

Rescue Steamer and Chemical Company #2

March 2012 Newsletter



News notes:

- The next regular meeting of Rescue Steamer and Chemical Company #2 will be on March 1, 2012. Dinner at 6pm, Gary Bordoni will be doing the cooking, meeting to follow.

Report from the Fire Commissioners:

- The February 14, 2012 meeting, was attended by Board Chair Bill Gilligan, Harry Ellsworth and Tom Hoard. It was announced at the meeting that Board Member Maureen Kelly has submitted her resignation to the Board. This leaves only three Board members and all of them have to be in attendance or no action can be taken by the Board.
- Board Chair Gilligan reported that all Board minutes would be posted very soon after their meetings on the City of Ithaca web site, So hopefully there will be ample opportunity for Company Captains to be able to review the proceeding and report back to their respective Companies.
- Board Chair Gilligan had the honor of presenting 50 year Service Awards from The Firemen's Association of the State of New York, to Lyman Baker Company 2 and Judson Leonard Company 1.
- Chief Parsons reported the appointment of Brian Weinstein to the position of Fire Lieutenant. This is temporary until the Town of Ithaca ok's the appointment and the funding for the position as according to the Town/City Contract. Parsons said that he has also appointed three new fire fighters to the Department, Nick Rapponi, Nick Tier, and Matt Watros.
- Chief Parsons reported that Assistant Chief Sheldon has completed a training program for new and returning Volunteer Fire Fighters, it will consist of the basic OSHA18 hour training requirements. Parsons reported that Scott Gingras will be returning as a class 2 fire fighter.
- Chief Parsons reported that he is trying to get permission to do the new additions at the Training Facility, but has run into some opposition from the Board of Public Works who would like to have the Training Center moved from it present location. He has communicated to the Board of Pubic Works that the move would be possible, but they would have to fund the project and find a rather central location for it.
- Board Chair Gilligan reported that the Town of Ithaca had some questions about the Department: are the Fire Police paid, about growth in the Department, and why not a new Heavy Rescue instead of a Quint that Chief Parsons wants? Parsons said that the Town would have to approved the switch from Heavy Rescue to Quint, if they won't approve he will stay with the Heavy rescue and

replace the Ladder in 2014. His reasoning is that the current Ladder Truck is in bad repair and costing the Department a lot of money to keep it going. The Department is responding to so many calls that it is wearing all the equipment down. The current repair budget is \$190,000 and it all gets used. The Town wanted to know why an Engine is responded to all EMS calls, his response is that the men go with the Engine and it is ready for another call if needed.

- Chief Parsons said the Town wanted the Department to take over some fire inspections and he said that the Department may have to cut back what they are doing in the City, let alone what may have to be added. The Chief said that the Mayor has said that the Department needs to cut \$200,000 which is the cost of pensions to the State of New York. With a budget deficit looming "staff layoffs may be the only answer". Parsons said that the Department is headed down a road that may lead to a different way that business is carried on, i.e. how and the type service that the Department provides. Parsons talked to the Board on their role in the Department and how it may change under the new mayor and how its duties are perceived by the Mayor's *Account Performance Accountability Committee*, as to what they may be looking for from the Board. Chair Gilligan said that there "needs to be a standard for all boards and committees within the City".
- Board Chair Gilligan said (again) that he going send a letter to all the Company Captains in regard to their rosters of members. This will be in order to ascertain who is active or lives out of the fire district. Chief Parsons said that he figures there are 7 active Fire Police members and 4 active fire fighters.
- Next Regular meeting is March 13, 2012, time change to 4pm.

FirePolice:

- Dave Cornelius reported that the Fire Police Unit held training in January on CPR Certification, 7 members attended and were certified. Dave said that Ray Gansler is purchasing equipment for the unit. All money is coming from money pledged by the Companies.

Sick Committee:

- Steve Weaver is coming along fine in Minnesota.

Good of the Oder:

- While some of this may be very disturbing to some of the Members in the Company, this is something I have been saying for a long time now: unless YOU become active in

this Department and let YOUR voice be heard the Company and the Volunteer way of life is going to disappear. The Department needs 2 new Fire Commissioners, so step up and ask to become one. It would be great if Gilligan had another Volunteer with him instead of civilians who in some cases have never fought a fire or rode a truck. The time is drawing near when the Department will pass the point of no return and it may be run by the Fire Chief with only the Mayor that he would have to answer to. The 2% money to the Companies is in jeopardy and the Company system itself may be gone. There is no love any more in the current leadership to have a Company System. What I am saying is that the social Company would remain, but not funded with 2% money, only living on the savings they have accumulated over the years. I have been criticized over the years for predicting the death of the volunteer system as we know it, but WAKE UP, it is here and if you can't see it, then maybe it should be allowed to die.

- I will more than likely not be at the February meeting. This is a great time to go to Florida, but me I am going to Iowa.
- Next to the last page is the 2011 distribution of 2% money.



Lyman Baker and his 50 Year Service Award from FASNYS. Lyman in January received his 50 Year Service Award from the Vet Firemen's Association and does that mean Lyman has 100 years of total service? Good for you Lyman, you don't look a day over, 39.

This is an Addendum to the By-Laws which can be adopted at the March Meeting, due to the fact it is an addendum to the By-Laws and not a change to them. Please read and make comment at the meeting.

Addendum to the By-Laws

Rescue Steamer and Chemical Company 2

This policy states the Rescue Steamer Chemical Company No. 2 position against discrimination. This policy applies to all our employees, volunteers, members, clients, and contractors.

Rescue Steamer and Chemical Company 2 is an equal opportunity membership organization. Our members and any employees or other personnel shall be selected and treated without regard to race, creed, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, age, height, weight, disability status, veteran status, military obligations, and marital status.

This policy applies to internal operations, elections, training, opportunities for advancement, terminations, outside vendors, members and customers, service clients use of contractors and consultants, and dealings with the general public.

Allegations of any violation shall be referred to the Board of Directors for investigation and review. If an allegation is found to be true, then consequences shall be considered as training, change of assignments, removal from office or termination of membership.

All such allegations, investigations and consequence shall be confidential, until resolved. Any final action affecting membership or offices held shall be submitted to the full membership for consideration and require a finding of credible evidence and a preponderance of such evidence against a member or officer. Any such removal or termination shall be determined up the facts found, mitigating circumstances and actions to address the concerns taken by the officer or member.

This policy shall supplement the Bylaws and laws of New York, but not conflict or override either. Any and all rights of the compliant or the member or officer under the Bylaws or Law shall continue.

Proposed and considered on March 1, 2012

Adopted in Final on March 1, 2012 – by a vote of the majority present.

Calculation of 2011 2% Distribution

NYS Insurance Department		\$ 65,467.15	
Town of Ithaca		\$ 13,105.95	
	Subtotal		<u>\$ 78,573.10</u>

To Vet Volunteers			
1/2 of 2%		\$ 39,286.55	
Add Interest Earned Vet Volunteer Relief Fund, 2010		\$ 25.45	
	Total Checks to Vet Volunteers		<u>\$ 39,312.00</u>

To Volunteer Fire Companies			
1/2 of 2%		\$ 39,286.55	
Less return to \$90,000 from EOY Balance of \$89,459.95		\$ (540.05)	
	Total Checks to Volunteer Fire Companies		<u>\$ 38,746.50</u>

Checks to be issued September, 2011

Payee	Amount- 2%	Amount- Int	Total Check	Check Number
Vet Volunteer Fire Company	\$ 39,286.55	\$ 25.45	\$ 39,312.00	
Volunteer Fire Co. #1	\$ 4,910.82	\$ (67.51)	\$ 4,843.31	
Volunteer Fire Co. #2	\$ 4,910.82	\$ (67.51)	\$ 4,843.31	
Volunteer Fire Co. #3	\$ 4,910.82	\$ (67.51)	\$ 4,843.31	
Volunteer Fire Co. #4	\$ 4,910.82	\$ (67.51)	\$ 4,843.31	
Volunteer Fire Co. #5	\$ 4,910.82	\$ (67.51)	\$ 4,843.31	
Volunteer Fire Co. #6	\$ 4,910.82	\$ (67.51)	\$ 4,843.31	
Volunteer Fire Co. #7	\$ 4,910.82	\$ (67.51)	\$ 4,843.31	
Volunteer Fire Co. #9	\$ 4,910.82	\$ (67.51)	\$ 4,843.31	
	\$ 78,573.10	\$ (514.60)		
	Total Disbursement		\$ 78,058.50	

Company 3 Celebrates February 4, 1831
181 years



Company 3, early 1900's tiller man has a proper
ferdora fire helmet. Osha Approved?