

**Copenhagen Volunteer Fire Department
Main Street
Copenhagen, New York**

SEPTEMBER Meeting Minutes

Held on: September 8, 2022

Minutes Taken by: Diana Russell

Copenhagen Volunteer Fire Department (herein after referred to as CVFD)

Members Present (Attendance sheet attached hereto)

James Henry-President Present

Terry Williams-Vice President Absent

Brandy Kuehnle-Treasurer Absent

Diana Russell-Secretary Present

**Call to Order by President Jim Henry at 7:01 p.m.*

**Pledge said by TJ Williams*

**Blessing on Meeting by Jerry Flanders*

**Roll Call taken by the Secretary-*

***Correspondence read by Secretary*

(all correspondence included in file with minutes)

-Chief's Report received

**Minutes from August Meeting*

-additions, corrections, deletions?

MOTION PROPOSED BY: ROGER BATES

Motion to accept minutes.

SECOND: BILL HENRY

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

**Minutes from Board of Directors Meeting*

-additions, corrections, deletions?

MOTION PROPOSED BY: JERRY FLANDERS

Motion to accept minutes.

SECOND: BILL HENRY

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

**Treasurer's Report*

**Bills to be paid read (read by the President, Audited by the Audit Committee, receipts printed and reconciled, to be sent to the clerk for payment.)*

MOTION PROPOSED BY: ROGER BATES/ROGER BATES (BILL HENRY/BRYAN SHEITZ FOR PAUL WHEELER)

Motion to pay bills.

SECOND: TERI HENRY/BILL HENRY (BILL HENRY/BRIAN SHEITZ FOR PAUL WHEELER)

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION PROPOSED BY: TJ WILLIAMS

Motion to SEND ALL BILLS TO THE VILLAGE FOR PAYMENT

SECOND: LUCAS GOUTERMOUT

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

-Everything from January 2022 to July 2022 were brought to Village clerk, Scanned and emailed. A week later, they Village said they didn't get them. We will address the Village. the Village has all contract money and hasn't given us a penny to keep the department running.

***Officers Reports:**

**Chief Report-TJ Williams-thank you for all of your help. 3 calls, minor calls.*

-School is back in session, watch out for children.

-First Due will come tomorrow for hose and ladder testing mid morning. TJ will be here. Will fill Kenworth up.

-Mask Fit Test will be coming up September 14, 2022 at Constableville at 17:00

-Kenworth was down for a day or two. Had mutual aid. Battery cables were lose, caused it not to have the voltage it needed. We paid a service bill. Everything is fine with the truck now. Battery terminals were the issue.

**1st Asst. Chief Report*

Chief Report by Bill Henry-Kids are back in school, be careful, slow down.

**2nd Asst Chief Report*

Chief Report by Shane Henry-we are going to get together with Mutual aid to do the Happy Acres drill before the snow flies. We will set it up at night. Give TJ the phone number.

**Fire Police-Jerry Flanders-there is not much for fire police.*

-Chaplain-Candles were given out from FASNY, Bruce's delivered to Dale Clark, and one for Griffie and we have to figure out what to do with that one, and the third was Warner St. Louis and Roger delivered that.

-Northern meeting, program and certificate delivered to Bryan and Sandy Sheitz, Kim's name was listed in the program.

-Cards were sent out to those who have been sick. No list was compiled, but were sent out.

**President's Report-Jim Henry-*

****Committee Reports:***

-BYLAWS-Diana Russell-SOPS/Best Practices-will go through them.

-AUDIT-Jerry Flanders/Gerald Snyder-did go through each and every bill and were all approved with receipts. Everything was verified.

-no luck from Albany to Buffalo

-MEMBERSHIP/INVESTIGATING-Gerald Snyder-nothing

-TRUCK-TJ Williams-nothing

-BANQUET-TJ Williams/Jim Henry-nothing

-GOOD & WELFARE-Jerry Flanders-see above

-RAMS-TJ Williams-nothing

-BUILDINGS & GROUNDS-Jim Henry-Jim did all of the grooming out back. We will see if Pat can come over and see if we can move things. We will have Matt Cooper come out to see what the elevations are and see if the pipe can be unplugged

-BUDGET COMMITTEE-Jim Henry

-50/50-\$6.00-Noah Williams-donating back.

****Unfinished Business***

-New Bremen will host the Fall meeting and the MidWinter will be in Madrid.

-Convention will be in West Carthage for 2023, the first weekend of June.

-Roger and Jerry and Paul, Randy and Sandy went to meeting and memorial service. Roger and Sandy and Randy judged the parade that Saturday, not a lot of departments. All departments were away. Locals didn't support Morristown.

-This Saturday, Roger and Jerry are going to Redwood for the Parade at 7 pm.

-Bill indicated that Roger and Jerry should take the van. TJ said okay.

-Telephone pole electrical is done.

****New Business***

-Bryan Sheitz asked to go Corporate.

-Terry Williams asked to go Exempt.

-Copenhagen Cares Christmas Letter was read, Jerry Flanders will contact Molly Williams

-TJ indicated that September 13th at 6 is Denmark's meeting to talk about

contracts. It will be an Executive Session only. We can still all attend.

-Discussion over the "Choices" letter

-What contract monies are going to be used to build new building

-January through July 2022 was sent and received on August 24, 2022, along with voucher statements. No bills have been paid by the Village this year, who have taken contract money from Pickney, Harrisburg, Denmark and Champion. They have paid ZERO bills as of September 8, 2022.

-this is a 45 year old building, not in disrepair.

-apparatus is aging...the '96? The '96 was refurbished in the last 10 years. That truck has been to many trainings and out-pumped other trucks.

-the law states that when the Village takes outside contracts, the FD has to sign the contracts. In 2021 nothing was signed by this body, only Village.

-our deed states that the FD and land belongs to the FD, not the village. it was deeded over by the Village

-we have to make a vote or something to answer the questions, but if we turn everything over to them, we are done.

-our lawyer said, best thing to do is get out in the public, explain what is going on and why and promote the Fire Department.

- they have the money, maybe they will pay us back. The Village hasn't given us any money in 9 months.

-When people call, looking for money, refer them to the Village. All of our bills are paid, they need to reimburse us.

-Scott indicated, let the Village take it over for a year. If the towns are willing to give the money to the Village and the Village runs it and gets books back in order, maybe the village will say, everything is in order from here on out. We will let the FD do a 6 month contract, and every month there will be an audit. If that works out in 6 months and all is fine, maybe they extend it to a year. When everything is back on track, we can come back as a dept of our own.

-Let them take care of the equipment, the buildings and grounds.

-Lynn indicated that if we give it to them, then we won't get it back. They haven't wanted to do anything for 90 years and all of a sudden, this is happening.

-there would need to have a contract done. This body has to vote on the money always.

-Lawyer sent on May 11 to the village and all of the towns. He stated the law and showed them what needed to be done and they didn't respond.

-there will be no alcohol in village buildings, so losing rental money.

-will they be getting rid of the firefighters in the dept.

-Roger indicated that we keep giving them the bills, and if they don't pay the bills, it's on them. We submitted everything to them. If we turn everything to them, we lose seniority and everything.

-Bill indicated we shouldn't give them everything. They want control of the books, give them the books. Don't give them the trucks and the hall.

-What's the Village's job?

-TJ agrees with Bill, when we asked for meetings when they were taking

our money. They refused to have meetings, then we have meetings and it's a laughing stock. TJ agrees. They want accountability, here is the general account check books. Here are the bills, here are the payments, we have to start somewhere, give them the check book and money. This village NEEDS a fire department, they need us. give them the money and get accountability. Let's sit down as a fire department and Village board. We have tried many times and they don't want to. Once the money is handed over, it is not on us. We need money to operate. We need to work together. Tomorrow morning, here are the books, here is the money, we need to work together.

-Truck fund and General Fund would go to the Village.

-the Village is only reading part of the law. The Village has to work with our board to run things.

-How do we provide them with accountability if they are not clear and concise? They need to provide us the accountability.

-it won't happen over night.

-Bryan indicated that we need to find out what their meaning is of allowing to do this job. If we give accounts, are they in charge of us. we need to know what they mean, to do their job. They can suspend every one of us. We need to find out what they mean by allow them to do this job?

-TJ indicated we should go with Plan A.

-there needs to be a meeting.

-Gerald indicated that this building belongs to the CVFD, deeded. The land, we bought. Deeded in the court house. Every truck is titled to the CVFD. They own nothing, we do. They want us to turn it over to them because Kim wants what she wants. She is playing a game for the past 8 years. She does not have any land in Copenhagen, no fire fighters, no money to build. We Train everyday. It is \$10,000 to outfit one man in turnout gear. They have no money to put into equipment. The contract money, by law should come to the department, but Kim is doing what she wants. The Village has to provide fire protection and has no way to do it. Lowville wants nothing to do with this Village, they won't give the contract. Castorland has more than they can handle. Gerald has 53 years here, he will not buckle down to her. We own the Building, we put sweat and tears into this building, keep it.

-Gerald Carter indicated that he is very interested in the FD and Village. he hears what we are saying and he knows whats going on with the village, there is 3 to 58 years of longevity and over at the village it is 6 months to 8 years. Who knows whats going to happen in 3 years when it's a different board? Gerald understands where Lynn is coming from. Too many firefighters have put the heard and soul and blood, sweat and tears, so much, but Gerald Carter also agrees with what the Chief is saying too. It is a tough decision. In the Village, there will eventually be a complete change in personnel. The Towns now don't want to deal with the fd, because of only one person, like Gerald Snyder said.

-TJ also indicated that he had a conversation with the town supervisor of Denmark, asked his opinion. TJ indicated, lets not be a village fire department....go to a town fd or district and have 5 commissioners. We can save a few dollars in the village or here and there. if everything goes to the village, it will cost thousands to switch the deeds and the titles. May as well have 1 joint fire district, owned by the commissioners. Those can still contract with outside towns. We have the emails to know how to do it. There is a meeting next week, he is interested in contracting another fire department, not us. Then just do away with the village.

-Jim indicated, going district, there would be 5 commissioners, none can be elected to a town, village, county official, so you do away with the political aspect.

-the Town of Denmark does a lot for this district.

-What is needed by the people? Village, water and garbage, or Fire Department, to pump cellars any time of day.

-Jerry indicated that they aren't concerned with fire protection as they are financial information. Pinckney said they would come back if they were provided with financial material. No one is worried about the fire protection, but the financial matters. As we understand there was a press release stating that they are out for 2023, but when it comes to 2024. A letter was sent to the taxpayers.

-the media reporter stated that the Town of Denmark Supervisor said there are concerns on the safety end.

-What is the safety issue? Not enough manpower at calls. That is state wide, that is why mutual aid is here.

-Gerald indicated that even when we hand them paperwork, they say they didn't receive it. Jim went down there and scanned it and emailed It, and said they didn't get it.

-Bryan sent us a letter saying that all communication is supposed to be between lawyers. That hasn't happened. They are now emailing us. due process is 30 days, right; same as eviction from an apartment. What are we doing. We are jumping through hoops for them. They aren't following the policies.

-Shane indicated that during the school meeting, the response time would be on time or better. They are trying to get under our skin.

-the slideshow contradicts itself every page.

-What was said back in June about the drill team, over the years that recruitment and retention was up.

MOTION PROPOSED BY: TJ WILLIAMS

Motion to have the president call our lawyer to have Counsel send a letter, from our lawyer to the Village and Village Attorney, certified mail, that we want to cooperate, but need further information and a sit down meeting in order to move on, as soon as possible, for a possible take-over of the general account and truck fund.

SECOND: BRYAN SHEITZ

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

-TJ indicated that 40 years, 50 years, 20 years, 10 years, 5 years, brand new. We don't care who owns us, the Village or the FD, when the alarm goes off at 3 in the morning, we are here for the community, not the Village Board. 3 in the morning, 5 in the afternoon, we do our job. Doesn't matter who owns the equipment, we put in HOURS of training, we aren't throwing it away, we are not here for them people, we are here for the community, friends, family and surrounding villages. Every one of us feel that way. This is a family affair. This is DEDICATION. Thank you to each and every one of you.

-Gerald Carter indicated that he appreciates us.

-Community day on October 2, 2022-noon-? Diana will make up a flier. All contracted towns are welcome to the Community day.

-anything more on the hydrants that don't work? Powis dug up one on Cataract Street and got it working. The village won't help fix all of that. The Village has to deal with that.

*****EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION BY LUCAS GOUTERMOUT

To enter Executive Session @ 8:14 p.m.

SECONDED BY BILL HENRY

All in Favor

Carried.

*****EXECUTIVE SESSION ENDED

MOTION BY LUCAS GOUTERMOUT

To exit Executive Session @8:30

SECONDED BY JERRY FLANDERS

All in Favor

Carried.

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MOTION PROPOSED BY: BILL HENRY

Motion to appoint Lucas Goutermout as Interim Vice President

SECOND: SHANE HENRY

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION PROPOSED BY: LYNN HENRY

Motion to have Lucas Goutermout replace Terry Williams as signatory on all accounts, WSB (all), Community Bank (all), FASNY Savings.

SECOND: TERI HENRY

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

**Good of the Department*

MOTION PROPOSED BY: BILL HENRY

Motion to Adjourn Monthly Meeting

SECOND: LUCAS GOUTERMOUT

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

**Monthly Meeting of the CVFD adjourned by Motion at 8:35 p.m.*

****Minutes of the September 8, 2022 Monthly Meeting taken and transcribed by Diana Russell, Notary Public, in and for the State of New York.**