

Oneida County Firefighters Association

Business Meeting Minutes

April 5th, 2008

Meeting was held at the American Red Cross Office

Departments Represented: Pelican, Pine Lake, Crescent, Newbold, Little Rice

Minutes from last meeting: Minutes were read and a motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as read.

Financial Report: Beginning balance for checking was \$2702.94

Expenses: \$4492.85

Income \$2159.00

Ending balance for checking as of 4/22/08 is \$369.09

No activity in the savings account. Balance is \$301.84

Old Business: The expenses to Roberts Repair were for the tune-up on the Tow Vehicle. It was in need of a PM Service, and also had the plug for the safety house powered so the center stand on the trailer will work once it is plugged in to the truck. Trailer hitch should be in any day now. As soon as it comes in, Monty will switch them out. It was brought up that the Safety house is not being cared for properly, and we are going to be initiating an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between the Association, and all Departments that use it. This will be brought up at the Chief's meeting in May, and will be signed and a copy made as well. Terry Williams, Dave Hollands, & Brian Gehrig are all in favor of this, and Terry was instrumental in helping Monty with the details. The check list will be the Department using its responsibility to fill out before and after, if not when someone else uses it, and it is damaged, the last department that used it will be responsible to pay the damages.

Monty tried to finish the striping on the tow vehicle, but they were having a rummage sale on the day he tried to get it, so he will try another time in the next couple of weeks.

The banquet was a success, all had a great time, other than a little lower attendance than last year, and no complaints were heard at all. Monty wants to have it the same time every year, maybe it will be easier to remember if it's on the same weekend. So we are going to try for the 1st Saturday in April every year. Monty will get the invites out earlier next year. He said he was sorry for not getting them out earlier this year, and understood if that's why we had the lower turn out. Totals for the Banquet are as follows:

Total income from ticket sales	\$1841.00
Total expenses	\$2523.92
Loss of	\$722.92
<u>Donation from Ron Millard (50/50 raffle)</u>	<u>\$40.00</u>
Total loss of:	\$682.92

There was a 17% gratuity added to the bill so the difference from last year was about the same once you deduct the \$254.00 tip.

New Business: Monty filled out a Grant form from Wal-Mart requesting money to fund the maintenance on the safety house and tow vehicle. As well as asked Wausau Papers, and working on the paperwork for the United Way.

Monty would like to get a representative from each department to be the liaison from their departments. If a person cannot attend, then Monty can email them the minutes so they may be brought up at their Departments business meetings. It was mentioned that a few department Chief's were not relaying info from the Association to the members on their departments.

FM Global contacted Monty asking some more info on the grant to upgrade the Safety House. They wanted to know what exactly did the \$5300.00 paid for, and if they gave us the money, who do they make the check out to. So hopefully that is a good sign.

Monty stated that he has been trying to get some money from different places that offer grants. Wal-Mart, and the Wausau Papers were standard letters, but others like, The United Way, have 9 requirements that MUST be fulfilled in order to receive money from them. And the National Weather Service needs to have a D.U.N.S. number, plus you need to register that number on another website, in order to get to the application process. But he is doing what he can when he has time.

In order to comply with the United Way we need to adopt a Code of Ethics, and a Non Discrimination Policy. Two samples were passed around and Wayne Stevens from Newbold suggested that if the policies were in a plural tone instead of a first person that he would make the motion to accept them as typed. Motion was seconded by Pine Lake and motion carried.

The Code of Ethics and the Non discrimination policy are as follows:

Non Discrimination Policy

The Oneida County Firefighters Association does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, sexual orientation or age in its programs, activities or in its hiring and employment practices.

Code of Ethics

As members of the Oneida County Firefighters Association, our fundamental duty is to serve humanity; to safeguard and preserve life and property against the elements of fire and disaster; and maintain a proficiency in the art and science of fire engineering.

We will uphold the standards of our profession, continually search for new and improved methods and share our knowledge and skills with our contemporaries and descendants.

We will never allow personal feelings, nor danger to self, deter us from our responsibilities as firefighters.

We will at all times, respect the property and rights of all men and women, the laws of our communities and our country, and the chosen way of life of our fellow citizens.

We recognize the badge of our office as a symbol of public faith, and we accept it as a public trust to be held so long as we are true to the ethics of the fire service. We will constantly strive to achieve the objectives and ideals, dedicating ourselves to our chosen profession--saving of life, fire prevention and fire suppression.

As members of the Oneida County Firefighters Association, we accept this self-imposed and self-enforced obligation as our responsibility."

Monty will get them into the Bylaws ASAP. And then finish up the application for the United Way by May 1st.

Last Monday the tow vehicle sprung a leak while it was pulling the Red Cross disaster trailer to the Middle School. It is at Roberts repair now, and Kevin Roberts told Monty because of our limited funds right now, that if Monty would help him on a Saturday, that he would not charge any labor to fix the leak.

The website is up and running please if you get a chance check it out. Anybody with a suggestion or comment on it, feel free to contact Monty the address is: www.ocfawis.org

Mark Damrou from the American Red Cross office in Stevens Point said we could have our meeting there all the time if we wished. The discussion was it would be nice to have it in the same spot centrally located for all. This way we always know where the meetings are. Monty said he will send out a letter to all departments letting them know the changes to help promote more people at the meetings. If we decide to have it someplace else, that will be decided at another meeting, but for now all were in agreement to keep it at the Red Cross office in downtown Rhinelander M&I building in Rhinelander.

Bill Meyer offered to head up the Honor Guard again. Everyone thinks it's still a great idea, just lacked leadership in the past to keep it going. Monty thought that the idea to have the Honor Guard to do competitions, as well as LODD events, and also the 4th of July parade etc. Bill will now head it up, and keep all informed on what's going on at each meeting.

There was discussion about doing Brat sales. Pine Lake mentioned they wanted to do a Brat sale and give all the proceeds to the Association. Monty said brat sales would be a great idea to raise some money to help pay for things on the Association. If we wanted to the Jaycees would let us use their brat trailer. We would just have to contact Eric Vaughan and get the OK.

Brian Gerhig and Dave Hollands are going to be driving the Safety House in the 4th of July parade this year.

Monty is going to give the smoke alarms to the Hospital in town in conjunction with Rhinelander Fire department to get some media exposure. He will report on this at the July meeting.

Tom White from Pelican is willing to take the safety house around to functions in the area to help promote the Association.

No scholarship applications have been received for this year. So we will try again next year and see what happens. Will also give to fire departments and maybe the college as well to try and get a better response.

There was a correction made to the minutes from the January meeting. Wayne Stevens was part of the unanimous ballot cast to retain his position as Sgt. @ Arms.

The next meeting will be at the American Red Cross office in Rhinelander at 7:00 p.m. on July 22, 2008.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Monty Timm
President, Oneida County Firefighters Association