

KVFD June 6, 2022 membership meeting minutes

present in the firehouse: John Russell, Alexis Swagemaker, Bonnie Donzella, Jean Speck, Alan Gawel, Matt Starr, Jeffrey Rojas, Laurence Schenk, Mary Ann Van Valkenburg, Anne McAndrew, Eric Epstein, Sean Dingee, John Christen. Present on Zoom: Cathe Mazza, Gary Hock, Aurora Aviles, Jill Scholsohn, Tim Limbos.

Call to order @ 19:03

The department observed a moment of silence in memory of Susie Rundall and Brad Smith.

Pledge of Allegiance

A motion was made by Mary Ann Van Valkenburg, seconded by Jean Speck, to add Constitution/By-Law and policy changes to the (agenda) end of new business. Voting yes: Cathe Mazza, Jill Scholsohn, Jean Speck, Bonnie Donzella, Jeff Rojas, Laurence Schenk, Mary Ann Van Valkenburg, Eric Epstein, Alan Gawel, Ed Matson. Voting no: no one. No abstentions. Motion carries.

Public/member comment: none.

Treasurer's Report

a. members have caught up on their dues-thank you.

b. recurring bills were read. **A motion was made by Ed Matson, seconded by Matt Starr, to pay the recurring bills as read.** Voting yes: Cathe Mazza, Gary Hock, Jill Scholsohn, Jean Speck, Bonnie Donzella, Jeff Rojas, Laurence Schenk, Mary Ann Van Valkenburg, John Christen, Alan Gawel, Sean Dingee, Ed Matson, Alexis Swagemaker, Eric Epstein, Matt Starr. Voting no: no one. No abstentions. Motion carries.

c. there was discussion about donations and accounting.

d. Unpaid bills were read. **A motion was made by Ed Matson, seconded by Alexis Swagemaker, to pay the unpaid bills.** Voting yes: Cathe Mazza, Gary Hock, Jill Scholsohn, Bonnie Donzella, Jeff Rojas, Laurence Schenk, Mary Ann Van Valkenburg, John Christen, Alan Gawel, Sean Dingee, Ed Matson, Alexis Swagemaker, Matt Starr, Eric Epstein. Voting no: no one. Abstentions: Jean Speck.

e. the bookkeeper's salary is being evaluated.

f. Our form 990 will be submitted soon to the IRS.

Firemen's Ball

Anne McAndrew said thanks for all the help so far. We have about 325 tickets sold and are hoping for 400. There are great raffle prizes. Sign ups for jobs will be sent out again soon. Mary Ann Van Valkenburg said that the Grand March will be honoring Bob Bauer and Leslie Connery who are both tentatively planning to attend the Ball. Practice for the Grand March will be Friday evening.

Alexis Swagemaker introduced her guest: a representative from one of our vendors, MES company who supplies uniforms.

Correspondence

The secretary read several letters about Brad Smith and Sam Matson. Sherm Green has written and asked to become a veteran member. There will be an antique auto show on June 26th at CAMA.

Approval of May 2 membership meeting minutes. **A motion was made by Bonnie Donzella, seconded by Sean Dingee, to approve the May 2 membership meeting minutes.** Voting yes: Cathe Mazza, Tim Limbos, Bonnie Donzella, Jeff Rojas, Laurence Schenk, Mary Ann Van Valkenburg, John Christen, Alan Gawel, Sean Dingee, Ed Matson, Alexis Swagemaker, Eric Epstein, Jean Speck. Voting no: no one. Abstentions: Matt Starr, Jill Scholsohn. Motion carries.

Membership

a. **A motion was made by Tim Limbos, seconded by Mary Ann Van Valkenburg, to accept Sherman Green's request to move to veteran status and the Secretary send him a letter of thanks for all his years of service to the community.** Voting yes: Cathe Mazza, Tim Limbos, Jill Scholsohn, Bonnie Donzella, Jeff Rojas, Laurence Schenk, Mary Ann Van Valkenburg, John Christen, Alan Gawel, Sean Dingee, Ed Matson, Alexis Swagemaker, Eric Epstein, Jean Speck, Matt Starr. Voting no: no one. No abstentions. Motion carries.

b. Welcome to new member Aurora Aviles.

c. The President reported that a member's business company is donating money to the department in recognition of the member's volunteer time, so he reminded everyone in general to please take attendance at all events, drills, etc.

Executive Committee: minutes of the May 23 meeting were emailed to all.

Old Business

1. Town funding for EMS staffing: Alan has alerted the BOF that we will be coming to them with a request.

2. Stipend legal matter and expense: the President read a letter from the attorney.
3. Foundation Committee: Eric said that the committee is getting close to being finished.

New Business

1. Auditor & 2021 form 990: the form 990 was covered in the Treasurer's report. **A motion was made by Ed Matson, seconded by Matt Starr, to engage George Sinammon, CPA, for audit services at a cost not to exceed \$13,000.** Voting yes: Cathe Mazza, Tim Limbos, Jill Scholsohn, Bonnie Donzella, Jeff Rojas, Laurence Schenk, Mary Ann Van Valkenburg, John Christen, Alan Gawel, Sean Dingee, Ed Matson, Eric Epstein, Jean Speck, Matt Starr. Voting no: no one. Abstention: Alexis Swagemaker. Motion carries.

2. Warned Expenses:

a. **A motion was made by Mary Ann Van Valkenburg, seconded by Bonnie Dozella, to spend up to \$160.00 for the updated BLS CPR curriculum.** Voting yes: Cathe Mazza, Jill Scholsohn, Bonnie Donzella, Jeff Rojas, Laurence Schenk, Mary Ann Van Valkenburg, John Christen, Alan Gawel, Sean Dingee, Ed Matson, Eric Epstein, Alexis Swagemaker, Matt Starr. Voting no: no one. Abstentions: Jean Speck. Motion carries.

b. Life jackets and safety vests: there was a review of options in general discussion. **A motion was made by Alan Gawel, seconded by Tim Limbos, to purchase six Mustang swift water life vests not to exceed \$1,254.00.** Voting yes: Tim Limbos, Cathe Mazza, Jill Scholsohn, Gary Hock, Bonnie Donzella, Jeff Rojas, Laurence Schenk, Mary Ann Van Valkenburg, John Christen, Alan Gawel, Sean Dingee, Ed Matson, Eric Epstein, Alexis Swagemaker, Matt Starr, Jean Speck. Voting no: no one. No abstentions. Motion carries.

c. **A motion was made by Alan Gawel, seconded by Ed Matson, to spend \$250.00 for name plates for the mustang life vests.** Voting yes: Cathe Mazza, Jill Scholsohn, Gary Hock, Bonnie Donzella, Jeff Rojas, Laurence Schenk, Mary Ann Van Valkenburg, John Christen, Alan Gawel, Sean Dingee, Ed Matson, Eric Epstein, Alexis Swagemaker, Matt Starr, Jean Speck. Voting no: no one. No abstentions. Motion carries.

d. Refrigerator: Gary reports that one is being donated.

e. Marine 2 lettering: Alan tabled this topic and said that Wendall is waiting on info.

3. Training expenditures: **A motion was made by Alexis Swagemaker, seconded by Matt Starr, to spend up to \$375.00 for ICS 300 training class.** Voting yes: Cathe Mazza, Jill Scholsohn, Bonnie Donzella, Jeff Rojas, Laurence Schenk, Mary Ann Van Valkenburg, John Christen, Alan Gawel, Sean Dingee, Ed Matson, Eric Epstein, Alexis Swagemaker, Matt Starr, Jean Speck. Voting no: no one. No abstentions. Motion carries.

A motion was made by Alan Gawel, seconded by Jeff Rojas, to spend \$550.00 for swift water tech class sponsored by Sherman Fire Department. Voting yes: Cathe Mazza, Jill Scholsohn, Bonnie Donzella, Jeff Rojas, Laurence Schenk, Mary Ann Van Valkenburg, John Christen, Alan Gawel, Sean Dingee, Ed Matson, Eric Epstein, Alexis Swagemaker, Matt Starr, Jean Speck. Voting no: no one. No abstentions. Motion carries.

4. KML Carnival: there will be a Labor Day weekend carnival and the President asked if we would commit to it. There was discussion but no resolution.

5. Constitution and ByLaws:

a. **A motion was made by John Russell, seconded by Mary Ann Van Valkenburg, to approve circulated revised constitution language pertaining to eligibility for officers.** There was an opinion voiced that we might wait until the Foundation Committee finishes its work. Voting yes: Cathe Mazza, Jill Scholsohn, Gary Hock, and four other yes votes in the firehouse. Voting no: four members in the firehouse. Abstentions: three members in the firehouse. Motion fails.

b. Article III membership: **A motion was made by John Russell, seconded by Alan Gawel, to approve the circulated by-law changes pertaining to annual training requirements and dues.** Voting yes: Gary Hock, Jill Scholsohn. Voting no: unrecorded. Abstentions: Cathe Mazza. Motion fails. Further discussion and confusion ensued. Laurence Schenk called the question on the motion currently on the table, and a vote was taken on whether or not to stop discussion. Voting yes: Cathe Mazza, Gary Hock, Tim Limbos, Bonnie Donzella, Jeff Rojas, Laurence Schenk, Mary Ann Van Valkenburg, John Christen, Alan Gawel, Sean Dingee, Ed Matson, Eric Epstein, Alexis Swagemaker, Matt Starr, Jean Speck. Voting no: no one. No abstentions. The question is called (and discussion ended). We then voted again on John's original motion. Voting yes: Cathe Mazza, Jill Scholsohn, Gary Hock, and nine others. Voting no: Tim Limbos and five others. One abstention. Motion carries.

President's Report

John reminded everyone to get their annual training done.

Chief's Report

Alan thanked those who came to the vigil. Ball help is welcomed and needed.

Water rescue protocols are in the works with two other departments.

Highwatch is opening their new building on June 10th or 13th-there'll be a walk through later this month.

Kent School is having their alumni reunion June 17-19 with 600+ people expected. Four state troopers have been hired for Friday and Saturday, and they've hired an EMS crew.

Area Chief's meeting is on summer recess.

Alan thanked those who have responded to calls recently.

Line Officer's Report

Gary reported 22 calls for May. The hose and flow testing done last month was all ok. Testing of the hurst tool is next.

Ambulance Chief's Report

Bonnie reported on 55 calls in May. There is a large horse show on the 19th at the Kent School stables.

Tuesday meeting with town officials to discuss the Medic 4 future.

New Milford is hosting a suicide prevention class on June 23.

The state roundtable exercise seminar a couple of weeks ago was very good.

Committee Reports

Golf: September 12th is the date. We need to have a budget to approve.

Appointed Positions

Facilities: Eric reported on getting a quote for the automatic sensors. He's also negotiating with the company. Eric's also getting quotes for carpet cleaning.

Auxiliary: no report

Juniors: no report

Expenditure Warnings

- a. safety vests
- b. refrigerator (in case the one being donated falls through)
- c. carpet cleaning
- d. boat lettering
- e. swift water rescue suits

Adjourned at 22:30

Respectfully submitted,

Cathe Mazza

Secretary