



## Northern Virginia Firefighters' Emerald Society Pipe Band

### Board of Directors Meeting

June 18, 2020

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm
- II. Members in Attendance: President Matt Lopez, Vice President/ Drum Major Bill Bryce, Treasurer Tom Clappi, Secretary/Webmaster Jim Kraftchak, Member at Large/Pipe Instructor Jim Ryan, Kevin Byrne, Band Manager Lisa Heilbraun, Pipe Major/Quarter Master Jason Allen, Serena Dietrich.
- III. Reports
  - a. Secretary
    - i. Previous BOD meeting minutes reviewed. Bill Bryce moved to approve as written, Tom Clappi seconded. Approved unanimously.
  - b. Treasurer
    - i. Currently have \$12,907.88 in the bank
    - ii. \$97 for monthly storage fees
    - iii. Jim Ryan asked if there were any expenses for things that should have been purchased as previously approved by the board. As of this point there have been none other than what had been previously reported.
    - iv. Bill Bryce shipped Sandy Keith's order to him, which was \$181 but the shipping was \$130 due to the size of the shipment because of sending his picture we all signed. Jim Ryan suggested that rather than have Bill Bryce give the board the money that was made on the order and then pay him back the shipping costs that he just keep it as it was a wash in the cost. Board unanimously agreed.
  - c. Quartermaster
    - i. J. Higgins order of sporrans, hackels, sporran chains, etc... was received.
    - ii. Jason Allen stated that he brings all of this stuff to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend for folks that may forget things.

- iii. New drummer Matt was outfitted with a full uniform.
- iv. Tunics and kilts will be ordered as needed.
- v. John Bidegeneta was to order new hard cases for the snare drums but due to the shipping costs he has decided not to order them. Jim Ryan still feels we need to have them to protect our investment in the snare drums.
- d. Uniform
  - i. Gary Winemiller was not present and did not submit a written report.
- e. Membership
  - i. Matt Lopez stated that there is nothing new to report due to the lockdown.
  - ii. He is working on a new piper that he has spoken to several times though.
- f. Fundraising
  - i. Bill Bryce stated that he has kept in touch with the pubs that we were going to do the pub crawl at to ensure they are still up for coming when we can.
  - ii. Rest of fundraising efforts are on hold for now.
  - iii. Jim Ryan suggested that we might be able to play in the parking lot of an assisted living location as they sometimes have entertainment budgets. Bill Bryce will look into it as a possibility.
  - iv. Matt Lopez stated that given the current crisis it may not work.
  - v. Bill Bryce suggested that maybe we could go to places like One Loudoun and play outside and they may pay us for doing so.
- g. Bylaws
  - i. Matt Lopez stated that an email was sent last week to get input and a meeting would be scheduled within the next week to discuss.
- h. LODD Support Committee
  - i. Nothing was done to move this forward.
  - ii. Lisa Heilbraun was added to the committee.
  - iii. Meeting to be setup to move this forward.
- i. Budget Committee
  - i. Nothing was done to move this forward.
  - ii. Meeting to be setup to move this forward.

#### IV. Old Business

- a. Cheaper storage
  - i. Current storage unit is 5x5 unit.
  - ii. There are 3 different facilities close by the current one. Maybe one of those would offer us a better deal.
  - iii. Jim Ryan has offered to help move units if needed.
  - iv. Maybe if we threaten to leave they will lower our rates.

- v. Jason Allen to investigate what can be done to lower the monthly cost to the band.
- b. Payment to Instructors
  - i. The Board had agreed to pay the piping and drumming instructors \$100 to offset their dues. This has not yet been done.
- c. Policy for Instructor Payment
  - i. The Board agreed that we needed to have a policy established in order for instructors to be compensated. This has not yet been done.
- d. Pub Crawl Bus Fee
  - i. Phil Nannery says that the bus company has kept a \$250 deposit and will hold it for 1 year and we can use that anytime during that year.
  - ii. Tom Clappi to investigate what monies went where for this event and ensure that the deposit and contract belongs to the band and not Phil Nannery.
  - iii. Any monies that Phil Nannery has personally involved in this contract will be reimbursed to him.
- e. Gig Contracts
  - i. Lisa Hielbraun stated that as a 501C3 we cannot have contracts and have to ask for donations only.
  - ii. A standard donation letter is sent to show the bands commitment for performing at private events.
  - iii. When we apply to march in a parade that pays, we can ask for whatever amount we want.
  - iv. Bill Bryce clarified that as long as all monies go to the band and not the individuals that played, we are fine as far as 501C3 rules go.

## V. New Business

- a. Fundraiser
  - i. With the current pandemic, this is TBD.
- b. Rehearsals
  - i. All county buildings are still closed to the public.
  - ii. Since the Heliport will be closed for updates, maybe we can go there since its outside.
  - iii. Volunteer Fire Companies are not subject to county property restrictions so we could hold rehearsals there and maybe move them around to different stations in a an effort to recruit for the band.
  - iv. Are there other locations where we might be able to meet?
- c. Drums
  - i. John Bidegeneta says our drums are fine and we should wait until we have a drumline before we look into buying or upgrading our drums.

- ii. Lisa Heilbraun stated that we need to consider new heads for the drums as the tenor drums at least have not had new heads in over 10 years.
  - iii. Jim Ryan believes we need 8-12 new snare heads every 3 months because they break down and don't sound as good since they are constantly under tension. Same would apply to the tenor drums.
  - iv. Matt Lopez suggested that Lisa Heilbraun work with John Bidegeneta to figure out what heads we need and what the cost would be for the new heads.
- d. Upcoming Gigs
- i. Fairfax Country Firefighters Retirement Picnic – September 25 at Brandy Station Firehouse.
  - ii. National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend in Emmitsburg
    - 1. Still up in the air at this point due to the pandemic.
    - 2. Hotel deposit is due in August so we still have time to figure things out.
    - 3. Many pipe bands still want to get together if the memorial is cancelled so something may still happen if it is cancelled.
  - iii. Ladies GOP even is scheduled for the same weekend as NFFMW.
  - iv. Chieftains currently scheduled for November 10, 2020
  - v. Manassas Veterans Day Parade is still on as of now.
  - vi. Jim Kraftchak has been asked to check and see what the board decided last year on with regards to participation in the Vienna Halloween Parade.

## VI. Good of the Order

- a. Virtual Band Competition.
  - i. There is a virtual band competition with a category for service bands. The band would get together and play their set and have it videoed, and the recording would be sent in for judgement.
  - ii. Jim Ryan believes that band should compete in these as we have the drummers that are needed.
  - iii. Lisa Heilbraun also believes that we have enough drummers to be able to compete.
  - iv. Bill Bryce should work with the drum corps to figure out who would participate.
  - v. Matt Lopez made the executive decision that the band will not participate.
- b. A board meeting is needed on July 9 in order to get feedback from the many committees that were formed and have not yet met or moved their agendas forward.

## VII. Action Items

- a. Jason Allen to look into cheaper storage fees.
- b. Matt Lopez to reform the Bylaws Committee to review PM/DM fire service requirement. This committee needs to meet.
- c. Matt Lopes to pay instructors.
- d. BOD to create policy for payment of instructors.
- e. Budget Committee formed consisting of Jim Ryan and Tom Clappi to form a band budget and needs to meet.
- f. LODD Support Committee formed consisting of Jim Ryan, Bill Bryce, Lisa Heilbraun and Tom Clappi. This committee needs to meet
- g. All committees are to report the BOD at the next meeting.
- h. Jim Kraftchak needs to investigate what decision last years board made with regards to participation in the Vienna Halloween Parade.
- i. Lisa Heilbraun to work with John Bidegeneta to figure out what drum heads we need and what the cost would be for the new heads.
- j. Tom Clappi to investigate what monies went where for this event and ensure that the deposit and contract belongs to the band and not Phil Nannery.
- k. BOD to pay piping and drumming instructors.

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm with motion by Jim Ryan, seconded by Jim Kraftchak and passed with a unanimous vote.