

Tioga County Fireman's Association, Inc.
14 Main St. PO Box 746 Wellsboro PA,16901

Minutes of the January 30, 2024
Rescheduled Regular Meeting
Hosted By Mansfield Fire Department

Call to Order

The January meeting of the Tioga County Fireman's association was called to order at 19:00 by President Kulish. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The address of welcome was given by President Chief Jim Welch, and the meeting briefly recessed for the serving of dinner.

Reading of the Previous Minutes

After the recess, the meeting was resumed at 19:10. The minutes of the previous meeting were read by Secretary Alex Kulish. The minutes were read and approved.

Treasurers Report

The treasurer's report was read by Treasurer Sam Warren. Report is on file.

Following Bills Were Read, Motion to pay the bills by John Barnes, seconded by TJ Riley to accept report. Approved

Officers

President: K. Kulish	FC1: O'Conners
1 st VP: Ben Phelps	FC2: Excused
2 nd VP: Excused	FC3: Excused
Secretary: Alex Kulish	FC4: Excused
Treasurer: Sam Warren	FC5: Excused
Trustee: Shepard	
Trustee: Excused	
Trustee: Andrus	

Communication & Correspondence

Committee

DES

Get Contact Updates in.

Grant Reminded all to get ACADIS logins set up to help keep track of your training transcript.

It was also brought up that when there are firefighter injuries on scene call the county by phone to pass along the details of the injury and what department the injured member belongs to. If you can. To prevent any misinformation being pushed out to the public by news sources or the public with scanners.

Executive

The following Committees were established for 2024:

Communication: Ben Phelps, Lee Strange, Andrew O'Connors, Duane Marbaker, Galen Martin

By-laws: Executive committee, Tyler Andrus

Standards: TJ Riley, Ben Phelps, John Pagano, John Barnes

Golf: Kevin Kulish, Cale Mead. Jim Shepard,

Training: Lee Strange, Doug Champaign, Lisa Rice

Standards

No Report

Communications

No Report

Training

No Report

Fundraising

No Report

Old Business

The Following Deputy Fire Coordinators were appointed by Coordinator 1

Coordinator 2: Brian Davenport

Coordinator 3: Lee Strange

Coordinator 4: Ben Phelps

Coordinator 5: Doyle Swetland

New Business

Some Training possibilities for the upcoming year were brought up and discussed, Including the new mobile live burn unit from the PSFA, 3 operators would come with it we would still need the 8 instructors.

Department 51 is willing to help establish some basic K-9 search and rescue classes within the county if anyone is interested.

Recruitment and retention Class offered by the PSFA that was discussed at chiefs meeting, possibly slated for a fall date.

Good Of the Association

President Kulish thanked everyone for the good attendance, despite the rescheduled date.

President Kulish Also Added.

Discussion after the Chief's Meeting

1 - Thinking about not being active, maybe pay dues or not, but not have active representation. What does being a member actually get us anyway?

2 – This coming from a department that rarely has representation at a meeting. “Why should we go to those meetings, they are still arguing over the same things they argued over 10, 15, 20 years ago.”

What's the point.

Historically – The TCFA helped get regional communications going. Standardized on frequency use, it was the only training available at one point in time locally, and it helped all its members to begin the long hard process of standardization. Things like hose sizes, couplings, fittings, equipment and apparatus designations and classifications, dispute resolution.

More recent times what does the TCFA do.

Mutual Aid Agreements – County wide, Intercounty, interstate. Contract resolution non-contract billing. We ‘ve met with department officers, negotiating committees, township supervisors, and legal representation. We have brought in legal representation at times. We become the billing entity for departments that are in a NON-Contract billing dispute because we are the encompassing body of all the member departments and end up billing for not only the one agency but all agencies involved. We have standards and radio committees to help provide a formal means of communication between all members and the DES and, as importantly, our County Commissioners. Standards for equipment that each department should work towards. And yes, these items all need to be reviewed and possibly changed from time to time to meet current or new needs as our mission constantly changes.

We’ve assisted with grant writing for departments when asked. We’ve written grants for training props, (forcible entry doors, entanglement prop, window, and locks props) and bought textbooks for fire and EMS classes to name a few. We sought other funding sources and events to continue our operations, meet our stated objective “to provide training for our members” and we have not raised dues for at least 10 years because of the income generated from fundraising and the investments that have been made which pay our bills like insurance, and memorial items to name a few.

Additionally, an item that I believe virtually every member organization has used multiple times since its inception is the Honor Guard. What would happen to that if the TCFA were to disband? Who would provide that service that has meant so much to so many families who have lost not only one of their own but one of our own as well? This request for our service has reached across county and state lines. We’ve made the unbearable a little more tolerable.

This is what we do, and this is who we are.

Motion for adjournment Ben seconded by TJ.

Meeting adjourned at 20:45 hrs.

Respectfully Alex Kulish Secretary, TCFA