

## **Volunteer Firemen's Association of Cambria County & Vicinity**

The Meeting of the Volunteer Firemen's Association of Cambria County & Vicinity was hosted by the Carrolltown Volunteer Fire Company on February 22, 2018 with President Joseph D. Burns II presiding.

President Burns called the meeting to Order at 7:04 pm.

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 Carrolltown Volunteer Fire Company. A short recess was call for by President Burns for the meal to be served.

President Burns reconvened the meeting at 7:35 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 Ben Huether of Hope and a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Coleman of Beaverdale. Motion was carried.*

Communications: Received the dues card from Central District Firemen's Assn., Newsletter from Western PA Firemen's Assn.

Reading of the Monthly Bills:

### **General Fund**

Precision Business Solutions	\$ 181.00	Web updates, etc.
Fire Assn. of the State of PA.	\$ 20.00	Annual Dues
John Gromley	\$ 100.00	Postage Expenses
Nick Wuckovich	\$ 64.98	Mis. Supplies for Histical Comm.

### **Fire School**

Penelec	\$ 455.43	Site Electric – February
Suburban Propane	\$ 10.00	Bulk tank rental

### **Death Fund**

Robert Valeria	\$ 275.00	Benefit for Joseph P. Valeria (Sta 55)
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**Total Expenses:** **\$ 1,106.41**

*Motion by Frank Hribar of Dunlo to pay the bills 2<sup>nd</sup> By George Popson of Patton, Motion Carried.*

### **Treasures Report**

Treasurer Paul Kundrod read and submitted the Treasurer's report, a copy is on file with the Secretary. *Motion by Nick Wuckovich of Conemaugh to accept the Treasurer Report 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bruce Morconi of Hope. Motion Carried.*

### **Committee Reports:**

Law & Legislative: Steve Unger of Conemaugh Reports that the Legislative sessions only consisted of three days, one to meet and greet each other, one to get sworn in, one day to listen to the Governor's plan. There has been a redistricting of law makers in progress with a lot of controversy. Mr. Unger reports there has been no progress.

Fire School: Joe Adams of Cresson reported that firefighters need to get enrollment forms in as soon as possible. Joe mentioned that the Vehicle rescue class is already filled and that there are only a few open spots open for the flash over simulator class open at this time. At this time the web site has the current students enrolment updated listed, along with the classes that are available to sign up for with enrollment forms that can be used by firefighters to sign up.

Fire School Site: John Hawksworth of Dauntless reported that the site has been opened to get prepared for the essential classes that will be using the burn building and the upcoming spring fire school. First order of bricks are in the young gentleman that is doing this for his Eagle Scout project would like to have his part of this project completed by the end of April with the finishing of the first wall. John has mentioned that there has been a total of one hundred and sixty (160) purchased, but with only six (6) fire companies have purchased a brick for this project. John is urging members to go back to their respected station as ask them to purchase a brick to support our fire school, we must remember all the money raised will be for the upkeep of our fire school. John also mentioned we are still in need of donations of 7/16" OSB board for the fire simulator class. The committee also may have a lead on another engine, and that Penn Dot will be donating pallets to the fire school. Lastly any help is always appreciated especially with the upcoming Spring fire school, if you are interested please contact John or any fire school committee member there is always things to do around the fire school.

Certification: The secretary read the report of the certification committee. They reported that the evaluator's workshop will be held Wednesday March 7<sup>th</sup>. at (6:30) at the Dauntless Fire Company, this is for the current evaluators only.

Historical: Nick Wuckovich of Conemaugh reported that the committee meet with the executive officers on February 6<sup>th</sup>. Nick mentioned that William Cornell of West Hills Regional is the member that designed the front cover of the history book. The inside pages of this book will all be black and white with no color pages inside. The group has decided on a price of the historical book being twenty-five dollars (\$25.00). There will also be a ten dollar (\$10.00) patron page available for anyone wishing to have their name or someone else name listed inside this book. The committee feels there will be a lot of quality information inside this one hundred (100) year history book. The committee are taking pre-orders for these books, they do not want to have lots of books just laying around so they feel this is the best way to see this does not happen. Nick will have forms for both the book and the patron listing and the Secretary will be inclosing both of these forms in the upcoming dues notices to the members and fire companies. Nick also mentioned that all these forms will be accessible off of the county web site and Facebook page. *Nick Wuckovich of Coemaugh has made a motion to take out a full page ad in the PA. Firemen Magazine for two months at a cost of two hundred and sixteen dollars (\$216.00) to try to get outside fire association, fire companies, and firefighters to purchase one of our history books 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve Verbosky of Colver . Motion Carried.* Nick has also made note that all the profits from this one hundred (100) year history book will go into the fire school account.

Web Site: The secretary read the report of Web Master William Cornell of West Hills Regional. As of February 22 Bill has uploaded the Assn. minutes from September, October, and December 2017, and January of 2018. These are located under the committee page and under the Document page. Bill has also uploaded the Historical Book "Pre-Paid Order Form" which also has the Patron donation form on the bottom (located under the Fire School Information Historical page and under the Documents page). The fire school class student confirmation list and class summary list was updated on February 19, 2018.

911 EMA: Robbin Melnyk 911 Coordinator Reported on the eighty eight (88) page radio analysis that

was given to the county commissioners by Mission Critical. The county commissioners have vowed that they will do everything that needs to be done to make sure there is a proper and correct working radio system in place for the county firefighters. They are very aware there are coverage problems. Now that they have been given the analysis they will be looking toward a design and development stage Robbin has mentioned the commissioners have not formally made this known but she feels strongly that this will be their next move. Robbin also made note that at this time she is unaware if radio frequencies may have to change but that maybe something that will happen. The next meeting for Robbin regarding the radio upgrades will be March 5, 2018. She feels some of the next steps with this happen to be funding and that her and the county commissioners are looking at many different options to try to make the funding for all these upgrades much easier for the county fire companies they believe this is going to be a very expensive upgrade, As for now they must keep the system updating the system in place and they will keep patching this one together until the new system is in place.

EMA Coordinator Allen Kline also of Hastings report that the county has a new Municipal Coordinator. Allen also spoke about the number of incident's that the county and fire companies in the county have been dealing with the heavy rains that have hit our area within the last week to week and a half, Allen mentioned that they have been watching the Conemaugh River very closely. Allen also mentioned about an upcoming drill at the Prince Gallitzin State Park at 9am on March 3, 2018, this will involve the county's animal rescue team and a water rescue team. The location of the event at the State Park has not been set as of this date.

Fire Advisory Board: Steve Verbosky of Colver said the next meeting is scheduled for March 27,2018.

County Convention: 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Chris Cox reported that there is information on their web site and also on the county web site. Since last meeting they have set up some nightly entertainment that has been added to the schedule.

Delegates Report: No report at this meeting.

Resolutions: Chaplin Drew Walther read the name of deceased member Joseph P. Valeria of Station "55" Hastings. All members in attendance stood in one minute of silence for our passed member.

Roll Call of Officers: President Joseph D. Burns II, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Christopher Cox, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Darrin Smith, Treasurer Paul Kundrod, Secretary John Gromley, and Assistant Secretary Jeff Gromley were present. Assistant Treasurer Eric Miller was excused due to work.

Roll Call of Companies: 29 Total Company Present, Ashville, Beaverdale, Carrolltown, Cherry Tree, City of Johnstown, Clymer, Colver, Conemaugh, Cover Hill, Cresson, Dauntless, Dunlo, Gallitzin, Hastings, Hope, Jackson Township, Lilly, Loretto, Nanty Glo, Nicktown, Oakland – Lorain, Patton, Richland Township, Riverside, Spangler, St. Michael, Summerhill, West Hills Regional, West Taylor Twp.

Old Business: Secretary Gromley has made mention that there has been a total of seventeen (17) companies that have not paid their 2017-2018 company dues to the association. With some discussion on the floor there was a Motion made by Joe Adams of Cresson to have the secretary send a letter to each company that is not in compliance and ask them what the intension of their company is with our organization, and if they wish to be in compliance they must paid for each year they have not paid dues for to become compliant with the association once again, 2<sup>nd</sup> to the Motion was made by Richard Brown Jr. of Nanty Glo.

President Burns made mention that he and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Smith went and looked at safes for our

documents. They both have come back with a price of three thousand dollars (\$3000.00) on a document safe that is made for documents just like we are looking for. The price on this safe is around five hundred dollars (\$500.00) more than a regular gun safe that had originally talked about. After a discussion on the floor there was a *Motion made by Joe Adams of Cresson to purchase the document safe at a price of three thousand dollars (\$3000.00) 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ed Hudak of Beaverdale. Motion Carried.*

President Burns brought up that he had went to Richland Twp. Fire Company and looked at the trailer they have for sale for the amount of four thousand dollars (\$4000.00) that the convention rules committee would like to look into purchasing to put all the convention equipment into. The committee feels that it would be easier for the assn. to keep all the equipment in the trailer for the convention so the host company does not have to be running around looking for this equipment. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Smith has already gotten a scaffolding donated to the Assn. for the bucket barricade, and has been working to get our battle of the barrel rig fixed for the upcoming convention. With a discussion on the floor President Burns referred this to the executive board to discuss and bring back to a later meeting.

New Business: Nothing report at this meeting

Good of the Order: Company dues notices will be sent in the mail by mid-March, please sign tonight's sign in sheet. Nick Wuckovich made mention that the county library has been scanning our minutes and that they will also be scanning some other important documents such as the mutual aid agreements. If there is something that we are not thinking about please contact Nick and mention what the document maybe. Nick also mentioned that there are a number of names that need update on the fallen firefighters trophy, secretary Gromley and Richard Brown Jr. of Nanty Glo will be getting together to get this taken care of and updated. John Bem of Hastings made note that we as an Assn. may want to think about getting a rider to our insurance for the week of our annual convention. After much discussion it was decided the members wish to leave all this up to the host convention town and that we should not get involved as an Assn.

Ed Hudak of Beaverdale called for a rising vote of thanks for the Carrolltown Volunteer Fire Company for providing a meal and hosting the association meeting this month.

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

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

*Respectfully Submitted*

*John C. Gromley  
Assn. Secretary*