

Cambria County Regional Firefighters' Association
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2021

- **Call Meeting to Order** – President Nick Wuckovich called the meeting to order at 19:02 hrs
- **Pledge of Allegiance** – All members present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance led by President Wuckovich. Chaplain Geno Bartoletti then gave the blessing.
- **Meeting recessed for the Meal** – 19:04 hrs
- **Call Meeting Back to Order** – 19:27
- **Speakers** – Coroner Jeff Lees gave an update. With particular attention on the subject of COVID exposure and LODD from COVID, Eric Miller then advised members to carefully document PPE use and other information on reports. This is extremely important for Workers' Comp claims and State and Federal benefits for survivors and beneficiaries. Art Martynuska then gave an update on State LODD benefits & to reiterate process. He also updated on Federal benefits available. His office is available to assist with process. Also reminded members that EMA can assist on Critical Incidents and also on possible LODD's. Coroner Lees then reminded members that the CISM team is available.

David Rykala – Franklin gave a Red Knights update. They are having a drawing for a T-Shirt quilt for fundraising. They are also looking for members. They are also hosting the National Red Knights convention in Johnstown coming up this year.

- **Reading of Last Meeting's Minutes** – Minutes of October 28, 2021 meeting were read.
 - Additions or corrections None.
- **Communications** – From Tom Bracken, email received for the intent by Nanty Glo Fire Department to propose an annual trophy in honor of Skip Cook for the Best Marching Unit. Proposal to be under New Business.
- **Reading of Bills** – Treasurer Paul Kundrod read the bills for the month in the amount of \$9,471.44
 - **Question:** _____
 - **Motion to pay:** _Frank Hribar – St Michael
 - **2nd:** Mike Krug – Keystone Regional
 - **Vote:** Passed with 0 No votes.
- **Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Paul Kundrod:
 - Total Funds in Certificates: \$130,762.59
 - Total Funds in Checking Accounts: \$80,239.60
 - TOTAL FUND BALANCES** as of: 10/28/2021: \$211,002.19
 - **Question:** _____

- **Motion:** Mark Coleman – Beaverdale
- **2nd:** Len Whiteford – Patton
- **Vote:** Passed with 0 No votes
- **Committee Reports:**
 - **Law & Legislative** – Very busy Month - Eric Miller – Johnstown FD gave an update on a number of items – attached for reference.
 - **Fire School** – Jim McCann – 5 Essentials classes set. Registration is electronic – do not wait until last minute as this drives cancellations. HMA, HMO, HMOR, and FA/CPR/AED all are available for anyone wanting them within each of the Essential's classes. You do not have to take the Essentials class to register and take any of these classes. Any future certifications usually require certification in HMA, HMO, and FA/CPR as a prerequisite. These programs give lots of opportunity to take these required classes. 7th Edition Essentials books – required for classes – are available through the Fire School at a reduced price (\$80). John Hawksworth – Dauntless gave an update on retesting – contact him if needed. Fire school brochures will be out. Very important to register in a timely fashion so classes don't get cancelled. Anyone who registers but doesn't attend – if they haven't cancelled prior to deadline, they will be charged. A substitute can attend, but no shows will be charged.
 - **Fire School Site** – Site is closed. Welders came in and welded in the burn building to get some needed repairs done.
 - **Certification** – Testing for next year is posted. Reminders that HMA, HMO, FA/CPR are needed for most certification tests.
- **Other Committee Reports:**
 - **Application Review** – nothing
 - **By-Laws** – John Gromley – Clymer reported on the by-laws voting results. All amendments passed.
 - **Fire Prevention** – John Hawksworth – Dauntless gave a report.
 - **Historical** –The outing in St Michael Park will occur June 11. President Wuckovich then presented Parade plaques. He also presented several President's Awards plaques.
 - **Recruitment & Retention** – Committee had no update. Bob Nies reported on the investigation into Daisytown status. Daisytown Fire Company is 2 years in arrears on Association dues. The Daisytown Borough has decertified them and contracted with Cover Hill for coverage. Work is underway to finalize details concerning funding, etc. Building and Club have largely been abandoned. County 911 has removed them from the CAD system. A vote will be held under Old & Unfinished Business on their membership in the Association
 - **Tuition Assistance** – No report
 - **Website** – No report

- **9-1-1 EMA** – Art Martynuska – Radio system moving along. Problems with 2 tower sites, but expected to be resolved. So far system is within budget. Radios are in but batteries are not in for portables. They will be in by the time the radios are issued. County received an R Cap grant for \$1,000,000.00 for radio system costs. Companies reminded to get your radio numbers in to EMA otherwise you will be issued based on the formula.
Commissioner Chernisky updated on the radio grant. He then gave an update on the upcoming races. Register early for the biggest discount. Each of the races contributes significant money to the Fire School. Hoping to have the marathon as a Boston Marathon qualifier.

- **Fire Advisory** – No report

- **Resolutions** – Chaplain Bartoletti read the Resolutions for 6 members of the Association deceased in the time since the last meeting.

- James Dadey – Lower Yoder
- Edward S. Myers – Keystone Regional
- George Popson – Patton
- David Bridge – Beaverdale
- Robert Domalik – Hastings
- David Wojcik – Hope

He also added Tom Morgan – Greenwood – for everyone to remember. Mr. Morgan was very active in Central District.

- **County Convention** – Skip Grove – Conemaugh – updated that the upcoming convention is progressing and they will be ready.

- **Other Association** – no report

- **Roll Call of Officers** – All present.

- **Roll Call of Companies** – 22 Companies present: Beaverdale, City of Johnstown, Clymer, Colver, Conemaugh, Cover Hill, Creekside, Dauntless, East Taylor, Franklin, Ferndale, Hope, Jackson Twp., Keystone Regional, Middle Taylor, Nanty Glo, Nicktown, Patton, Richland Twp., St. Michael, Summerhill Boro, Upper Yoder Twp.

- **Old and Unfinished Business** – The By-Law vote having been reported, Motion by Mark Coleman – Beaverdale – to accept the election. 2nd by Tony Sestrich – Richland. Motion called to vote and passed with 0 No votes. Motion by Frank Hribar – St Michael to destroy the ballots. 2nd by Larry Penatzer – Summerhill Borough. Motion called to vote and passed with 0 No votes.

In accordance with the By-Laws and having heard the report on Daisytown having been given under Recruitment and Retention, motion by Larry Penatzer – Summerhill Borough to strike Daisytown from the rolls of the Association. 2nd by Byron Bishop – Nanty Glo. Question under the motion by James Bloom – Dauntless concerning payment of their dues and verified they had not. Motion called to vote and passed with 0 No votes.

- **New Business** – Motion by John Gromley – Clymer to approve Tom Bracken’s report on behalf of Nanty Glo Fire Company to sponsor the Skip Cook Best Marching Unit Award.

2nd by Jim McCann – City of Johnstown. Motion called to vote and passed with 0 No Votes. Motion by Mark Coleman – Beaverdale – to approve purchase of 2500 reflective Cambria County Fire School stickers for \$1112.00. Stickers will be given to people completing training at the Fire School. 2nd by Steve Verbosky – Colver. Motion called to vote and passed with 0 No votes.

- **Good of the Association** – January 13th will be an overdose prevention class at St Michael. Any department hosting this training will get \$75 per attendee. Bob Nies will check on the status of Daisytown Relief monies. Skip Grove gave an update of Steve Unger’s condition. Eric Miller gave an update on Chris Cox’s condition – he is in hospice but would appreciate notes or calls. Check for \$175 presented to Fire School from the sale of a final item from the Estate of **Yingling**. Item recently discovered and executrix said to auction and give proceeds to Fire School.
- **Standing Rise for Host Company** – President Wuckovich called for a standing rise for the host Company Jackson Twp. for their hospitality.
- **Next Meeting** – January 27, 2022 – Ebsburg – Dauntless.
- **50/50 Drawing** – \$26 to the Association
- **Adjournment** –
 - **Motion:** Len Whiteford – Patton
 - **2nd:** Greg Schilling – Nanty Glo
 - **Vote:** 0 No Votes
 - **Time:** 20:10

Respectfully submitted,

William K Lehmann, Secretary

Fire / EMS / SR 6 Legislative Planning Session 2020
December 19, 2019

GOVERNOR'S DESK

SR 6 bills passed by the full House and Senate and signed by the Governor:

- SB 146- M. Brooks- Online training for firefighters - Act 106 of 2019

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SR 6 bills passed by the full House of Representatives and sent to the Senate for consideration:

- HB 269- Driscoll- provide an exemption from the Realty Transfer Tax for the surviving spouse/children of a first responder.
 - Referred to Senate Finance Committee
- HB 732- Quinn- provide an exemption from the Realty Transfer Tax for volunteer service providers.
 - Referred to Senate Finance Committee
- HB 1448- Sturla- voter referendum to expand loan assistance
 - Referred to Senate VA&EP Committee
- HB 1758- Ortlay- exempts both volunteer fire and EMS companies from the payment of PSP accident report fee; adds both to municipal police accident reports
 - Referred to Senate Transportation Committee
- HB 1834- Sainato- Extends and expands grant for recruitment and retention
 - Referred to Senate VA&EP Committee
- HB 1838- Causer- Increase funding for EMSOF
 - Referred to Senate VA&EP Committee
- HB 1869- Owlett- Ambulance staffing waiver
 - Referred to Senate VA&EP Committee
- HB 1673- Farry- Volunteer Firefighters Length of Service Award Program
 - Referred to Senate VA&EP Committee
- HB 1773- Struzzi- First responder tuition assistance
 - Referred to Senate VA&EP Committee
- HB 1786- Sainato- First Responder Loan Forgiveness Program
 - Referred to Senate Education Committee

- HB 1816- Schlegel-Culver- Increase Volunteer Loan Assistance Program loan limits
 - Referred to Senate VA&EP Committee
- HB 1839- Brooks- Tax credits for volunteer first responders
 - Referred to Senate VA&EP Committee
- HB 1705- Gabler,M- Title 35/ tax credits for volunteer first responder
 - Referred to Senate VA&EP Committee
- HB 1780- James,R- Title 35/ volunteer fire/EMS companies and the Right-to-Know Law (exempts from RTKL)
 - Referred to Senate State Government Committee
- HB 1459- Schlossberg- establishes a mental wellness and stress management protocol within the PA Department of Health
 - Referred to Senate VA&EP Committee

SR 6 bills not yet passed by the House, but are in a position for final passage:

- HB 1347- Masser- Direct reimbursement of EMS providers
- HB 759- Dush- Fire department reimbursements
- HB 432- Barrar- Amends Workers' Compensation Act re PTSI
- HB 1189- Knowles- First responders and employers tax credit
- HB 376- Owlett- tax credit for equipment

SENATE

Senate Appropriations:

- SB 94- Martin- This legislation would ensure workers' compensation coverage for all active duty Volunteer Firefighters, Fire, Police, officers or directors of a Volunteer Fire Company, and integral members of a volunteer fire company if injured in the performance of their duties.
 - This bill is now in a position to be considered by the full Senate

Senate Education:

- SB 331- Brooks- Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, further providing for firefighter and emergency service training and establishing the Fire Training Fund.
 - This bill is now in the Senate appropriations committee. Once the committee considers the bill for a fiscal review it will be in a position to be considered by the full Senate.

Senate VA&EP:

- SB 908- Regan- Amends Title 35 (Health & Safety), in volunteer firefighters for funds and for audits and providing for fire relief formula study.
 - This bill is now in the Senate appropriations committee. Once the committee considers the bill for a fiscal review it will be in a position to be considered by the full Senate.
- SB 910- Mastroiano- Amends Title 35 (Health & Safety), in grants to fire & EMS companies establishing award of grants, for Grant Program, additional funding, & expiration of authority.
 - This bill is now in the Senate appropriations committee. Once the committee considers the bill for a fiscal review it will be in a position to be considered by the full Senate.

Senate co-sponsorship memos:

- Volunteer Fire Company Reimbursements - Killion
 - Allowing volunteer fire companies to bill for real and reasonable costs incurred when responding to a 911 emergency. Currently, there is no state law that authorizes or prohibits volunteer fire companies from billing for their services. This legislation would specify that an individual who is involved in an emergency, that necessitates a response from a volunteer emergency services organization, shall be liable for the actual and reasonable response costs, when services are rendered.
- Office of the State Fire Commissioner Restructuring - Hutchinson
 - This proposed piece of legislation advances a major goal by restructuring and enhancing the Office of the State Fire Commissioner by:
 - Requiring Senate Confirmation of the State Fire Commissioner
 - Establishing a State Fire Advisory Board
 - Charging the Office of the Fire Commissioner as the lead agency for fire services in the Commonwealth, including Act 13/Alternative Energy Funds