



Northern Virginia Firefighters' Emerald Society Pipe Band

Board of Directors Meeting

October 8, 2020

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm
- II. Members in Attendance: President Matt Lopez, Vice President/ Drum Major Bill Bryce, Treasurer Tom Clappi, Secretary/Webmaster Jim Kraftchak, Member at Large Jim Ryan, Pipe Major/Quarter Master Jason Allen, Band Manager Lisa Heilbraun, John Burns, Matt Bickertt.
- III. Reports
 - a. Secretary
 - i. Previous BOD meeting minutes reviewed. Tom Clappie moved to approve with changes, Matt Lopez seconded. Approved unanimously.
 - b. Treasurer
 - i. Currently have \$10,358.13 in the bank
 - ii. \$97 for monthly storage fees
 - iii. \$2,136.75 for Emmitsburg Rooms
 - iv. Food Card for Ed Snyder \$295.95
 - v. \$154 for tshirts purchased by Bill Bryce
 - vi. Odie Brendell paid \$300 into the Emmitsburg rooms
 - vii. Tom Clappi motioned to accept the Treasurer's report and Jim Kraftchak seconded it. Approved unanimously.
 - c. Quartermaster
 - i. No changes from last month and nothing sent out to band members.
 - d. Uniform
 - i. Gary Winemiller was not present and did not submit a written report.
 - e. Membership
 - i. Matt Lopez hasn't heard anything new from the VFD on recruiting.

- ii. Tom Clappi has found a drummer from the Ravens band that is willing to join. He also found 1 piper and 1 drummer from Dale City FD and 1 piper from Faquier County FD.
- f. Fundraising
 - i. Bill Bryce stated that he is still following the Montgomery County Pipe Band online fundraiser and that he would keep an eye on how it goes and works. If it works, then maybe we can try something similar.
 - ii. Bill Bryce is also keeping in touch with our normal locations like Patriots and those that had agreed to be part of the pub crawl.
 - iii. Potentially we could do a raffle of something to raise some money like AOH raffles off a trip to Ireland every year.
- g. Bylaws
 - i. Last month the BOD reviewed the proposed change and it is to be voted on this month
 - ii. The current language reads: 4.1 Pipe Major: The Pipe Major (PM) is the musical director of the band and is responsible for selecting the band's music, directing its musical performance and is defacto Music Committee Chair. The PM or Drum Major shall have a fire service background.
 - iii. The proposed language will read: 4.1 Pipe Major: The Pipe Major (PM) is the musical director of the band and is responsible for selecting the band's music, directing its musical performance and is defacto Music Committee Chair. The PM or Drum Major shall have a fire or emergency medical service background.
 - iv. Jim Ryan brought up a point of order for the meeting since its on Zoom that if you want to talk that you use the raised hand icon in Zoom.
 - v. Jim Kraftchak motioned to discuss the proposed bylaw change and Tom Clappi 2nd it.
 - vi. Tom Clappi asked why we don't just use first responder/public safety instead of fire and EMS.
 - vii. Jim Ryan stated that fire service was put in to ensure the ability to liaison with others in the fire service.
 - viii. Bill Bryce stated that we need to hold on to the fire service but it might help recruiting if we allowed police, military, etc...
 - ix. Matt Lopez stated that we don't restrict membership but that 1 of 2 of the positions should have fire/ems background.
 - x. Tom Clappi stated that police are not considered ems.
 - xi. Jim Kraftchak stated that band's mission statement is: "To call attention to the good works of the fire service and the public safety sector. This is done through the stirring sounds of the

bagpipes as we honor public safety members who have given their lives in the line of duty.”

- xii. Matt Lopez stated that board is free to change the language however they wish. The committee is merely recommending a proposed change.
 - xiii. Jim Ryan motioned that amend the proposed change to state fire or public safety instead of fire or ems. Bill Bryce 2nd.
 - xiv. Tom Clappi states that public safety encompasses much more than intended.
 - xv. No further comments on proposed change so a vote was called on the motion to amend. Unanimously rejected. Proposed amendment fails.
 - xvi. Tom Clappi proposed that we change the requirement for fire or ems to “shall have an emergency responder (fire or law enforcement) or other emergency rescue services officer experience”. Bill Bryce 2nd and vote called. 4 Yes 1 No Motion carries.
 - xvii. Per the board approved language, the bylaws will now state:
4.1 Pipe Major: The Pipe Major (PM) is the musical director of the band and is responsible for selecting the band’s music, directing its musical performance and is defacto Music Committee Chair. The PM or Drum Major shall have an emergency responder (fire or law enforcement) or other emergency rescue services officer experience.
- h. LODD Support Committee
- i. Jim Ryan stated the committee met on September 16 and they are still working on recommendations.
 - ii. Biggest question they have is, where to draw the line for expected to attend, requested to attend and attend if you wish?
 - iii. After some further discussion on the subject, Jim Ryan recommended that the committee be disbanded because they weren’t sure they should or shouldn’t provide a recommendation on when to attend an LODD since everyone is expected to make every one that they can. Jim Ryan then made the motion and Bill Bryce seconded it. Some further discussions were held and then a vote taken. Jim Kraftchak and Matt Lopez voted yes. Jim Ryan and Bill Bryce voted no.
 - iv. Matt Lopez used his powers as president and disbanded the committee.
 - v. The LODD Committee has been officially disbanded.
- i. Budget Committee
- i. Jim Ryan has no report at this time and the board needs to reengage.

IV. Old Business

- a. Ties
 - i. Bill Bryce found clip on ties between \$7 and \$9 each
 - ii. Jim Ryan is opposed to having clip on ties because then we need to worry about length.
 - iii. Jim Ryan motioned that the band purchase standard black ties for the band provided this does not draw our reserve funds below \$10K. Jim Kraftchak 2nd. 4 Yes 1 No. Motion carries.
 - iv. Quartermaster to purchase the ties.
- b. Name Tags
 - i. No information from Gary Winemiller.
- c. Tom Clappi to pay instructors.
 - i. John Bidegeneta was paid and donated it back to the band.
- d. Instructors Payment Committee formation.
 - i. Matt Lopez sent emails to Tom Clappi, Matt Kale and Jim Martin to be part of the committee.
 - ii. Still needs to find 2 more members for the committee.
- e. Funeral Tunes Recording
 - i. Bill Bryce has talked to several people that do this and they need to know what it is we want done.
 - ii. Jim Ryan has offered to do any solo tunes that are needed and would encourage the entire band to participate in this process once it gets set.
 - iii. Matt Bickertt has some connections of people that do recording professionally that might be willing to assist us.
- f. All committees are to report to the BOD at the next meeting.
- g. 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.
 - i. Tom Clappi has not been able to get hold of Phil Nannery yet.
- h. Bill Bryce to create a Drum Major Manual.
 - i. Bill Bryce stated that he is has completed the base manual and need to get some pictures taken so they can be added to the manual before it will be complete.
- i. Bagpipe Covers
 - i. Jason Allen looked into the costs and here is what he found:
 - 1. Depending on where we get it, the cover costs between \$65 and \$75 each.
 - 2. Embroidery on the cover is \$5.
 - 3. Cords are between \$16 and \$20.
 - ii. Jim Kraftchak stated that the cover he uses was purchased from <http://www.hastingsbagcovers.com/> and getting a cover from them is \$45.
 - iii. Matt Lopez recommends that we put this on hold until our budget can better support it.

- iv. Jim Ryan suggested that maybe Charlie Kron, the maker of our chanters, would be willing to sponsor us on purchasing the covers and he would be willing to contact him.

V. New Business

a. Rehearsals

- i. Matt Lopez stated the Dunn Loring VFD Station 13 Bingo Hall would be available to use starting October 21.
- ii. Matt Lopez will also check with Centreville VFD Station 17 and see if their Bingo Hall is available.
- iii. Jason Allen stated that after Emmitsburg we will probably take a couple of weeks off.
- iv. Matt Lopez stated that he might be able to get us back into the high bay at the fire academy shortly. They are waiting on a few updates to go in and then we should be able to go back.

b. Emmitsburg Room Costs

- i. Lisa Heilbraun is the only one with the full breakout of the room costs and since she had to leave before we got to this, this issue will be tabled until our next meeting.

c. Upcoming Gigs

i. Chincoteague Christmas Parade

1. This event is currently still going forward.
2. The final decision on if it's a go or no go will be made in mid-November.
3. If we participate in the parade, they will pay the band \$200.
4. Jason Allen suggested the band pay part of the rooms for those that decide to attend this event. He can get 15 rooms at \$79/night. Lodging would be for Saturday night only.
5. Parade starts at 6PM.
6. Jim Ryan does not see how participating in this parade supports our mission. Tom Clappi stated that it's a fire service parade and nothing else.
7. Matt Lopez suggested that we table this discussion until next month's board meeting when they should hopefully know if the parade is going forward or not.

VI. Good of the Order

- a. Chieftains concert has been rescheduled for March 8, 2021 at this point. We need to get this music back up and ready if this does indeed go forward.

VII. Action Items

- a. Jason Allen to purchase standard black ties as long as that purchase does not take our reserve below \$10K.
- b. Gary Winemiller to design and price uniform name tags by the November board meeting.
- c. Matt Lopez to form a committee for creation of a policy for payment of instructors.
- d. Bill Bryce to look into potential availability and costs for recording of funeral tunes in the event the band cannot attend.
- e. All committees are to report to the BOD at the next meeting.
- f. 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.
- g. All board members to review the Budget Committee's report and provide input to that committee by our next board meeting.
- h. Bill Bryce to complete the Drum Major Manual.
- i. Jim Ryan to check with Charlie Kron to see if he would be willing to sponsor us by purchasing bagpipe bags since we play his chanter.
- j. Jim Kraftchak to send out new bylaws verbiage to the band members for review prior to the 60 day limit before the next General Meeting.

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm with motion by Jim Ryan, seconded by Bill Bryce and passed with a unanimous vote.