

Volunteer Firemen's Association of Cambria County & Vicinity

The Meeting of the Volunteer Firemen's Association of Cambria County & Vicinity was hosted by the Richland Township Volunteer Fire Department on January 25, 2018 with President Joseph D. Burns II presiding.

Members in attendance stood for the pledge of allegiance.

A prayer was given by the Chaplin for the meal that was prepared by the membership of the Richland Township Volunteer Fire Department. A short recess was call for by President Burns for the meal to be served.

President Burns reconvened the meeting at 7:30 pm with asking for the previous meeting minutes be read. *With no errors or corrections a motion from the floor to accept the last meeting minutes by Richard Brown Jr. of Nanty Glo and a 2nd by Bruce Moriconi of Hope. Motion was carried.*

Communications: Letters from Joann Cunningham, and Mary Miller regarding change of beneficiary to their membership. PA Firemen Directory card due back by February 20th.

Reading of the Monthly Bills:

General Fund

Precision Business Solutions	\$ 75.00	Web updates, etc.
Central District Fireman's Assn.	\$ 20.00	Annual Dues

Fire School

Penelec	\$ 582.26	Site Electric - January
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Death Fund

David Mayes	\$ 275.00	Benefit for Elaine Mayes (Station 80)
Estate of Lester Hoover	\$ 275.00	Benefit for Lester Hoover (Station 22)
James Bernard	\$ 275.00	Benefit for Michele Bernard (Station 55)

Total Expenses: **\$1,502.26**

Motion by James Goss of Upper Yoder to pay the bills 2nd By John Bem of Hastings Motion Carried.

Treasures Report:

Treasurer Paul Kundrod read and submitted the Treasurer's report, a copy is on file with the Secretary. *Motion by Bill Scherer of Cover Hill to accept the Treasurer Report 2nd by Mark Coleman of Beverdale. Motion Carried.*

Committee Reports:

Law & Legislative: Steve Unger of Conemaugh Reports that the Senate meeting dates for the next three months are as follow, January 2,22,23,24 / 29,30, and 31st February 5,6,and 7th March 19,20,21 / 26,27,and 28th. SR-6 Commission names were announced. There will be four members from a county association, one each from a county in the west, central, east, and southern parts. From the West – Harold Wiles of Fayette County, Central- Ed Mann of Mifflin County, East- Ben Crowding of Chester County, South East- Greg Jakobowski of Bucks County and The President of the PA. Professional Firefighters Assn. Art Martynuska.

Steve also talked about the new State law that allows residents to buy and use the full line of fireworks

that comply with federal requirements for consumers. Pennsylvania's purchase of consumer grade fireworks are limited to buyers 18 and older, and have usage restrictions, including requiring permission from the property owner, not using them inside buildings or motor vehicles or within 150 feet of an occupied structure. A violation is punishable by a fine of up to \$100. In Mr. Ungers own words Happy 4th of July folks.

Fire School: Joe Adams of Cresson reported the spring training brochure is out in the mail. The committee is having the flashover simulator for at least two weekends. Joe is urging everyone to get your applications in on a timely fashion classes are already starting to fill up. Joe also reported that the essential classes at the five locations are going very well. Anyone wishing to help at the spring fire school or any time at the fire school please contact one of the committee members, help is always welcome. John Bem of Hastings has reported that next year Central Cambria will be having a complete renovation. John just wants to make the committee aware of this in case they may have to look for an alternate site for next year.

Fire School Site: In the absence of John Hawksworth Steve Verbosky of Colver reported the fire school has been closed down for the winter months, and in Hawks words buy your bricks as soon as possible so we can start the first steps of the wall.

Certification: Eric Miller of Johnstown reported that the evaluator's workshop will be held at the Dauntless fire station March 7th.

Historical: Nick Wuckovich of Conemaugh reported that with over three quarters of the fire departments reporting their history back to the committee, it appears the book is around three hundred and forty-eight (348) pages right now and will be capped off at four hundred (400) pages. Nick reported that the committee had a backup plan with the ladies auxiliary if it fell through. With the backup plan now in place Ruth Engelhart has stepped forward to help the committee out with some ladies auxiliary history. The next committee meeting will be on February 6th at the Dauntless fire station.

John Bem made note that minutes from April of 2008 to September of 2014 are still in limbo and have not be found. John made note and wanted to thank Secretary's Unger and Gromley for the fantastic record keeping while they were in office, he made mention that the records are very much in order with excellent spelling and punctuation in place.

Web Site: Everything is posted and up to date on the site.

911 EMA: Robbin Melnyk EMA Coordinator has mention to Joe Adams Fire School Director that the 911 and EMA are willing to help out in any way that is possible with the upcoming spring fire school. She is also willing to send E-Alerts out anytime that we may need. She mentioned that the center will be testing and hiring soon, so if anyone knows of anyone please encourage them to apply. Robbin mentioned that the commissioners hired mission critical around two months ago and that things seem to be moving forward very quickly and should soon be turned back over to the commissioners to review their progress. Robbin has recommended that if you can hold off on buying any radios at this time please do so. The county is well aware that this is going to be a very expensive upgrade so they are stressing that fire official's be aware of this in your upcoming budgets. She pointed out that CAD updates are still moving forward and the center are working hard to keep the CAD updated with run cards and closest departments. Mapping must be at 100% before this all moves forward, hang-up's are on the mapping because of street breaks. When they have this all fixed they will be running test alarms in many areas of the county with road breaks so they have this fixed and up to 100%.

Fire Advisory Board: Steve Verbosky of Colver made mention to Robbin, Allen, and Commissioner Chernisky that the Fire Advisory Board is requesting to still have the quarterly meeting. The committee feels that even if there is no agenda this is a time to sit down and come together to see what may be happening that the others are unaware of, the committee feel this is a good way to keep from things growing in the wrong direction. He has ask that each member of the committee and the EMA and 911 Coordinators to write things down that they may want to discuss at these meetings.

County Convention: 1st Vice President Chris Cox reported that there is information that will soon be going on the web site. He reported that the first Sunday will be battle of the barrel along with a hoagie sale and bowling that evening, bowling will be held in at least to sessions since it will be held right in Gallitzin at the new bowling alley. The convention will host a golf outing at the Summit on Monday, the firefighter's proficiency on Thursday, with the Memorial service and delegates day being on Friday finishing up that day with the bucket barricade. Saturday will start out with the Pumping contest in the morning hours with the grand convention parade being held around 5p.m. that day.

Delegates Report: Nothing to report at this meeting.

Resolutions: Chaplin Drew Walther read the names of decease member's Elaine Mayes Station "80" Beaverdale Summerhill Twp. Lester Hoover Station "22" Dauntless, and member Michele Bernard Station "55" Hastings. All members in attendance stood in one minute of silence for our passed member's.

Roll Call of Officers: President Joseph D. Burns II, 1stVice President Christopher Cox, 2nd Vice President Darrin Smith, Treasure Paul Kundrod, Secretary John Gromley, Assistant Treasurer Eric Miller and Assistant Secretary Jeff Gromley were all present.

Roll Call of Companies: 25 Total Company Present, Beaverdale, Cherry Tree, City of Johnstown, Clymer, Colver, Conemaugh, Cover Hill, Cresson, Dale, Dauntless, Franklin, Ferndale, Gallitzin, Hastings, Hope, Jackson Township, Loretto, Nanty Glo, Richland Township, Riverside, St. Michael, Summerhill, Upper Yoder Township, West Hills Regional, West Taylor Twp.

Old Business: Nick Wuckovich has contacted the Cambria County Library and they will take all our minutes and any other records we wish and they will put all of them on a junk drive all we have to do as an organization is buy the junk drive if we wish for them to do this work. *Motion by Richard Brown Jr, of Nanty Glo to move forward with the library do this work and buy the junk drive for them to put all the information on 2nd to this motion was made by Nick Wuckovich of Coemaugh. Motion Carried.*

New Business: Bernie Blazosky of St. Michael reports for the convention rules committee, the committee meet January 22 at Pj's in Cresson, PA about updating some rules and putting in place some new rules leading up to the annual convention. The committee cleaned up some rules on the battle of the barrel, hose efficiency and the pumping contest. Also they are adding new rules to obtain the grand champion trophy at the county convention. These new rules will be, all fire companies will have the chance to gain points towards the grand champion trophy that is awarded at the annual county convention by attending county meetings, participating in the annual Chernisky 5k race and fire school attendance. Each fire company will receive a letter in the upcoming dues notice and it will also be on the web site outlining the new ways to obtain points towards the grand champion trophy. *There was a Motion made by Eric Miller of Johnstown to pro rate and start to track the points towards the grand champion trophy with the said events at the February meeting in Carrolltown 2nd by Mark Coleman*

Motion was Carried.

The members of the committee will be putting in place a fire prevention award starting this coming year with updates to this award and how companies can be involved with this at the next few upcoming meetings. The committee is looking to follow the same type of a format that is being used by the Central District Firemen's Assn., with these books being turned into the Secretary by July 1st. The Executive Committee will be picking this year's winner. Bernie also spoke about getting the by-laws committee together to review some recommendations into possibly changing our annual convention from a four (4) to an eight (8) day event into a three (3) day event. Past President Richard Brown Jr. of Nanty Glo questioned on the status of the steering committee, Past President Ed Hudak of Beaverdale mentioned that many individuals offered to help at the last convention and were made to feel like they did not want our help. Both of these gentlemen believe this is also something that needs to be looked into and corrected for upcoming conventions with in our rules if not our by-laws when disbursing our money to the host town.

Good of the Order: John Bem of Hastings called for a rising vote of thanks for the Richland Township Volunteer Fire Company for providing a meal and hosting the association meeting this month.

Next Meeting to be held at the Carrolltown Volunteer Fire Company on Thursday February 22, 2018
50/50 was award at \$39.00

Motion by Joe Adams of Cresson to Adjourn at 8:40 pm 2nd By Ben Huether of Hope Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted

*John C. Gromley
Assn. Secretary*