

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 Revloc Volunteer Fire Company, October 24, 2019, with the President Darrin Smith presiding.

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

President Smith called upon the Past President Christopher Cox 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's minutes be read. Motion from the floor from Mike Krug of Portage to suspend the reading of the minutes and accept them as written since they were provided to the membership in printed form before the meeting started with a proper 2nd by Paul Dowey of Spangler the Motion was Carried.

Communications: Letter from the Nicktown Fire Company questioning the Secretary on their dues for the year 2019-2020.

Reading of the Monthly Bills by Treasurer Paul Kundrod:

General Fund

Precision Bus. Solutions	\$20.47 Monthly Web Updates
US Post Office	\$22.00 Postage
Nick Wuckovich	\$41.45 Postage

Fire School

Steve Verbosky	\$99.61 Misc. Parts Harbor Freight
Penelec	\$162.53 Oct. Electric
Bucks County Comm College	\$4,800.00 (4) Bronze Training Packages
Ray's Lawnmower Sales & Service	\$7,776.00

Death Fund

Total Expenses: \$12,880.61

Motion by Mark Coleman of Beaverdale to pay the monthly bills, with a proper 2nd by Bill Lehmann of Richland motion was carried.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Paul Kundrod read the Treasurer's Report. A copy is on file with the Secretary. Motion by Lenny Whiteford of Patton to accept the Treasurer's report as read, and with a proper 2nd by Nick Wuckovich of Conemaugh, motion was carried.

Committee Reports:

Law & Legislative: Steve Unger of Conemaugh reported that there have been 23 State House bills poised to be passed to help the volunteer fire departments on recruitment and retention programs. These bills are designed to help slow down the declining numbers.

Rep. Stephen Barrar R- Delaware the Chairman of the House Veteran Affairs and Emergency Committee has authored legislation that would allow Emergency Responders, including Police Officers and Firefighters to receive workers compensation coverage for Post-traumatic Stress caused by trauma of their service. The Post-traumatic stress legislation was approved unanimously by the House Veterans and Emergency preparedness Committee in September.

Fire School: Jim McCann of Johnstown reported that the 2020 Spring fire school dates will be the first weekend April 3, 4, & 5th. Second weekend April 17, 18, & 19. Third weekend April 24, 25, & 26. The brochure will be out in the mail in the middle of December. Jim ask for members to please let your members know to not wait till the last minute to fill out your applications. The committee will review the number of students that have signed up for each class to make sure there will be enough students in each class. This will let the committee know if they need to cancel any classes and help with the number of lunches needed for those three weekends. There will be five essential classes in different locations, West Hills, Dauntless, Clymer, Cresson, & Patton. Please check the class times and dates some classes will be on weekends while others will be during the week. This was done to make it easier on members that work different shifts. The next fire school meeting will be held on November 3rd.

Fire School Site: John Hawksworth of Dauntless reported that the site has been closed for the winter months. There has been a new set up put in place for car fires and dumpster fires. The site committee has met with the burn building inspection group and have found that the burn building should be inspected every five years by a professional inspector and the directors should be responsible for inspecting it each year in between with a check list provided by the professional group.

Certification: Eric Miller of Johnstown went over the upcoming FF1 and FF2 certification classes that were held at the site and covered what was cancelled due to lack of attendance. Eric also mentioned about the certification workshop that will be held in Lewistown on November 14, 2019.

Web Site: William Cornell of West Hills reported that everything is updated on the web site at this time, and that he has started to post things about the Centennial.

Historical / Centennial: Nick Wuckovich of Conemaugh reported that the centennial committee had met on October 21st and that they have set a date for the Firefighters Banquet for October 9, 2021 at the Pasquerilla Center in Johnstown. Eric Miller and John Hawksworth will be the two committee members putting this event together and reported on what their beginning thoughts happen to be to make this a success. The next thing the committee has was set the date of the Firefighters picnic on June 11, 2022 at the picnic grounds of the St. Michael fire grounds.

Nick had also passed around a photo of the centennial coin that will be made into a challenge coin with a cover and a ribbon. He mentioned that these coins will have to be preordered so it's a must that the fire companies that do not supply the secretary with addresses will need to do so, this will assure the committee that each member has an opportunity to purchase one of these coins. There will be a Time Capsule put at the fire school site that will be opened at either twenty-five years or fifty years from the date put in its place. So each company will be given a small envelope to put into the vault with whatever they wish to put in the capsule it was mention to please consider not putting anything electronically that may not open up on the date it was opened because of electronic upgrades.

Members from Patton Fire Company were in attendance and ask the membership to consider following the same type of criteria that Central District Firemen's Assn. follows, which is they give the host company up to \$500.00 per band up to six bands for the grand convention parade. After a very large discussion member Nick Wuckovich ask how much we as a membership give to the host company. Treasurer Paul Kundrod mentioned that we give the host company \$2,500.00. John Hawksworth of Dauntless made a motion to stay with the by-laws and give no more than has been given in the past with a proper 2nd by Christopher Cox of Gallitzin with a hand vote called for with 26 For and 16 Against, Motion was Carried.

911: Robbin Melnyk gave a radio update, she mentioned that the system requires repairs to keep it up and running until we can get the new radio system up and running with in the next couple years. Each department will be responsible for the purchase of all their radios. Both vendors proposed 800 Mghz system the vendors do not believe that they couldn't remain on the UHF System, but the UHF system can still be used for paging. Robbin stressed that the county system is in very bad shape and that the county commissioners are fully supporting the county volunteer fire companies, EMS, and Police to keep everyone safe.

Robbin also thanked the members of the Dauntless fire company for their help in keeping the 911 center up and running during the incident that happened at the center.

EMA: No Report Given

Fire Advisory Board: Steve Verbosky of Colver reported that the next meeting is scheduled for December.

Resolutions: None for this meeting.

County Convention: Members of Conemaugh reported that things are moving in a good direction.

Delegates Report: Paul Sklodowski of Lilly reported on the Central District meeting was held in East Freedom on October 6, 2019. Paul mention that there were some changes made in the parade rules.

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

Roll Call of Companies: 27 Total Companies Present; Beaverdale, City of Johnstown, Clymer, Colver, Conemaugh, Cover Hill, Cresson, Dauntless, Franklin, Ferndale, Gallitzin, Hastings, Jackson Twp., Lilly, Loretto, Nanty Glo, Nicktown, Oakland, Patton, Revloc, Richland Twp., Scalp Level, 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 December 12th at Johnstown.

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.

President Smith was presented with the votes to change the by-law Article II Officers & Their Elections. With a vote of 33 FOR and 2 AGAINST the new by-law will be put in place immediately. There was a Motion by Nick Wuckovich of Conemaugh to destroy the ballots and with a proper 2nd by Steve Verbosky of Colver the Motion was Carried.

New Business: Members heard from Committee Chairperson Paul Kundrod reporting for Tom Bracken on the association name change and the fire school site name change. Mr. Bracken explained that the committee meet and came up with these proposed name changes, the association name and fire school site name was unanimously approved to be changed by the committee to; **Cambria County Regional Firefighter's Association**, and the name of the fire school site to change to; **Cambria County Regional Public Safety Academy**. Paul explained that he spoke with Attorney Bill Barbin about his interest in helping us with the name change. He explained that Attorney Barbin will be meeting with Tom and himself and is interested in helping the association with seeing that this happens as soon as possible.

A motion from Richard Brown Jr. to move forward with both names to be changed the way they were presented to the association and with a proper 2nd by Joseph D. Burns II the Motion was Carried.

Good of the Order: Christopher Cox presented Past President Joseph D. Burns II with a plaque for his service to the association during his tender as President of the Association.

Next Meeting: Will be held in Johnstown on December 12, 2019. There will be a vote prior to the meeting of the By-Law proposal.

50/50 Amount awarded was \$54.00

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

With a Motion to Adjourn at 8:45 P.M. by Ed Hudak of Beavertdale President Smith deemed the meeting closed.

Respectfully Submitted,

John C. Gromley

Assn. Secretary