

ERIE COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 10, 2008- EDINBORO VOL. FIRE DEPT.

The October meeting was called to order at 19:00 hrs. by Jim Petrone at the Edinboro Volunteer Fire Department. Bryan Sheeder welcomed the Association to Edinboro.

- The roll call of companies showed 19 members representing 11 companies. The minutes of the previous meeting had been mailed so it was moved to table the reading. A new procedure was started logging in all members as pre-requisite to the new recommendation of the Fire Commissioner's office. It refers to the new State Tax credit incentive recently passed in Harrisburg. Norris Pace, Cliff Moon, Pat Newbold and John Villa were absent.
- There is no financial report available since Cliff Moon is in Delaware and has been having computer problems. His new computer is up, and running, and he will be in "learning" mode for a while. A report will be forthcoming at next month's meeting. In the meantime, we have two bills to pay. They are: Benchmark Computing for \$86.50, and Wagner-Giblin Insurance for \$2130.00. This is for the attempted repair work for Cliff's old computer and the liability insurance and auto insurance for the Safety House and truck. Jim Carstater moved and Tom Allgeier seconded the payment of the bills. Passed unanimously.
- A discussion ensued regarding the report of the Audit Committee from last month's meeting.
- Petrone offered a report on the letter he submitted to County Council for next year's budget request of \$40,000.00.
- Jake Schwab, retired Erie Fire Department Chief Alarm Operator, and Chief Tony Pol of EFD, offered a report on the condition of the Firefighters Historical Museum. A new Board has been appointed to assist Chief Robb with the operation of the museum. They are Jake Schwab, Tony Pol, Mike Fahey, Jim Michaels, Jim Carlson, Ed Lasher and Pat Scully. They have been hard at work reorganizing the inventory, cleaning and refurbishing the two apartments and the Annex across the street and identifying items in storage at three other locations. They are in the process of working with Dick and Terry Robb to reactivate the membership drive, checking the business records, trying to set a budget and have asked us to assist them wherever we can. They asked that we check our records to verify that our memberships are up to date and please ask our friends and firefighters to join as members or to offer

donations. The membership is down to only 80, and needs to be increased. The finances are down to \$4000.00 and the bills are starting to pile up. A motion to pay our 2009 membership of \$1000.00 was made and passed unanimously. In addition, they reminded us that the 10% discount for firefighters is still available at the Pufferbelly Restaurant with your Museum membership card.

- Dale Robinson reported that all municipal officials and emergency providers are circulating a recent PEMA survey at the municipal level attempting to verify compliance with the NIMS standards. He reminded us to check that our officials are compliant because future funding may be jeopardized. PEMA is also checking with our companies to see if the increased costs of fuel, food and supplies are causing a critical financial problem for us. If there is a problem with your company, please notify Dale, or Petrone, as soon as possible.
- A discussion with Dale about the status of the new dispatch system ensued. Dale asked that we be patient as the Department is having a series of problems getting up and running. Corry has been working in the background as a test site and is very pleased with the system. The rest of us should be up near the first of the year.
- A discussion ensued about the condition of the pond at the Franklin Township Training Grounds. Mike Zentis and Kevin Maston of FTVFD stated that the vegetation in the pond is causing severe pumping problems and the pond may be useless for next year's programs. Franklin Township has received quotes from Showman Excavating for cleaning the pond. We were asked to assist them in the costs of cleaning it before next season. More information to come.
- Petrone offered a report on the recent, 7 hour, Insurance Services Office training class that was offered at BVFD on September 13, 2008. There were 52 people present and it was the biggest class the ISO has had in 4 years and the first in Erie County in over 50 years. The class cost us less than \$200.00 and the ISO spent over \$2000.00 for their people and the supplies. Several new changes in the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule were noted including, a new class (8B) for rural companies, new personnel requirements for volunteer companies, a new equipment list that uses the NFPA-1901 requirements as the new standard along with many other changes that you can use and could save your homeowners a lot of money. In fact, more than most of them donate. The ISO has offered to return in the spring for a short, 4-hour course. They would like to open it to all surrounding counties and states. We are looking to offer it as a part of the Behrend Disaster Conference or at the Mercyhurst Little Theater.
- Jim Carstater reported on the testimony given to County Council on behalf of the Mercyhurst training program at Franklin Township. Tony Pol, Jim Carstater, Jim Petrone and Bill Ruth gave verbal testimony and Bob Gandley and Gabe Miehl of the LEPC submitted written testimony.
- Tom Cullen reported that the International Code Council (ICC) passed the revisions to the IRC, International Residential Code for 2011 that will require fire sprinkler systems in all new residential construction from single family on up. He also reported that the State has passed the \$100.00 Tax Credit for volunteer firefighters. There are requirements for inclusion and the best way to be approved

is to fill out the form submitted by Matt Seagren of Edinboro as an easy way to verify your approval. **The form is available on ecdops.org website.**

- Tom and Sandy Cullen presented Doug Richards of BVFD with an honorable mention award and a check for \$540.00 for their Fire Prevention Book.
- Doug Richards of BVFD gave a report on the status and condition of the Safety House and truck. Some damage has occurred this year as a result of heavy usage, some abuse and increased adult usage of the house. The unit is now over 15 years old and should be replaced within the next year or two. Additionally, we are in need of more literature for the kids, and parents. The house and truck will be housed for the winter at Popp's Trailer Park in Summit Township.
- **Note for next month:** Nominations are due for directors in the west district. Bob Reinhart's position is vacant and needs to be replaced. West district consists of Fairview, Lake City, Springfield, Cranesville, Girard, Albion, and Platea.

**THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 14, 2008
AT SPRINGFIELD FIRE DEPT. AT 19:00 HRS.**