

COMMUNITY FIREFIGHTERS FUNERAL BENEFIT FUND, INC
1755 ASHLAND AVENUE
HOMEWOOD, IL 60430

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 20, 2019

TOTAL DEPARTMENTS ATTENDING	7
MEMBER DEPARTMENTS ATTENDING	7
ATTENDING MEMBER DEPARTMENTS IN GOOD STANDING	6
(See last page for attendance detail)	

VENUE: Today's meeting was held at the Brian Carey Training Center in Homewood, IL. Our thanks go to Homewood Chief Bob Grabowski for the use of this facility.

Call To Order – at 0905 by Pres Sloop

First Roll Call - Secretary Johnson – a quorum of members is present

Reading of Minutes Not yet Approved

- Draft minutes were made available for all in attendance
- Secretary Johnson reviewed the draft of the minutes of the 03-21-2018 Annual Meeting, and no corrections or additions were voiced by the members in attendance
 - Motion Riverdale to approve the minutes as written
 - Seconded Crete
 - Motion passed by unanimous voice vote

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Knoll

- Printed treasurer's activity reports were made available for today's meeting
- We now have 912 active members – less than 1,000
- When we make a \$1,000 benefit payment, we bill for less than \$1,000 in assessments, based on our total number of active members
- The Board has met to discuss the possibility of altering either the benefit level and/or the amount charged for each assessment – there may be a proposed change at next year's meeting
- A discussion was had regarding possible reasons for our loss in membership:
 - At one time we had over 30 active departments, now we have 24
 - Municipal budget restrictions, funding decisions made by foreign fire tax committees, firefighter associations and union locals, all have resulted in departments withdrawing from membership
 - There were also four departments which were in great arrears with payments and, after our unsuccessful attempts for over a year to have them become current, were dropped by the membership
- Treasurer Knoll reviewed the provided CFFBF Assessment Study document, which lists our annual expenses of \$20,065, and projects revenue figures at various increased levels of assessment

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- Please discuss this issue and let us know what your department thinks about a possible increase in the assessment amount
- Treasurer Knoll mentioned that he'd recently spoken with a department who told him they'd be attending today's meeting, but have not – they asked if there might be an interest in linking an increase in benefit amount to an increase in assessment amount
 - As an example, should we consider raising the assessment amount to \$1.75, and then increase the benefit amount to \$1,500?
 - Lynwood Chief Cobb said that they would support such an increase
- We're doing well with our balances, but we should be thinking about how to stay ahead of our expenses
- All member departments receive a monthly emailed statement from the Fund
- We had a good investment year last year – and so far this year our values are up 10-12%
- We are still trying to resolve our IRS issue regarding our application for not for profit / charitable status – they continue to request further information & proof from us, which we provide – our latest correspondence says they're still processing our application
- The financials packet that was distributed includes our balance sheet and income/expense report

Secretary's Report – Secretary Johnson

- Again we thank MABAS 24 for providing office space and utilities for the conducting of CFFBF business at their HQ building on Ashland Ave in Homewood
- We also thank the Homewood FD for providing our annual meeting space here at the BCTC
- Remember that the most current CFFBF documents are available for download from the CFFBF link on the banner of the www.mabas24.org website home page, thanks to MABAS 24
- Within the six eligible MABAS divisions, 69 eligible departments and 1 individual were notified of and invited to today's meeting
- During the 2018 calendar year, six member departments either decided to withdraw from the Fund, or were dropped from the Fund – Burbank, Calumet Park, Chicago Ridge, Oak Forest, Phoenix, and Robbins
- We currently have 24 listed member departments, and 1 individual member, for a total of 912 listed active members

Missing member information from some departments

- There remain two member departments for which we do not have complete individual member information, as is required by Article VII, Section 1 of our by-laws. Information needed includes:
 - Their start date with the Fund
 - Their date of birth
 - Their complete name
- For over two years I have tried to obtain that information from each of these departments:

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- Country Club Hills FD
 - There has been a change in chiefs – the secretary is reaching out to them to ascertain their status with the Fund
- East Hazel Crest FD
 - Glenwood’s Chief Welsh said he would reach out to this department and have the needed information provided to the Fund
- The information is needed so that I can adequately research inquiries from family members looking for years of service, birth date and death benefit payment information. I cannot process these types of inquiries without the required member information.
- Until this information is provided and complete, the Fund will not honor requests for honorary membership or funeral benefit claims from these departments

Communications and Bills

- None at this time

Reports of Committees

- None at this time

Reports of Officers

- President Sloop
 - Also thanked Secretary Johnson and Treasurer Knoll for their work with the Fund
 - Observed that we exist to provide the assistance we do, to the families of deceased members
- Vice President Muirhead
 - Also thanked Johnson and Knoll for their work
 - Thanked those member departments who participate and who attend our meetings
- Secretary – reported above
- Treasurer – reported above

Applications & Memberships

- Secretary Johnson:
 - All member departments received notification of today’s meeting via email along with their February statement, and all eligible non-member departments received a USPS mailing
 - We currently have no pending membership inquiries

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Election of Officers

- None at this time

Unfinished Business

- Treasurer Knoll – reminded members that we are still experiencing mis-delivered mail that is correctly addressed to the CFFBF at 17555 Ashland
 - Sometimes it gets delivered to the Homewood Public Works building at 17755 Ashland – fortunately the Public Works Admin Asst is the daughter of the Fire Dept’s Admin Asst, so our mail usually gets forwarded to the FD, and we get notified that it’s there – this can introduce delays in receiving and processing things
 - But sometimes, mail just vanishes
 - If you send us a payment and it doesn’t appear on your statement when it should, please email us and ask about it

New Business, Good of the Order

- Lynwood Chief Cobb expressed disappointment that more departments did not attend today’s well-publicized meeting
- Chief Cobb also complimented Secretary Johnson and Treasurer Knoll for their professional and knowledgeable management of the Fund for its members
- Treasurer Knoll spoke about how in many cases back assessments can be billed to make members current if their membership information is not up to date or had been submitted incorrectly
- Chief Welsh complimented Treasurer Knoll and Secretary Johnson on the work being done to manage the Fund so well
- Chief Welsh also advised that it appears the MABAS 24 will be moving to a different facility, because the CN Railroad wants the land on Ashland Ave on which the headquarters building now sits – he assured the group here that the CFFBF would continue to be provided similar, if not improved, facility space and services at the new site to conduct our business
 - Nine sites throughout the district have been explored, and they’ve been narrowed down to two remaining sites, both of which are in Homewood, and are within ¼ mile of the existing building – one would be new construction, the other would be an existing building with an addition added
 - The current MABAS HQ building is 14,600 sq ft in size, and the new building would be at least 28,000 sq ft in size
 - Also being discussed is the possible moving of the ECOM dispatch center from their current 2,400 sq ft facility, into the new building
 - Treasurer Knoll commented that both of our organizations benefit by sharing space, with MABAS 24 using the CFFBF computer for CPAT program management as well

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Appointment of Committees

- None at this time

Resolutions

- None at this time

Announcements

- President Sloop – our next annual membership meeting will be held on March 18, 2020 – the location will be announced

Second Roll Call – Secretary Johnson

Adjournment – There being no further business, President Sloop requested a motion to adjourn

- Motion Riverdale
- Seconded Lynwood
- A unanimous voice vote approved the motion and the meeting adjourned at 0935 hours

(See following page for attendance detail)

**MEETING MINUTES APPROVED AT
03-18-2020 ANNUAL MEETING**

C JOHNSON

COMMUNITY FIREFIGHTERS FUNERAL BENEFIT FUND, INC
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MEETING ATTENDANCE
03-20-2019

DEPARTMENT	MEMBER?	GOOD STANDING?	REPRESENTATIVE ATTENDING
Alsip			
Aroma			
Bedford Park			
Beran, Don	Y	Y	
Blue Island	Y	N	
Bourbonnais			
Bradley			
Burnham	Y	Y	C Stevenson
Cabery			
Calumet City			
Calumet Park			
Central Stickney			
Chebanse Township			
Chicago Heights			
Chicago Ridge	Y	N	
Country Club Hills	Y	N	
Crestwood	Y	N	
Crete	Y	N	J Sloop
Dolton			
East Hazel Crest	Y	N	
East Joliet			
Elwood			
Essex			
Evergreen Park	Y	Y	
Flossmoor	Y	Y	
Ford Heights			
Frankfort			
Garden Homes			
Glenwood	Y	Y	K Welsh Sr
Grant Park			
Harvey			
Hazel Crest	Y	N	
Homer Township			
Hometown			
Homewood	Y	Y	C Johnson
Kankakee			
Kankakee Township			
Lansing	Y	N	
Limestone Township			
Lockport Township			

DEPARTMENT	MEMBER?	GOOD STANDING?	REPRESENTATIVE ATTENDING
Lynwood	Y	Y	J Cobb
Manhattan			
Manteno			
Markham			
Matteson	Y	Y	C Schwalbe, J Johnson
Merrionette Park			
Midlothian	Y	Y	
Momence			
Monee			
New Lenox			
North Palos			
Oak Forest			
Oak Lawn	Y	Y	
Otto Township			
Palos FPD			
Papineau			
Park Forest			
Pembroke			
Peotone	Y	Y	
Phoenix			
Pilot Township			
Posen	Y	Y	
Reddick Community			
Richton Park			
Riverdale	Y	Y	J Muirhead, G Knoll
Robbins			
Roberts Park			
Salina Township			
Sauk Village	Y	Y	
South Chicago Hts	Y	Y	
South Holland	Y	Y	
St Anne			
Steger Estates	Y	Y	
Summit			
Thornton	Y	Y	
Tinley Park			
University Park			



Clint Johnson – Secretary
Community Firefighters Funeral Benefit Fund