

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 Lilly Volunteer Fire Company at the Cresson Volunteer Fire Company Social Hall, September 26, 2019, with the President Darrin Smith presiding.

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

President Smith called upon the Associations Chaplin to give the opening prayer for the meal and the meeting.

Members in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

At this time President Smith asked for a short recess for the meal to be served.

At 7:30 pm President Smith reconvened the meeting, asking for the previous meeting minutes be read at this time. President Smith asked 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 Nick Wuckovich of Conemaugh the motion was carried.

Communications: Nothing for this meeting.

Reading of the Monthly Bills by Treasurer Paul Kundrod:

General Fund

Western PA Fire Assn.	\$ 12.00 Annual Dues
Selective Insurance Co. of America	\$ 1,514.00 Qtr. Premium

Fire School

Lowes Charge	\$ 103.05 Misc. Site Items
Lacues Sunoco	\$ 56.81 Site Fuel
West Central Equipment	\$ 24.93 Tractor Parts
Hilyers Hardware	\$ 34.07 Misc. Exp.
Suburban Propane	\$ 211.52 Propane fill up
Penelec	\$ 160.94 Monthly Electric

Death Fund

Total Expenses: \$ 2,117.32

Motion by Steve Verbosky of Colver to pay the monthly bills, with a proper 2nd by John Bem of Hastings motion was carried.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Paul Kundrod read the Treasurer's Report. A copy is on file with the Secretary. Motion by William Cornell of West Hills to accept the Treasurer's report as read, and with a proper 2nd by Richard Brown Jr. of Nanty Glo, motion was carried.

Committee Reports:

Law & Legislative: Steve Unger of Conemaugh reported on several of the House and Senate activities and the number of days that the House and Senate will be in session till the end of the year. Steve also covered House Bills 1234, 1190, 1522, and 1627. House Bill 1627 covers Aligning the Fire and EMS Grant

programs with Senate Resolution SR 6 recommendations. Steve's complete report is on file with the secretary.

Fire School: Jim McCann of Johnstown mentioned that there would be a fire school committee meeting on Sunday October 6th at the St. Michael fire station. The committee will be meeting to set up the classes for the spring fire school so that the fire school brochure can be sent out soon. At this meeting they will also be looking to set up some monthly trainings at various sites around the county. Jim has mentioned that anyone interested in being involved to please let him know.

Fire School Site: John Hawksworth of Dauntless reported that there will be a site workday on October 5th. Anyone with free time please plan to attend, there is a lot of stuff that will be happening that day. John also made a motion to purchase a Zero Turn Lawn Mower for the Fire School Site at a price of \$1,223.00 from Ray's Lawn Service's in Summerhill, PA. John went over many of the reasons the site committee needs this piece of equipment. With a proper 2nd by George Popson of Patton, the was carried.

Certification: William Cornell went over the upcoming FF1 and FF2 certification classes that will be held at the site and covered what was cancelled due to lack of attendance.

Web Site: William Cornell of West Hills reported that everything is updated on the web site at this time, and that he will start posting things about the Centennial as he receives them.

Historical / Centennial: Nick Wuckovich of Conemaugh reported on the Historical Committee, He mentioned that there are only (52) fifty-two historical books left and when they are gone, they are gone. He also mentioned that he wanted to thank the members of St. Michael and Clymer Fire Companies for allowing him and Ed Hudak to set up a table to sell books at both Conventions that were held this year.

Nick also reported on the Centennial Committee; Nick mentioned there were several things that he needed to discuss at this meeting with the hope of recommendations from the membership at the end.

- 1.) At the last committee meeting it was discussed of a possible name change of the association. At this time Nick ask President Smith if he may refer to committee member Thomas Bracken of Nanty Glo to speak on the topic of this subject. President Smith granted this, and Mr. Bracken took the floor. Mr. Bracken mentioned a few of the reasons several the members think it's a good idea to explore the idea of changing the associations name such as 1. There are now more than just men involved, 2. We now have professional members involved, and 3. The association maybe able to secure money in other ways by opening the name up. After hearing these reasons and a few other ideas it was suggested to President Smith to consider forming a committee just for this project, in which President Smith agreed. President Smith Named Mr. Bracken as the Chair and granted his wish to have the associations treasurer and secretary on this committee along with all other executive officers.
- 2.) The commemorative medallion and ribbon will be red, white, & blue in color, it will be a challenge collectors coin inside a plastic case that will be able to hang from the ribbon. These coins will be available for pre-order and include the ribbon. The committee is currently hoping to keep these coin and ribbons at a cost of ten dollars or less. A question from a member present was "Will this be the same ribbon and coin used by Patton VFC," Nick responded with the answer of "At this time that has not been determined and the Patton VFC will have to make a decision on that matter."
- 3.) A firefighter's banquet will be held on October 9, 2021. This will be held at the Pasquerilla Center in the City of Johnstown. Committee member Eric Miller will be working on this banquet, and this will be a Class A uniform event. There also will be a firefighter's picnic that committee member Ed Hudak will be working on; and it will be held in St. Michael at the firefighter's park on June 11, 2022. Both events will be pre-order/pre-paid ticket events.
- 4.) The committee would like to start a tuition assistance grant with committee chairman John Bem taking the lead. The first tuition assistance grant will be given out at the 100th Annual Convention in Patton.

- 5.) The Committee would like to do a time capsule committee member John Hawksworth will be taking the lead on this effort to decided were it will be located, what every fire company will be permitted to put in it, and the date of when it will be open.
- 6.) Antique fire equipment parade and the option of many musical bands at the parades.
- 7.) The committee will be putting together a plaque to hang at the fire school site with all the past convention towns on it. Committee member John Gromley will oversee this action.

At this time Jim Bloom of Dauntless made a motion to have Nick Wuckovich and his committee members move forward with everything they have presented at this meeting, with a proper 2nd by Larry Penatzer of Summerhill Borough. Motion was Carried.

911 EMA: No Report given

EMA: Art Martynuska brought the drones that have been purchased by the county for members to see. He mentioned about how they will be used and what they will help first responders with. He also mentioned that the county will have six individuals trained to use these drones, they will be attending FFA training in Pittsburgh. Art also shared with the membership that the City of Pittsburgh has donated several Decon Tents. Art showed the Haz-Mat stickers that they are asking each fire company to have their members put on their helmets. This sticker will go on each helmet on a specific spot to show the trained levels of Haz-Mat. He mentioned that June will be sending letters out to all the local fire chiefs to get the number of each type of sticker they will need for their members.

Fire Advisory Board: Steve Verbosky of Colver reported that the group went over the drones that have been purchased by the county.

Resolutions: None for this meeting.

County Convention: Members of Conemaugh reported that they will be hosting an eight-day event with it beginning on July 25th and running through August 1st. It will start with a Softball Tournament on Saturday, Battle of the Barrel on Sunday, Golf on Monday, Delegates day on Friday July 31st, and the Grand Convention parade on August 1st.

Delegates Report: Paul Sklodowski of Lilly reported on the Central District Convention that was held in Clymer and reported that the Fall Board meeting will be held on Sunday October 6th in East Freedom. He also reported that the State Convention will be held September 26th & 27th, there will be only be business sessions with no parade.

Roll Call of Officers: President Darrin Smith, 1st Vice President Jim McCann, Treasurer Paul Kundrod, Secretary John C. Gromley, Assistant Secretary Brett Gromley, all were present. 2nd Vice President Jeremy Glass was absent, and Eric Miller was Excused due to work.

Roll Call of Companies: 27 Total Companies Present; Ashville, Beaverdale, City of Johnstown, Clymer, Colver, Commodore, Conemaugh, Cover Hill, Cresson, Dauntless, Franklin, Ferndale, Gallitzin, Hastings, Hope, Jackson Twp., Lilly, Loretto, Nanty Glo, Patton, Reade Twp., Richland Twp., Spangler, St. Michael, Summerhill Borough, West Hills, West Taylor.

Old Business: The 2nd reading of the propose By-Law was read and will be voted on before the next regular meeting on October 24th at Revloc.

Article II Officers & Their Elections

Section 4. The election of Officers shall be held on Thursday of the week of the annual convention from seven (7:00) until eight thirty (8:30) and shall be conducted on the day of the annual convention meetings from eight (8:00) until nine thirty (9:30) at a site previously announced.

Signatures in support of this By Law Change. 1. William Cornell – West Hills, 2. Steve Verbosky – Colver, 3. Edward Hudak – Beaverdale, 4. John Hawksworth, Jr. – Dauntless, 5. James Bloom – Dauntless.

John Hawksworth of Dauntless made a motion to accept the Lakemont Volunteer Fire Company into the Association with a proper 2nd by Mark Coleman of Beaverdale the Motion was Carried.

New Business:

The 1st reading of the Tuition Assistance;

By Laws Article VI Duties of the Committees (NEW SECTION 10)

Section10. It shall be the duty of the committee to receive, review, and evaluate all applications for assistance for higher education. The committee shall establish such rules as are deemed necessary for the operation of the Tuition Assistance Program. The committee shall announce the name of the persons selected to receive any and all award for assistance at the Annual Convention Awards Program. The committee shall set the amounts of the awards and categories for which they are granted.

Signatures to support this By Law change. 1. Darrin Smith - St. Michael, 2. Nick Wuckovich – Franklin, 3. Jim McCann – Johnstown, 4. Eric Miller - Johnstown, 5. Ed Hudak - Beaverdale, 6. Thomas E. Bracken – Nanty Glo 7. Steve Unger – Conemaugh, 8. John Bem – Hastings.

Motion by Nick Wuckovich of Conemaugh to have the association secretary send our local representatives and senators a letter wishing them to support the Fire Works Bill, proper 2nd by Ed Hudak of Beaverdale. Motion was Carried.

Good of the Order: None

Next Meeting: Will be held in Revloc on Thursday October 24, 2019. There will be a vote prior to the meeting of the By-Law proposal.

50/50 Amount awarded was \$40.00

A rising vote of thanks was called for by John Bem of Hastings for the Lilly and Cresson Fire Company's for hosting the meeting and providing a meal for the members in attendance.

Motion to Adjourn at 9:20 by John Hawksworth of Dauntless and proper 2nd by Bill Cornell of West Hills, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

John C. Gromley

Assn. Secretary