will be Watkins Glen smoke detector battery changeouts. Not many to do, so it shouldn't take too long.

President Richardson:

A reminder that there are to be no cell phones and no alcoholic beverages, and members are to sit at chairs, during meetings. Have had a few issues.

Election of Members:

None

Unfinished Business:

Karin Halstead: Reminder that the Adult Christmas party is approaching. Please sign up so that chefs can get a good head count.

Also, thank you to everyone who spent any or all day participating in the Fill the Fire Trucks Food Drive. Between the two stores, turned in 55 turkeys, 72 boxes of food, and over \$2,500 in gift cards and cash. Physical donations were lower, but the financial donations make up for the difference.

Communications:

Thank You note received from Priscilla and Wally O'Hara, Walnut Tree Village residents whose batteries were recently changed.

Applications available for Andrew Flanagan Memorial Fund Scholarship, for firefighters taking college courses. See Chief for application.

Fire I will begin January 7 in Brookfield, John Eisele and Matt Schapiro are signed up. Anyone else who wants to attend the class should see Chief ASAP.

New Business:

None

Election of Officers:

None

Remarks from the Chief:

Physicals due (Tim Whelan, December; Scott Allen, Pete Barresi, and Shannon Will, January) and overdue (Kyle Degenhardt, August; Patrick Doherty, September; and Craig Kampmier, November) were read.

Degenhardt and Doherty are off calls and training until physical done. It's been more than enough time to get this done. Chief Halstead asked Shannon Will to send them a notification to that effect.

No officers meeting next week.

For those who did not attend live burn or diversity training, they must be made up. Chief is getting dates for live burns that are coming, and working on a date for the diversity makeup session. Many names show up on both lists. People need to get these courses done. Live burn is NFPA and OSHA requirement, among others; Diversity is a State Dept of Labor requirement.

Remarks for the good of the company:

Pete: There is a green trailer at the substation, to be given to anyone interested in it. It's from the Boy Scouts, and it's being offered to company members first. Pete will put it out with "Free" sign if no one wants it. Needs a little work, but it's a nice 8-foot enclosed trailer.

Roll Call taken by: Shannon Will

Adjournment time: 20:00

Minutes taken by: Shannon Will