

# Volunteer Firemen's Association of Cambria County & Vicinity

The meeting of the Volunteer Firemen's Association of Cambria County and Vicinity was hosted by the East Taylor Volunteer Fire Department, September 27, 2018 with the President Joseph D. Christopher Cox presiding.

President Cox called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members in attendance stood for the pledge of allegiance.

President Cox made it known to membership that he would be reappointing Chaplin Drew Walther to the position of Association Chaplin for the year 2018-2019. At this time President Cox ask the Chaplin to give a prayer for the meal that had been prepared by the members of the East Taylor Volunteer Fire Department. A short recess was called for by President Cox for the meal to be served.

President Cox reconvened the meeting at 7:25 p.m. with asking for the minutes of the previous meeting to be read. With no errors or correction President Cox ask for a motion to accept the previous meetings minutes. George Popson of Patton made a motion to accept the previous minutes as read, and with a proper 2nd by John Bem of Hastings, the motion was carried.

Communications: Thank you letter from Shirly Lees wife of past member Paul Lees, Letter from the Community Volunteer Fire Company of Lilly regarding the 2021 convention, and the resignation of Joseph Adams from the chair position of the fire school training committee.

Reading of the Monthly Bills:

## **General Fund**

US Post Office St. Michael \$ 54.00 Annual Box Rental

## **Fire School**

Selective Insurance Co. \$1,446.00 Quarterly Premium

Penelec \$ 144.10 August Electric

## **Death Fund**

**Total Expenses:** \$ 1,644.10

Motion by Mark Coleman of Beaverdale to pay the monthly bills, with a proper 2<sup>nd</sup> by JD Burns of West Hills Regional motion was carried.

**Treasurer Report:** 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Darrin Smith of St. Michael read the Treasurer report submitted by Treasurer Paul Kundrod. With a copy on file with the Secretary. Motion by JD Burns of West Hills Regional to accept the Treasurer's report as read, and with a proper 2<sup>nd</sup> by George Popson of Patton. Motion was carried.

## **Committee Reports:**

**Law & Legislative:** Steve Unger reported that the Senate only has nine voting days before election and the House only has eight. Not much on either floor for the volunteer fire service.

**Fire School:** John Bem of Hastings reported that the Grant of \$750.00 through the State Association that was submitted for the fire school by the Secretary was approved and that the check should be coming in the mail. Jeff Gromley reported that if anyone is planning to register for the weekend vehicle rescue

training that the committee has put together please notify him by mail or email as soon as possible so the committee can decide on whether they need to cancel this class or keep it on the schedule.

**Fire School Site:** John Hawksworth of Dauntless reported that the fire school has received another container to store lawn equipment in at the fire school site. Ed Hudak and Steve Verbosky talked with the tree removal company that was doing the power lines around the fire school and talked them into donating the weed killing spray and the men to spray the weeds around the fire school site.

**Certification:** The upcoming Fire Fighter I & II classes were cancelled due to lack of attendance. Gallitzin fire company will be the host of a closed upcoming fire fighter I class there maybe a few spots open if anyone maybe interested they need to talk with President Cox to work out the details.

**Historical:** Nick Wuckovich of Conemaugh reported that the committee closed out the historical book drive and the patrons list drive. A big thanks to William Cornell of West Hills Regional all his efforts of getting everything ready and into PDF format to have this book printed. William "Bill" has saved the associations over one thousand dollars by doing this at no cost. Once this is all complete Nick will have the committee meet to go over corrects. Once this process is done then the book will be sent to Staples for printing and to have the book printed should take approximately six days from the start. As of right now the December meeting in Scalp Level is the target date to have this book completed and ready for pick up or sent out by mail. At this time Jim Bloom of Dauntless made a motion to have the treasurer expend the money that had been collected for each book and to pay for this bill from Staples at the time of the completion of the book, properly 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Coleman of Beaverdale. Motion was Carried.

**911 EMA:** June Kania, Executive Assistant of 911/EMA attend the meeting and reported that there will be surveys going out in the mail for each company or department to update any EMA resources that you may need. June mentioned that there are many new faces in the 911/EMA offices she urges everyone to come around and get to know everyone new and please be patient with all the new dispatchers.

**Fire Advisory Board:** Steve Verbosky of Colver reported that the October 12<sup>th</sup> survey group will be going to the county commissioners about the new radio system. The commissioners are looking at a date of 2020 to have all the radio work in place and running. The commissioners will also do everything they can to help with the financial burden that this is going to cost the volunteers. They are looking towards the 800 Megahertz system as of right now. If the commissioners go with the 800 system, the mobiles would cost upwards to the price of \$3,500.00 dollars and portables being in the range of \$1,500.00 dollars each. The pagers will not matter because they will still use the ones that are being used at this time.

**Resolutions:** No Resolutions for this meeting

**County Convention:** Darrin Smith 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President mentioned that St. Michael will be doing the traditional seven-day convention. The dates for the convention will be July 27 through August 3, 2019.

**Delegates Report:** Paul Skoldowski of Lilly prepared a report for the Secretary to have on file and hand it out to the members in attendance.

**Web Site:** The Secretary reported everything on the website is updated that the web master has. The Secretary reported he is working to get the web master information to put up about valor and life saver awards.

**Roll Call of Officers:** President Christopher Cox, 1st Vice President Darrin Smith, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Jim McCann, Secretary John C. Gromley Assistant Secretary Jeff Gromley were all present. Treasurer Paul Kundrod, and Assistant Treasurer Eric Miller were absent.

**Roll Call of Companies:** 23 Total Companies Present, Ashville, Beaverdale, City of Johnstown, Clymer, Colver, Conemaugh, Cover Hill, Dauntless, East Taylor, Ferndale, Gallitzin, Hastings, Jackson Township, Lilly, Oakland-Lorain, Patton, Portage, Revloc, Richland Township, St. Michael, Summerhill Borough, Upper Yoder Twp., and West Hills Regional.

**Old Business:** Nothing this meeting

**New Business:** Motion by James Goss of Upper Yoder to accept the paperwork from the Community Volunteer Fire Company of Lilly when the proper Official Town letters are received for their bid on the 2021 convention, with a proper 2<sup>nd</sup> by George Popson of Patton. Motion was Carried.

President Cox made mention at this time that he will be re-appointing the committee as they are at this time, except for the chair person of the fire school training committee and he will appoint someone to that chair at the next regular meeting in Clymer. Also, President Cox has formed a new committee which will be the awards committee. This committee will oversee all awards including the Valor and Life Savor nominations, and fire prevention award nominations. After the committee is completed they will then give the Secretary their findings so the Secretary can have all awards ready and in place prior to the annual convention meeting. This awards committee will consist of the President, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and three past presidents of the association, Tom Bracken (Chairman), Eric Miller, and Daryl Bodenschatz.

**Good of the Order:** John Hawksworth reported that the County Swat Team had did some training at the fire school site and that the Mayor of Ebensburg was in attendance and has ask John to talk about fire school and what it has to offer to all the communities in Cambria county at the next Borough Association meeting on October 23, 2018. A representative of the Richland Fire Company was in attendance and invited all members to an Aim-Trac class that would be put on by their fire company on November 15,2018

A rising vote of thanks was called for by Jim Bloom of Dauntless for the East Taylor Volunteer Fire Company for hosting the meeting and providing the members in attendance with a meal.

Next Meeting will be held at the Clymer Volunteer Fire Company on Thursday October 25,2018.

50/50 Amount awarded was \$43.00

Motion to Adjourn at 8: 20 p.m. by J.D. Burns of West Hills Regional and properly 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Popson of Clymer. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

John C. Gromley

Assn. Secretary