

Kent Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes DRAFT

July, 06, 2020 1900 hours

Shelter-in-Place Zoom Meeting

Chair: Caralee Rochovansky, President

Secretary Pro Tem: Caralee Rochovansky

In Attendance:

Executive Committee Members: John Christen, Louie Dingee, Sean Dingee, Bonnie Donzella, Eric Epstein, Alan Gawel, Gary Hock, Tim Limbos, Ed Matson, Mike Petrone, Caralee Rochovansky, Jill Scholsohn, Jean Speck, and MaryAnn VanValkenburg

Auxiliary: None

General Public: None

Quorum achieved at 1915 hours

Meeting called to order at 1915 hours.

Minutes: Bonnie D. made a **motion** to accept June 1st minutes. Seconded by Gary H. Discussion - none.

Voting Yes: Sean D., Bonnie D., Eric E., Alan G., Gary H., Tim L. Ed M., Mike P. Caralee R., Jill S., Jean S., and MaryAnn V.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Bonnie D. made a **motion** to accept the June 6th special meeting minutes. Seconded by Mary Ann V.

Voting Yes: Sean D., Bonnie D., Eric E., Alan G., Gary H., Tim L. Ed M., Mike P. Caralee R., Jill S., Jean S., and MaryAnn V.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Public Comment: Eric E. reported on the recent Zoning meeting at which High Watch Farm noted changes to their plans and wondered if the department had been given the opportunity to sign off on the proposed changes. Chief Ed M. reported he had been in contact with High Watch and was shown the changes and felt they would not alter our opinion of the overall plans.

Correspondence: Gary H. reported that he had received a thank you note, donation check and a case of wine from the owner of the Geer Mountain Road home with the June 15th chimney fire. Gary stated that if anyone wanted any of the wine to please contact him as it can't be left at the firehouse.

Membership: none

Old Business:

Election of Secretary - Bonnie nominated John Russell for Secretary. No additional nominations from the floor.

Voting Yea - Sean D., Bonnie D., Eric E., Alan G., Gary H., Tim L. Ed M., Mike P. Caralee R., Jill S., Jean S., and MaryAnn V.

Voting Nay - none

John Russell was elected Secretary in absentia and the President will notify him of his new position.

Election of Captain: Bonnie nominated John Russell for Captain. No additional nominations from the floor.

Voting Yea - Sean D., Bonnie D., Eric E., Alan G., Gary H., Tim L. Ed M., Caralee R., Jill S., Jean S., and MaryAnn V.

Voting Nay - Mike P.

John Russell was elected Captain in absentia and the President will notify him of his new position.

The Lieutenant vacancy created by John R.s move to Captain will be voted upon at the next monthly meeting.

Ambulance 2: The disposition of the Out of Service Ambulance 2 was discussed at length. Discussion centered on the need of a second ambulance but not wanting to spend any more money on the current Ambulance 2.

Mike P. made a **motion** to sell Ambulance 2. Seconded by Sean D. Lengthy Discussion.

Voting Yea - John C., Sean D., Gary H., Tim L. Ed M., Caralee R.

Voting Nay - Eric E., Alan G., Mike P., MaryAnn V.

Abstentions: Bonnie D., Jill S., Jean S.

Motion Carried.

Pricing on Ambulance Rentals will be explored and brought to the July EC meeting.

Debit Card Account Policy: Lengthy Discussion. Eric made a **motion** to approve the debit card policy with cards to be issued to the President, Treasurer, Ambulance Chief and Chief. Seconded by Gary H. Lengthy discussion

Voting Yea: John C., Sean D., Bonnie D., Eric E., Alan G., Gary H., Tim L. Ed M., Caralee R., Jill S., and MaryAnn V.

Voting Nay: Mike P., Jean S.

Motion Carried.

Truck Replacement Committee: Caralee R. reported the new committee members are: Chair - Gary H., Tim L. and John C.

Golf Tournament: Although not present, Scott H. has reported that the department is going forward with the Golf Tournament and it is scheduled for Monday, September 14, 2020.

Facilities Director Position:

The Facilities Director position was discussed and the President will bring the proposed change of 1 to 3 positions to the Executive Committee's July meeting.

New Business:

Hybrid meetings - Tim L. reported the policy committee is working on a safety/hygiene Covid Policy for resuming meetings at the firehouse for those wishing to attend in person and a hybrid video method for those who can not or do not wish to yet resume meetings at the firehouse. The committee will have a draft ready for the executive committee meeting this month.

Stipends - Chief Ed M. reported he was interested in adding lift assist firefighters to the stipend as well as perhaps incorporating the stipends into a fireman recruitment package as he looks into recruiting residents to drive fire trucks. Lengthy discussion.

Ambulance Roster Sign-up - Chief Ed M. reported he wanted a weekly roster of the ambulance sign-up. Contentious discussion ensued where both the Ambulance Chief and the Asst. Ambulance Chief explained that the roster is fluid and always changing but that he could visit Image Trend at any point in time and see who is signed up for which shifts, noting that occasionally people book off sick or can't get back into town by the beginning of their shift and others then cover for them.

Chief's Report: Chief Ed M. reported on Warren's water rescue program, air pack inspection with Audra P., that Mat S. resigned as boat committee chair, and about discussions with Kent School about the low water pressure alarms.

Line Officers:

Asst. Chief: Gary H. reported there were 16 calls last month.

Asst. Chief: Tim L. recently held online training

Asst. Ambulance Chief - Bonnie D. reported on the social success of the Birthday Express, bringing happiness to children that are house-bound by the Covid-19 pandemic having done 18 birthday drive-bys. Bonnie thanks the following members who stepped up and drove the fire trucks and ambulances: John Christen, Brian D'Orio, Lou Dingee, Sean Dingee, Jordan Donzella, Will Gawe, Sherm Green, Alex Limbos, John Russell, Jill Scholsohn, Tim Sneller, Alexis Swagemaker, and Eddie Tuz. Bonnie D. also reported that the final parade through town was a success as well.

Ambulance Chief - Mary Ann V. reported there were 34 ambulance calls last month. Mary Ann V. made a motion to spend up to \$700 for up to two people to attend the Image Trend Connect Conference later this month. Seconded by Bonnie D. Discussion noted the Records Clerk should be added to that list for training. So Mary Ann V. amended her **motion** to spend up to \$1,050 for up to three people to attend the Image Trend Connect Conference later this month. Amended motion Seconded by Bonnie D.

Voting Yea: John C., Sean D., Bonnie D., Eric E., Alan G., Caralee R., Jill S., MaryAnn V.

Voting Nay - Ed M.

Abstentions: Gary H., Tim L., Jean S.

Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer read unpaid bills, recurring bills and bills paid after last meeting. Tim L. made a **motion** to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the bills as read. Seconded by Mike P. Discussion.

Voting Yea: Sean D., Bonnie D., Eric E., Alan G., Gary H., Tim L. Ed M., Mike P., Caralee R., Jill S., and MaryAnn V.

Voting Nay: none Abstentions: Jean S.

Motion Carried

Caralee R. made a **motion** to have the Treasurer move money from Donations account to operating account, as needed.

Seconded by Mike P. Discussion.

Voting Yea: Sean D., Eric E., Alan G., Gary H., Tim L., Ed M., Mike P., Caralee R., Jill S., MaryAnn V.

Voting Nay - none

Abstentions: Bonnie D., Jean S.

Motion Carried.

Appointed Position Reports:

LCD Director: Eric E. reported on Litchfield County Dispatch. See Attached.

Communications: Alan G. reported on the First Net tower letter.

Eric E. made a **motion** to send a letter of support to be read at the Ct. Siting Council for the public hearing.

Seconded by Caralee R. Discussion.

Voting Yea: Sean D., Bonnie D., Eric E., Alan G., Gary H., Tim L., Ed M., Mike P., Caralee R., Jill S., Jean S., MaryAnn V.

Voting Nay - none

Abstentions: none

Motion Carried Unanimously.

The President will write the letter.

Committee Reports:

Boat Committee: Caralee R. reported on the boat committee's progress and reported that following Mat's resignation from the chair position, she has taken over the chair position. Caralee R. also reported she had asked John Russell to join the committee and he agreed. The committee's next meeting will be on Saturday, July 11th, 8 pm.

Staffing Committee: Mary Ann V. reported on the recent review of staffing agencies.

Warnings:

Up to \$1,125 for 3 members to attend Vector Rescue's Arborist Rescue Course

Quick Clot and Tourniquets

Boat

Ambulance Rental

Meeting adjourned at 2239 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,

Caralee Rochovansky,

Secretary, Pro Tempore,

President,

Kent Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

These are draft minutes and corrections may be made by the Kent Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. membership at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to subsequent meeting minutes for possible corrections and approval of these minutes.