

Tioga County Fireman's Association, Inc.

14 Main St., PO BOX 746, Wellsboro, PA 16901

Regular Meeting

March 10th, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Host: Mansfield Fire Department

CALL TO ORDER

The March meeting of the Tioga County Fireman's Association was called to order at 1900 by President Alex Kulish. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and invocation given by Gary Bisel. The welcome address was given by Chief 2, Jim Welsh.

MEETING WAS RECESSED FOR DINNER AT 1901

MEETING WAS RESUMED AT 1910

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

- 1) A Red Cross (RC) Representative attended the meeting, Bree, to discuss the Red Cross' smoke alarm program. RC will provide smoke alarms that have a 10 year battery life to TCFA FD's for free, the fire departments will just need to do the install. This is a FREE service provided by the RC. The smoke alarms are for bedrooms, basements, living rooms, etc but not for kitchens or bathrooms. The RC also has a grant for CO detectors as well for homes. The RC will also partner with FD's for large scale events (i.e. Fire Prevention, Community events, etc...). Bree briefly went through services offered by the RC and provided a handout for attendees with useful information for responders.
- 2) STPR Representatives discussed the upcoming STPR event, taking place July 9th-11th. They discussed the need for rescue and fire crews during the event and asked for support and volunteers in July. They also discussed the possibility of providing some sort of monetary donation to FD's that volunteer during the event, but that will depend on the amount and size of sponsorships they get. They also are seeking a coordinator to sit on the STPR board that would be responsible for coordinating the volunteer emergency crews. If you have any questions, or wish to volunteer for the STPR event, you can email: chair@stpr.org. April 1st is their targeted time to have volunteers signed up.
 - a) CONTACT INFO STPR REPS:
 - i) Philip Barnes (Chair person), 570-376-3674, chair@stpr.org
 - ii) SueAnne Carson, 570-772-5529

READING OF MEETING MINUTES FROM 12/9/2025

Minutes from the previous TCFA meeting, held at the Wellsboro Fire Department on January 13th, 2026, were read by Secretary Rob Satterly. The minutes were unanimously approved.

TREASURERS REPORT

Treasurers' report was read by Treasurer TJ Riley at 1938.

- No change in training account: \$7,590.90
- General account balance as of 3/10/2026: \$5,870.33
- Carson Consumer submitted checks for \$150 and \$97.50
- President Kulish will be checking with River Valley Golf Club regarding the check the TCFA gave them last year for this year's outing -- the check has yet to be cashed.
- THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS STILL OWE DUES:
 - F5 -- Paid During MTG on 3/10/202
 - F6
 - F7
 - F19
 - F50
 - A7
 - A26
 - ALS

Treasures' report was accepted by Brian Davenport, seconded by Bret Mathers, Unanimously Approved

OFFICER ROLL CALL

President: Alex Kulish - Present

1st Vice President: Austin Cooper - Present

2nd Vice President: John Barnes - Present

Treasurer: TJ Riley - Present

Secretary: Rob Satterly - Present

Trustee: Josh McCarthy - Absent

Trustee: Sam Warren - Absent

Trustee: John Andrus - Present

Fire Coordinator 1: Brian Davenport - Present

Fire Coordinator 2: Bill Goltz - Present

Fire Coordinator 3: Lee Strange - Present

Fire Coordinator 4: Galen Martin - Present

Fire Coordinator 5: Doyle Swetlan - Present

COMMUNICATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE

Valley Community Ambulance Association Inc., provided a 90 day notice that their services will be discontinued. The statement reads as follows,

“NOTICE is hereby given by Valley Community Ambulance Association Inc., known as (VCAA) that effective May 31st, 2026, VCAA will DISCONTINUE providing emergency services to the community and cease operations due to the lack of volunteers. The NOTICE shall serve as a 90 day notice that such services will be discontinued. -VCAA Officers”

It was also mentioned again that the Nelson Fire Department is no longer in-service, and is no longer an active Fire Department.

Lisa Rice inquired about Department 11 Ambulance shutting down. The Middlebury Ambulance Association President stated they don't have volunteers to get out the doors and their licensing runs out in December of 2026. IF nothing changes, Middlebury's Ambulance will close their doors as well on December 31st, 2026.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

❖ DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

➤ Per Lisa Rice:

- Tennessee Gas is promoting their new app, BUXUS, which can be downloaded onto your phone or put onto your desktop computer. You can use the app to make notifications to gas industries, get in touch with gas industry representatives, view SDS, and request resources. The app also has training modules that focus on pipeline emergency responses.
- Regarding Emergency Networking -- If your department DOES NOT have Emergency Networking up and running, let Lisa know so she can help you and have the vendor get you up and running ASAP. If you are struggling utilizing the new Emergency Networking, reach out to Lisa and she can get you help to learn the new software.
- The County Commissioners are working hard to support the fire/ems departments and have developed a non-competitive grant process where every department in Tioga County can apply for up to \$10,000 (number not validated at this time, estimated figure). This grant is not for large capital purchases (i.e. new truck, building renovations, etc...) but more for small projects like fixing JAWS tools, getting new hand tools, or a new stretcher. The application for this grant will become available when the Commissioners vote on final approval. Please reach out to Lisa Rice with questions, and an alert will be sent out when the application is available.

➤ Per Bret Mathers:

- Campus Marketplace is up and going, Bucks is still working out some bugs but has mostly taken care of them. Please email Bret if you have a member that wants to take a class, he'll need their Name, DOB, and Email. DO NOT register on your own for a Tioga County Class, it's a money thing.
- The following are upcoming courses available, and how many students are still needed:
 - ASLR - 1
 - WRER - 8
 - Emergency Boat Rescue - 7

- A Chiefs Command Class is coming, it is FREE. Max class size is 30 people, and it is open to the whole state. This is a 35 hour course and you will need to sign up for it through ACADIS.
- The Lithium Ion Battery Class is now a 1 day class and there is no fee.
- Bret is looking for ideas on a hands-on HAZMAT class (like a propane emergency response class; the idea must be HAZMAT related and he needs suggestions ASAP).
- Lee Strange inquired about a solar panel class
- An EMT course is being set up that will have FREE TUITION. The course will be taught by county instructors and paid for by LTS. If you want more details, email Bret. For this class, Tioga County TCFA members will be given first priority, then it will open up to other county departments and local residences. This will be held around January of 2027.
- ❖ EXECUTIVE
- ❖ FORESTRY COMMITTEE
- ❖ STANDARDS COMMITTEE
 - Have discussed meeting to review and revise standards - no committee meeting schedule at this time.
- ❖ COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE
- ❖ TRAINING COMMITTEE
 - A grant from Seneca Resources is being submitted for the Searchable vs. Survivable class.
 - Only a couple sign-ups have come through for the Searchable vs. Survivable class -- after 3/14 the class will be opened up to other fire departments outside Tioga County
- ❖ FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE
 - Will meet sometime in April to discuss the Golf Outing
- ❖ FIRE COORDINATOR REPORT
 - FC1 Brain Davenport stated it was a busy Jan. & Feb. but has slowed down
 - Also, FC's will be meeting with Steuben County regarding crossing borders
 - We go into NY, Steuben County FC's come into PA
- ❖ SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
 - A letter for both guidance counselors/school administrations & graduating seniors was developed. The letters were read out loud during the meeting and some revisions were suggested. Revisions will be made by the Scholarship Committee and represented.

OLD BUSINESS

President Kulish reached out to Ron from Dept. 50 -- the number Pres. Kulish had was no longer in service. He was given another number and will try again. Chief 4 sent Chief 50 a

message directly on 3/10/2026 and Pres. Kulish stated if anyone runs into Ron, to let him know the TCFA is looking for him and to reach out to President Alex Kulish.

Tanker 3-5 is in service and good to go, Congratulations Elkland FD on the new truck.

Per Dept. 51, no new drone pilots have signed up - if anyone would like to be a pilot reach out to a Dept. 51 Officer.

NEW BUSINESS

Todd Bourdette presented a new tool called Project Life Saver, which is a tracking device. It is for individuals that may take off and get lost easily. The device can track up to a mile away and has a vehicle mounted option to help with searching. This tool is good for children/individuals with autism, down syndrome, or any other cognitive disabilities that may be a flight risk, as well as individuals with dementia or Alzheimer's. If you know of anyone this device may be useful for, reach out to Todd and they will get things set up with the user.

Todd Bourdette also stated that forestry is throwing out MRE materials due to toxins.

Drone 51 is now available for Wild Fires as well, but be aware they only have 1 drone pilot right now who works full-time. F51 also has a command trailer that is available for prolonged incidents.

Osceola Fire Department submitted a letter saying they've taken possession of two new pieces of apparatus: Former Engine 18-3 and Former Patrol 18-4. Dept 14 requested a truck designation change on both pieces:

Engine 18-3 changed to Engine 14-3

Patrol 18-4 changed to Patrol 14-4

A Roll Call vote was held, unanimously approved.

Fire Coordinator 1, Brian Davenport, requested the TCFA purchase five (5) new Fire Coordinator helmets. A discussion was held regarding the purchase and questions were raised about insurance policies for ruined equipment. The TCFA officers will review our insurance policy and provide an answer. A Roll Call vote was held for the purchase of five (5) new Fire Coordinator helmets, each helmet costing \$485, unanimously approved.

Dan Neuman, inquired on what the role of a fire coordinator was. TJ Riley had concerns brought to his attention regarding the actions of Fire Coordinator 4 during an MVA in Tioga Township. Fire Coordinator 1, Brian Davenport, stated firmly Fire Coordinators will respond to 2nd Alarm Fires and above. President Kulish then read off the Fire Coordinator section of the TCFA By-Laws to clarify the role of a Fire Coordinator. If any such issues continue, they can be reported to the TCFA.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

Jim Welch asked how long the TCFA is giving Department 50 to respond to the question of their whereabouts before taking action. It was agreed that if nothing is heard from Dept. 50 prior to the next TCFA meeting in Galeton, they will be removed from the TCFA. A certified letter will be sent to Department 50 regarding their status and potential penalty if they do not answer questions brought by TCFA departments.

President Kulish urged all TCFA members to be vigilant, as you never know what requests you might run into.

Department 7, Tioga FD, currently has the County Foam Trailer.

Cedar Mountain Wildfire Crew is available, just a reminder!

**TJ RILEY MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN, SECONDED BY BRET MATHERS, @
2039**

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE MAY 12TH AT THE GALETON FIRE
DEPARTMENT.**

**MEETING MINUTES RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:
ROB SATTERLY, SECRETARY, TCFA**