

Franklin Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, September 18, 2023, call to order: 1900

Attendance: In Person: Mark Nall, Richard Dvorak, Brian Reynolds, George Hagar, Diane Carboni, Alison Dvorak, Patricia Hayward-Paige, Laura Burke, Tony Russell, Connor Tuttle, Nick Allard, Danitza Nall, James Dart (Explorer), Jennifer Farrelly (Probationary), Selectman Tom Craney (Guest); Offered via Google Meet: Shannon Peppin, Dave Wheeler, Jodie Hanks, Jeremy Beiseigel, Theresa Jones (Probationary), Lilly Luurtsema (Explorer). Pizza was offered during the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes from August 2023: Mark makes motion to approve minutes, Brian seconds, all approve. (16)

Treasurer Report: Shannon Peppin arrived to Google meet 5 minutes in to meeting, report provided out of order. Details will be posted with minutes. Provided update that the \$74.70 balance for Assistant Deputy Chief's phone was paid on 8/28/23, no remaining balance. Mud Run resulted in \$20 profit and still purchased many supplies for future use in the kitchen. Danitza asked about MT bank letter on potential security breach, but Treasurer noted that this did not impact Fire Department accounts. Diane asked about payment to Camaro Signs from Pancake Breakfast signs, Shannon will investigate invoice. Motion to approve by Richard, second by Mark, all approve (16)

Chief Report: Mark Nall provided report.

- 21 calls: 17 EMS, 3 Fire, 1 Mutual Aid.
- SCBA due for calibration/certification, may need a volunteer to be at station during this process.
- Fit testing is being done this week. See Brian to get yours completed.
- New London County Chiefs Meeting notes that a Firefighter Mass will be held 9/30; Decon procedures suggested in Standard Operating Guidelines; Gear needs to be washed whenever soiled and at least 2 times per year.
- The banned foam has been removed from the station thanks to Brian Reynolds. 13 X 5-gallon drums were removed. Remaining tanks need to be cleaned, working on a plan but anything remaining on vehicles has been made inaccessible. Long term, this needs to be removed and will be a town budget expense.
- Good work on recent smoky electrical fire rescue of disabled person.
- Live Fire Training will be held Sunday 9/24. This is usually classroom followed by hands on.

Deputy Chief Report: position vacant

Assistant Deputy Chief Report: Gaynelle Crofts absent, texted that there was no report to provide.

Captain: Byron Crofts absent, no report

Lieutenant: Brian Reynolds provided report.

- Windham County Chiefs meeting notes working on dispatch updates, requested radios for vehicles that will work with these updates. They will be testing a new radio system. Next meeting will be in November.
- 125 has a new VHF radio installed so can speak to mutual aid departments. Tony added that you can still communicate with Norwich via simulcast and Tac I
- "Seeks" are available to use for investigation, especially smoky areas.
- FIT testing this week.
- All VHF radios have Fire Red and Fire Blue access.

Rescue Lt: Braydon Crofts absent, no report.

Chief Engineer: George Hagar provided report "nothing new".

IT and Admin: Danitza Nall provided report.

- Completed routine IT updates and distributed voicemail/email messages

- Sent July & August Crew Rewards reports with questions and re-ran the same reports based on responses from Asst. Chief; now, waiting for final questions and approvals before running September's report.
- Scheduled a 9/18 ESO training to complete the rewards report

Old Business:

- Chief noted that the dispatch center plans continue forward with ongoing revisions.
- President Dvorak brought forth the previously proposed and posted By-Law change for member vote. **Article 9, Subsection 4:** "The Assistant Chief must be certified in at least Firefighter 2, Hazardous Material Operations, CPR, and ICS 100, 200, 700 and 800. During term in office the Assistant Chief must obtain qualifications to drive/operate all department apparatus, excluding special operation vehicle. Assistant Chief must be an active member for 4 consecutive years in the department." Motion to approve by Brian, second by Tony, 14 Yes, 1 No, Secretary abstains, Motion passes.

New Business: none

Good of the Order:

- Guest Selectman Tom Craney addressed the membership regarding a recent conversation about the Selectmen's support of the Fire Dept. He emphasized that the town does support the Fire Dept and feels that this an important part of our Town. Mr Craney is a volunteer member of the Yantic Department due to personal history.
- Chief Nall noted some items of ongoing discussion and concern for the department and town relationship. These included: payment of bills, new apparatus, pension, tax abatement, computer access, phones in the station, acknowledgement of cancerous foam exposure, hall repairs, bathroom floor tiles, well water
- Additional discussion regarding the town's facility manager, mutual aid agreements, positive results in new member recruitment, call volume and more.

Membership: Connor Tuttle is now 18; therefore, a full member. Delaney Crofts has resigned from full member status and will continue as a social member only.

Committees:

- Media/Marketing Committee – Alison provided report, Committee will meet after meeting tonight. Quarterly Coffee Cookie and Questions event will be held Wednesday 9/20 at 6 pm. Fire Prevention Week 10/8-10/14, Community CPR Monday 10/2 6-8pm
- Uniform Committee- Jodie present. No report.
- Truck and Funding- Jeremy present. No report.
- Fundraising- Jodie reiterated notes on Mud Run. Alison updated craft fair going well, open to new vendors.
- By-laws- Bethanie absent, no report.
- Hall- Jim Crofts absent, no report. Diane noted that the repairs to the wall and floor coving need to be completed. Several weddings are scheduled. DCF will use Hall for an indoor picnic on Saturday but they do not need any assistance from the department.

Correspondence:

- Certificate and letter thanking for mutual aid response to RI forest fire.
- Thank you from Drumond family for being a part of the Lebanon FF funeral.

Chief provided poignant reflections on September 11th, those that were lost, those that helped and how all our lives were changed forever.

Meeting adjourned at 2007 by President Dvorak; Respectfully submitted, Alison Dvorak, Secretary

Next meeting will be Monday, October 16, 2023, google meet option: <https://meet.google.com/ned-ucku-ssk>