

**Cambria County Regional Firefighters' Association
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
St. Michael Fire Company
December 14, 2023**

- **Call Meeting to Order** – 1st Vice President Jay Jacobson called the meeting to order at 1900 hrs
- **Pledge of Allegiance** – All members present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Jacobson. Paul Sklodowski then gave the blessing.
- **Guest Speaker** – Keith Rager, Cambria County Commissioner-elect then spoke briefly to the group and said he would be available in the Courthouse beginning January.
- **Reading of Last Meeting's Minutes** – Minutes of October 26, 2023 meeting at Nanty Glo were read.
 - Additions or corrections - none.
 - 1st VP Jacobson then declared minutes to stand as read.
- **Communications** –
 - Dues letter sent to Mahaffey.
 - Letter from Jim Boring concerning Tom Miller fundraising to aid his family during his medical treatments was read.
- **Reading of Bills** – Treasurer Paul Kundrod read the bills for the month in the amount of \$3,593.15
 - **Motion to approve:** Mark Coleman, Beaverdale
 - **2nd:** Charles Woodley, Hope
 - **Question:** Called
 - **Vote:** Passed
- **Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Paul Kundrod:
 - Total Funds in Certificates: \$166,174.45
 - Total Funds in Checking Accounts: \$75,465.80
 - TOTAL FUND BALANCES** as of: 12/14/2023:

\$241,640.25

- **Motion:** Larry Penatzer, Summerhill Borough
- **2nd:** Joel Offman, Portage
- **Question:** Called
- **Vote:** Passed

Treasurer Paul Kundrod read the letter from the Commissioners awarding \$100,000.00 to the The Association to be used for stationary diesel pump and breathing air compressor.

- **Committee Reports:**

- **Law & Legislative** – Eris Miller, Johnstown
 - All reset – Legislature done for the year.
 - SB 501 for the counties to establish Authorities to fund fire and EMS will be reintroduced and renumbered in new session.
 - 911 surcharge extension was approved.
 - Legislation to correct State pension system not allowing retire state employees to instruct will be reintroduced.
- **Fire School** – William Cornell, West Hills Regional
 - Essentials Registrations open, will be closing soon.
 - Fire School poster is out.
 - Leadership Development program set.
 - Paul Kundrod read the sessions.
 - Jan 22 start. Same as last year, 1st session is how to navigate LMS.
- **Fire School Site** – Tony Sestrich – Richland Twp.
 - Meeting Nov 1st
 - New chairs donated by Red Cross
 - Colver's engine is ready to go for scrap. Needs to come off insurance.
 - ServPro looking at donating labor to paint at Fire School. We may have to buy the paint.
- **Certification** – Bill Cornell
 - Had the November meeting at PS SFA
 - New Scantrons – applicants must have their FEMA ID #.
 - Retests – John Hawksworth – Dauntless
 - State dates posted. Jan 22, Roaring Spring, Jan 23, Barnesboro (Hope).

- **Application Review** – 1st VP Jacobson for Joe Adams
 - 5 Departments reviewed and applications found satisfactory.
 - Black Lick Volunteer Fire Company
 - New Florence Volunteer Fire Company
 - Fairfield Twp Volunteer Fire Company
 - Conemaugh Twp (610) Fire Company

- **By-Laws** – Steve Verbosky reported voting concluded tonight. Results under Old Business.

- **Fire Prevention** – John Hawksworth
 - Still posting prevention activities on FB

- **Historical** – No Report

- **Recruitment & Retention** – No Report

- **Tuition Assistance** – No Report

- **Website** – Lianna Weir – East Taylor
 - New vendors reviewed
 - First Arriving has provided several options and seems to be the best fit for the organization. Almost no down time. Will work to get everything set up the way we need.
 - \$3,145.00 for set up with features we want
 - \$1,548.00 yearly hosting
 - Motion by Eric Miller to go with First Arriving at above rates.
 - 2nd by Rich Brown, Jr.
 - Question called
 - Vote – passed.

- **9-1-1 EMA** – Eric Miller for Art Martynuska
 - Coordinates expire after 60 minutes. Locators on MDT's will be reset after 60 minutes. If a unit loses coverage, the last coordinates are held for 60 minutes. At 60 minutes, if coverage hasn't been restored, units are reset back to their station.
 - Don't forget to mark out-of-service to prevent locator from picking your unit up for a run out of area.

- **Box 11** – Paul Kundrod for Jim McCann
 - Had a fundraiser letter that raised \$3500.00
 - Balance \$6044.88
 - 5 calls in October. 6 calls in November, 31 YTD.

- **Fire Advisory** – Steve Verbosky
 - Meeting was Tuesday 12th of December
 - Base radios “at a later date”. According to Motorola, supply issues.

- **County Convention** – No Report

- **Other Association** – No Report

- **Fundraising** – Lianna Weir
 - Looking for sponsorships for Fire School, suggesting sending letter to same group as Box 11 letter.
 - Motion by Michael Hawksworth – Altoona FD
 - 2nd by Paul Sklodowski – Keystone Reg.

- **Membership** – Nick Wuckovich – Conemaugh
 - 104 members lost after extensive review and checking for addresses, contact info, and reaching out.
 - All current Departments have paid dues. *Note – Mahaffey accepted and sent letter, but hasn’t sent their initiation dues yet.*

- **Awards** – No Report

- **Credentials** – No Report

- **Insurance** – No Report

- **Rules & Convention Contests & Parades** – No Report

- **Tower Planning** – Tony Sestrich
 - Meeting was Nov 1.
 - Reskin and repairs to standpipe \$35,000.00.
 - Price on Compressor shed \$57,000.00.
 - Cylinders are done, awaiting refill at Kaza.

- Waiting on additional grant to fund above items.
- **Runs & Marathon Fundraisers** – Tom Chernisky
 - Runs on July 6, 2024 – 10th anniversary. Registrations open at reduced rate.
 - Ghost Town Trail Marathon – 1st Saturday in October. Raised \$16,934.65 for the Association/Fire School
 - Check presentations from marathon January 26th at Nulton Aviation, Murtha – Cambria County Airport. 12:05 PM.
- **Resolutions** – Paul Sklodowski
 - Read the name of Douglas Clark, Lower Yoder FD.
 - All members stood in silence for 1 minute in memory of their departed brother.
- **Roll Call of Officers** –
 - Present: 1st VP Jacobson, Treasurer Kundrod, Sec't Lehmann, Ass't Treasurer Bodenschatz.
 - Pres. Gromley – sick, 2nd VP Petrisko and Ass't Sec't Gromley – work
- **Roll Call of Companies** – 31 Companies
 - Altoona, Beaverdale, City of Johnstown, Colver, Commodore, Conemaugh, Cover Hill, Dale, Dauntless, Dunlo, East Taylor, Ferndale, Hastings, Hope, Jackson, Twp., Keystone, regional, Middle Taylor, Nanty Glo, Patton, Portage, Richland Twp., Scalp Level – Paint, South Fork, Southmont, Spangler, St. Michael, Summerhill Borough, Upper Yoder Twp., Vintondale, West Hills regional, West Taylor.
- **Old and Unfinished Business** –
 - Vote on the By-Law amendment:
 - 37 Yes
 - 0 No
 - Amendment passed to create Membership Secretary, duties, stipend, and section changes needed.
 - Motion by Rich Brown, Jr. to destroy ballots
 - 2nd by Mark Coleman

- Question called
 - Motion passed.
- Ladies Meetup – February 24, noon – East Taylor. Covered dish or bring non-alcoholic refreshments.
- **New Business** –
 - New Department members proposed:
 - Conemaugh Twp – Somerset Co
 - Fairfield Twp
 - New Florence
 - Blacklick Fire Co
 - Motion to accept the new Department members by Mark Coleman, Beaverdale
 - 2nd by Rich Brown, Jr., Nanty Glo
 - Question called – there was discussion of who the 5th company was. *According to Joe Adams, Alexandria that was discussed under the questions is already a member of the Association. Confirmed via email after the meeting.*
 - Passed
- **Good of the Association** – 1st VP Jacobson for President Gromley
 - Appointing Box 11 Committee:
 - Jim McCann, Jeff Weir, Lianna Weir, Bryant Green
- **Standing Rise for Host Company** – 1st VP Jacobson called for a standing rise for St. Michael hosting the meeting and providing refreshments.
- **Next Meeting** – Dauntless, January 25, 2024
- **50/50 Drawing** – \$93.00
- **Adjournment** –
 - **Motion:** Steve Verbosky
 - **2nd:** Joel Offman
 - **Vote:** Passed
 - **Time:** 20:35 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

William K Lehmann, Secretary