

Minutes of Hampshire County Fire Defense Association Meeting

2/27/14 Easthampton Public Safety Complex

Meeting was called to order @ 6:09 PM by President Hewes with 9 members in attendance. In attendance were: Chesterfield, Easthampton, Ware, Northampton (DC Nicols), Cummington, Belchertown, Granby, Huntington and Amherst.

Minutes of last meeting: Minutes of previous meeting, Motion was made and 2nd to accept. Vote was unanimous

Treasury Report: Regular Checking- \$44,259.05, Haz Mat- no balance available from the COG. Discussed our need to have direct access to this account. Motion was made and 2nd to accept. Vote was unanimous.

At this time the president suspended the normal order of business and introduced our 2 guests, Haley Dunn from WMELCO and Alex McCurdy from FDSS. Hayley spoke on upcoming training they are providing as well as the annual public safety officials meeting. Alex spoke on the services they provide, pump operator training and pump testing.

Old Business: Update on 501 3 C status. The IRS has rejected our application due to the number of years this organization has been in existence. Discussed incorporating under a different name with the help of an attorney. Chief Columbe is going to research our options and report back to the membership.

We need to meet with the COG to discuss tower money and hazmat money. No moneys have come to us or HCEMS in 2 years. Chief Hewes to set up meeting

Reports of Committees:

Radio: WMLEC portable batteries need to be replaced, are we responsible for that cost. Chief Norris will send a letter to WMFCA seeking clarification.

Training: Cal/Volunteer Firefighter I/II class in July. We need to get seats filled.

We need to track attendance at our training classes.

Also do we need to pay instructors to teach ICS 100 & 700 classes that are available on line for free? Discussed and approved the creation of a slip that instructors must submit for payment. Slip will include number of students' not just towns.

Discussed idea of doing our own 2 day company officer training. With upcoming MFA classes in the area it was discussed to have day 1 be the Billy Goldfeder training at STCC and day 2 could be a review of DFS & Local resources available. Future classes to include PTSD/CISM awareness training. Motion made and 2nd to pay for the lunch assessments for the first 15 students to sign up and notify Chief Hewes they are going. Vote was unanimous.

Chief Duggan has a friend that is willing to teach a class on tactics & strategy. He will report back with the specifics.

DC Nicols briefed on MFA class for Haz Mat. The paperwork was lost and they are going to reschedule. We will be going with the 8 hour FRO refresher.

EMS: No report

Mutual Aid: Chief Columbe updated the group on ambulance task force at tender/tanker task force changes. He is awaiting clarification on the forestry and disaster task force before updating them.

By-Law: Changes that were proposed were voted on. Motion was made and 2nd, vote was unanimous.

Hazmat: No report

Air Truck: No report

Fit Test: Currently in Hatfield. Chief Mottor will set up operator training for departments that need more people trained.

FCAM: Professional Development was very good this year. Good showing from Western Mass. Chief Mottor reminded the members that if you plan on seeking membership to any committee one of the first things they look at is attendance at meetings. Due to FCAM meetings being mainly day meeting that will look at regional participation also.

MCVFA: No report

Tech Rescue: No report

WMFCA: Discussed the community paramedic program and its potential impact on the fire service.

Chief Columbe brought up a problem with Commerce Insurance withholding insurance payments until they complete investigations on MVC's.

SAFE Trailer: In storage

New Business: CFSI is fast approaching. No one has submitted names so far so a motion was made and 2nd to send Chief Columbe and Chief William Barcomb. Vote was unanimous.

Motion was made and second to submit Chief Norris and Chief Nelson to FCAM to serve as our representatives to the FCAM EMS Committee. Chief Bak was unaware he had been selected to serve previously. Vote was unanimous.

Discussed adding Westover as a member of the organization. It was decided they would be treated the same as DFS and DCR and we will start sending meeting notices to them.

Motion was made and 2nd to admit WMECO as an associate member. Vote was unanimous.

District Attorney David Sullivan is looking at ways to keep the No Fires program funded and running. One of the suggestions is a per town assessment. Chief Columbe is going to set up a meeting with Sen. Brewer to see if we can get earmarks from the state.

Good & Welfare: Motion was made and 2nd to send a \$50 donation to Fisher House in Amherst in memory of Chief Morrissette's sister who recently passed. Vote was unanimous.

Date & Location of next meeting: South Hadley D#1, location to be announced

Meeting adjourned @ 8:44

Respectively Submitted,

David Mottor

Interim Secretary