

2022



THE PATRON FIRE FIGHTER



BEMUS POINT VOLUNTEER FIRE CO., INC.

www.bemuspointfire.com

Greetings to All,

2021 was some year! It's hard to believe what has transpired this past year, and how all of our lives have been impacted by COVID-19. We are looking forward to better days ahead.

Since we are an all volunteer department, it has been challenging for us to keep up with CDC COVID regulations, NYS Dept. of Health protocols, countless zoom meetings, and developing new techniques in order to keep our First Responders and community safe from COVID. I am proud to be Chief of a department with so many dedicated First Responders, who are always willing to answer the calls at any given moment, putting their personal health and safety at risk to assist others. So to all the First Responders in our community, and especially to the women and men of the Bemus Point Volunteer Fire Department... THANK YOU!

Every fire district has special needs depending on their geographic coverage areas. These needs typically demand specialized equipment and training. Bemus Point Fire Dept. is unique because we cover land and water. Our personnel handle medical calls, fires, vehicle accidents and extrication, ice and water rescues, traffic control, and Haz mat issues.

One of our main vehicles is our Heavy Rescue 442, which carries equipment and personnel. It has been in service for 30 years, and has served our community well. Our needs have outgrown the capabilities of this truck. Therefore, last year we formed a truck committee and started a plan to replace R442. Cost estimates for a new truck were \$750,000! This expenditure was unrealistic, and would have put our department in a difficult financial position. We focused our search for a used truck; one that we could refurbish and outfit to satisfy our needs well into the future. Trucks already built that would meet our specifications, and in good condition, are not easy to find; but as luck would have it our committee located a 2005 Pierce Heavy Rescue truck. This truck was listed for \$195,000. With some negotiating, we were able to purchase the truck for \$155,000! We anticipate refurbishments and upgrades costs at approximately \$100,000. This will bring our total investment for a new refurbished truck with greater capabilities to \$255,000; a far cry from the \$750,000! We expect this truck to be in service by June 1, 2021, and that it will serve our needs for many years into the future.

We are truly fortunate to serve a community who appreciates and supports the efforts of the brave men and women of the Bemus Point Volunteer Fire Department, and for that we THANK YOU!

Stay well, stay safe,

Randy Apperson, Fire Chief

Ted Farnham, President

Administration

Ted Farnham - President
Rick Shick - Vice President
Jim Steber - Treasurer
Debra Carlson - Financial Secretary
Val Rea - Recording Secretary

Line Officers

Nick Carlson - Captain
Alex Miller - Captain
Kyle Rakecki - Lieutenant
Steve Phillips - Lieutenant
Jon Stahley - Fire Police Capt.
John Johnston - Building Safety
Tom Rae - Scene Safety Officer

Chief Officers

Randy Apperson - Chief
Jeff Molnar - 1st Asst.
Jeremy Crist - 2nd Asst.
Randy Edwards - 3rd Asst.

100 Years of Service Celebrated



On the evening of September 11, 2021, the members of the Bemus Point Vol. Fire Dept. and their guests celebrated the 100th. anniversary of the department at the historic Hotel Lenhart. The Department was actually founded in February 1920. Our celebration was delayed one year due to COVID.

Attendees embraced the theme by wearing attire representing the Roaring Twenties. Antique fire engines from Ashville and Chautauqua Vol. Fire Depts. came over on the ferry. Music from the Twenties and dancing added to the festivities. Member Steve Hayes provided a rolling video of fire department history.

The evening started with a social hour of rocking on the Hotel porch followed by a buffet dinner. We were honored to have so many fire and public officials present. Proclamations and kind words were spoken about the fire department. Fire Chief Randy Apperson and Fire Company President Ted Farnham presented various awards and recognized outstanding service. This all culminated in the awarding of The Firefighter of the Year Award going to Captain John Johnston who is owner of the Hotel Lenhart. A wonderful time was enjoyed by all!

It should be noted that NO EXPENSES for this evening's event were provided from community donations. The evening was funded entirely through a special NYS Fund that imposes a fee on insurance premiums underwritten by out-of-state insurers. The proceeds MUST be used for the spirit and benefit all the members of the State's fire departments. It cannot be used for usual operating budget items. The fire departments receive an amount every year.

A special thank you is in order for Hotel owners Beebe Johnston, and Deb and John Johnston.



The Last Alarm

NYSP Daniel Kevin Burns

*We grieve, we cry,
we say good-bye
But forever shall you
live in our hearts....*

Online Contribution Connection
www.bemuspointfire.com



New Refurbished Heavy Rescue 441

In early 2019 we were in the process of evaluating our current heavy rescue situation. We were outgrowing our current truck with several new pieces of equipment for rapid vehicle extrication, and vehicle stabilization. We started the process of putting together specifications for the purchase of a new vehicle. The price tag for a new vehicle came back to us of almost \$750,000. After seeing that staggering number, we realized that a new vehicle was not going to be in our near future. The project sat idle for about nine months with discussions, ideas and meetings of what to do. We formed a new truck committee to get the project going again. One of the first questions I asked the committee is should we “bite the bullet” and buy a new one? Refurbish the old one? As we were sitting at our meeting table, we saw a magazine that sells used fire apparatus, and we began looking through that. We were looking at the price savings within those pages and we decided that was the way to go. We all understood that the process could take longer to find a used vehicle that met our needs, but we were willing to wait. Fast forward to January 2021. We have narrowed our search to two vehicles, one in Kentucky and one in Connecticut. As a committee we met and discussed the pros and cons of each vehicle. We ultimately agreed that the first vehicle that we were going to travel to look at was the vehicle in Laurel County Kentucky. Chief Apperson and I went to Kentucky to look at the vehicle and if it passed our inspection, we were going to purchase it. We had negotiated with the current owners prior to our arrival, that if it met our expectations, that we had a price. If it didn't meet them, then we would go to Connecticut and look at the other one. When we got to Laurel County Fire Department, the truck was sitting outside their brand-new fire house waiting for us. We met their chief and truck committee chairperson and began looking at the truck. This truck was in really good shape. The frame and undercarriage were beautiful. The cabinets were large and spacious. Definitely room for us to grow. We looked through that truck thoroughly and decided that we were going to purchase it. At this time, we are right in the middle of a pandemic and the sellers were very motivated to sell. They have two identical heavy rescues, and they no longer have the need for two. We were the benefactors of the situation they were in which saved us over \$500,000 as previously mentioned the cost of brand new. So, what did we buy? We bought a 2005 E-One Typhoon Class Heavy Rescue. It has a six-man cab, meaning the responders will all be in the same cab in an actual seat, as opposed to our old one, two firefighters rode up front and the others in the back on a bench seat. The actual truck is several feet longer, but also the box or storage area of the truck is as well. This vehicle “checked all the boxes” of our needs, and at a great price.

We replaced a 1990 Pierce, that was a great truck for us, with a 2005 E-One. It has safer seating arrangements, more storage, and versatility to serve our community. Bemus Point Fire Department remained financially responsible, while striving to get the best replacement for the money. If you remember, earlier I mentioned that we designed a brand-new truck and that was going to cost us \$750,000? That's a lot of money. This project came in at a considerable cost savings. With the purchase price, a few new pieces of equipment, and a new paint job, our total investment is about \$225,000. That's a pretty good savings. I would encourage you to stop by the fire station and have a look at this impressive piece of equipment.

I would like to thank many, first our truck committee- Randy Edwards, Andrew Brodell, James Brodell, Nick Carlson, Alex Miller, Steve Phillips, Kyle Radiecki and Jeremy Crist. This committee met several

times over Zoom to discuss things and we all worked together to achieve this goal that we shared. I would like to thank the Mayor, Bryan Dahlberg and the rest of the Village Board for their trust and support in us to see this project through. Kaczar Collision, who painted the truck. It was white, and now has the same paint scheme as our other vehicles. They did a great job painting this massive truck. They encountered challenges along the way and delivered an outstanding paint job. Jason Cuoco for all the graphics and lettering. Finally, Chief Randy Apperson and the rest to the members of the Bemus Point Fire Department. You trusted in us to give this community a quality, effective and efficient apparatus, and that's exactly what we have. Thank you again to all that made this project possible, without you, this would not have been possible. Great Job!

By Jeremy Crist Asst. (Past) Fire Chief



**Recruits always welcome to join!
Contact one of our firefighters
or go to our website: bemuspointfire.com**

“Life in the Bemus Point FD in the 1920’s”



January 7, 1920

The Village of Bemus Point will hold a Taxpayers Election January 20th. for the purpose of determining if the Board of trustees will borrow \$4,000.00 for the purchase of a Combination Motor Fire Engine, together with the accessories and apparatus necessary for the operation of the same.

(The proposition was carried and the village purchased a Combination Pumper and Booster truck from the Waterous Fire Engine Company. The pump was mounted under the hose box near the rear, a very hard place to attach the suction hose and to work the valves, but a swell place to get your fingers smashed. We carried 1200 feet of 2½ inch hose. Ahead of the hose box was a 300 gal. booster tank with hose reel. On the running board was mounted 4 canisters each holding 10 pounds of soda. On the way to a fire we would dump a bag of soda in the booster tank, then we would have a chemical tank. In those days all fire companies had soda and acid chemical tanks, it was thought you must have chemicals to put out any fires inside of a building. So we were very ashamed of our booster tank. We never thought that in less than 15 years all fire trucks would have booster tanks and that soda and acid tanks would be a thing of the past..

The whole outfit was mounted on a Ford chassis, which was very slow. But we put out more fires with that rig than we ever did with our later Larrabee and International trucks

February 27, 1920

The Village Board has granted a petition to organize a fire company for the protection of lives and property in the village.

The Village Board has appointed the following as members of the Bemus Point Fire Department.

Clarence H. Hansen
A.C. Russ
Frank Skillman
Howard Bemus
R.A. Scofield
Lester J. Skillman
Arthur Carpenter
Dewey Arnold
A.V. Johnson
Adolph Hansen
Glenn Norton
Earl Thompson,

Delbert Johnson
J.W. Smiley
Clark L. Lord
Frank Putnam
J.H. Kellogg
Merl Sparling
Howard Reynolds
Floyd Bowen
Howard Russ
Victor Norton
Ernest Russ
Frank Thompson

The following officers were nominated for approval of the Village Board.

Fire Chief - A.C. Russ
1st. Asst. - Clarence Hansen
2nd. Asst. - Clark Lord.
Warden - A.G. Barrett
Warden - L.J. Skillman

“Life in the Bemus Point FD in the 1920’s”

May 22, 1920

Experts were in this village Thursday to demonstrate the qualities of the fire fighting apparatus recently purchased by the village. A large fire was started in the cellar of the old Felton farm house, which was recently torn down, and when the fire was at its height it was very quickly extinguished with chemicals, surprising even those who had been most enthusiastic concerning the machine.

Two large streams of water were then pumped from the lake and thrown clear over the roof of the Columbian Inn and then as a further test, the truck was run up the State Road in front of the home of Charles W. Bemus and two large streams of water were thrown over that dwelling which stands on an elevation of 75 feet above the lake level. All agreed that the engine did all it had been guaranteed to do.

May 31, 1920

A peculiar accident occurred here Monday morning when a young man, whose name was not learned, and who was riding a motorcycle, lost control of his machine near the steamboat pier and being unable to make the turn in the road at this point, dashed onto the pier at high speed and unable to stop, machine and rider went into the lake off the end of the pier.

David Lawson, proprietor of the nearby boat company, jumped off the dock and dived for the unfortunate man and succeeded in bringing him to shore. The motorcycle was located and after a great deal of hard work was brought to the surface only slightly damaged. However, but for the prompt action of Mr. Lawson, the young man probably would have drowned.

July 1, 1920

The summer season is rapidly nearing its height at this resort and it is expected all the large hotels will be filled to capacity by July 4th.

The new golf course belonging to the Columbian Inn and the bathing beach are very popular with the guests.

Professor H.S. Anderson, physical director of Yale University, has arrived at the Columbian Inn, and will have charge of the Recreation Center again this year. This feature added much to the enjoyment of the guests last year and was conducted under the auspices of the Bemus Point Civic Club.



“Life in the Bemus Point FD in the 1920’s”

July 10,, 1920

At the last meeting of the Village Board it was decided to purchase pipe suitable for piping water from the lake to the State Road at the foot of Liberty Street,, for fire purposes:.

(This stand pipe was put in but it never was a success.. It was a 20 foot lift from the lake to the road,, so it was almost impossible to get water without loosing the priming from the gear pumps.. The fish and sand were always getting into the intake.. Many a time we found a perch stuck fast in a nozzle.. I don't think we ever used this stand pipe on a fire.. A roadway was finally made to the lake at Liberty Street..)

July 17,, 1920

At a special meeting of the Village Board it was voted to lease from the Columbian Inn, Inc., a certain portion of the Fowler Block, situated opposite the Columbian Inn, on Main street, for a period of five years at \$150. a year.. The building to be used for a fire station and meeting place for the village board..

(The Fowler Block was the building now occupied by the Lakeside Market.. At that time the building had a portition down the center, the lake side was occupied by the Post Office, Tōm Mattison was postmaster

The village rented the the other half. The floor of the building was several feet above the street, so a very steep concrete ramp was built in front of the village part of the building to get the fire truck in and out of the building.

In those days there were no starters, so the Ford fire truck had to be cranked by hand. The truck was very hard to start so we would push the truck to the door, put it in gear and let it go down the steep ramp, which generally started us off at a great speed.

This building was used until the present village hall was built in 1922..



Fire Safety Training at BP Elementary School

Firefighters from the Maple Springs, Ellery Center and Bemus Point recently combined efforts to interact with students at the Elementary School. The goal is to familiarized students with our medical and fire equipment and procedures. We want to promote a consciousness of personal safety. Students had an opportunity to see some of the vehicles, equipment and personnel that they may experience if they were involved in an emergency. Many children are afraid of EMT's and firefighters. Our goal is to help them realize we are their friends,



and they should not hide from us. Pictured below are ECVFD, MSVFD medics and BPVFD Chief Randy Apperson instructing the kids. In turnout gear is MSVFD Firefighter Chuck Holder. Chuck crawled among the kids so they could hear his breathing, talk with him and touch him. This is all done so that should the kids be in a fire situation they will know what to expect and do not hid in fear. The students also received fun safety information packets to take home.



Structure Fire in Greenhurst



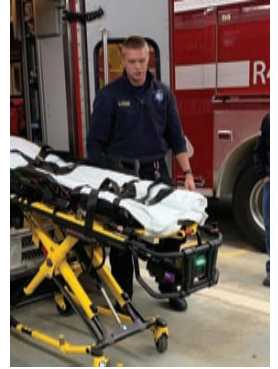
This is what the Bemus firefighters encountered upon their arrival at a fully involved structure fire on April 4. For many years the wood frame building has functioned as a restaurant. Fluvanna Fire Dept. requested mutual aid from surrounding departments. After the size-up by fire commanders, there appeared to be no life hazards. The next priority is to protect all surrounding exposures with hose lines to contain the fire. Then they moved in for the fire attack and extinguishment. Lastly, salvage and overhaul is performed extinguishing hotspots, making the remaining structure safer and assisting the fire investigators.

Fluvanna fire commanders were faced with a problem. The electricity cables burned and came down basically dividing the fire scene in half. They could not allow the firefighters to move about freely on the fireground. Bemus was assigned the responsibility of the west half of the incident.

New State of the Art Stretcher



We have fewer and fewer people now to answer more and more calls. We must maximize the capabilities of each of our responders through innovative equipment. EMS Captain Nick Carlson instructs us on our new stretcher. Through integrated electronics and a battery-operated motor system we can greatly assist our responders with lifting and transporting patients. We can now accommodate very large and heavy patients without having to call in extra assistance for more personnel.



However, everything in our business is so very expensive now. This system cost approximately \$42,000! We are always looking for grants and funding. Yet, your donations are the steady support that allows us to obtain this essential equipment. Thank you!

Response Calls for 2021

150 - Medical

12 - Fire

15 - Mutual Aid

37 - False Alarms

20 - Other

FOR A TOTAL OF....

234 CALLS



Past Fire Company
President Mike Krott
receiving an award
from Chief
Apperson and
President
Farnham for his
past tenure.



Chicken Bar-B-Que

Thank you to all who purchased our Chiavettas chicken dinners on May 28. It was a big success again and we sold out! The proceeds will be used toward needed equipment. A special thanks to Asst. Fire Chief Jeff Molnar whose vision it was to start it and is in charge of it every year.

As you can see below, not everyone in our district is happy about our menu for obvious reasons.

PLEASE EAT MORE BEEF!!!



Profiles in Service and Courage

The talent and dedication of the people of the volunteer fire service is truly amazing. We have chosen three members of BPVFD to profile below. This will give you some insight into the type of people you have in your local fire department. THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MISSION. There are many jobs that need to be done. Our members come from all walks of life. Jim Steber is retired and resides in the Lakeside Condominiums. Riley Farnham is young and in the process of building her career in the field of medicine. Ann Brodell has a home in the Cleveland and in Bemus. Below are their individual profiles. It's really one of the most rewarding and important things you can do in your life.

Ann Brodell

Ann Brodell recently retired as the business manager for her husband, Dr. James Brodell, when he semi-retired from his orthopedic surgery practice in Ohio. They also own a secondary beautiful home on The Lake in Bemus. We have featured her two sons, Andy and Jimmy, in prior Patron Firefighter publications. Both sons were firefighters while at Colgate taking all the required NYS courses and training. While at the Bemus home they were active in our fire department. We are proud of these young men. While permanently living in Bemus, Andy was very active in Chautauqua County emergency services as Asst. Fire Chief BPVFD, County Medic and County Special Teams. He also obtained his masters in Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Andy was recently appointed Director of Emergency Services/Fire Coordinator for Livingston County. Brother Jimmy was the first one to join BPVFD while in college. He is now Doctor Brodell and is a third year resident specializing in orthopedics at the University of Rochester School of Medicine.



Being from the Cleveland area, the volunteer fire service was really an unknown to mother and father. Ann would say that it seemed like every time the family sat down for dinner or planned something, off the pagers would go and off her boys would go. It had become a major part of their lives. One day the boys told their mother she should join. Ann said she thought she should see what this was all about and participate with them. She was amazed at what her sons were doing and caught the spirit. Hence, whenever she is in Bemus she is now jumping up and off to the station whenever we get a hit.

Ann is a driver on of Ambulance 441 on calls. Not one to lay around on a lawn chair after her retirement, Ann has seen the dire need we have for EMT's. She took the National Emergency Medical Technician AND New York State training and tests. She is now one of our EMT's and responds when in town.

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Profiles in Service and Courage

Riley Farnham

Riley joined the fire department in 2017 at the age of seventeen. She comes from a family background of relatives in the fire service. Riley's father, Ted Farnham, is a past fire chief and currently Fire Company President. Ted is very proud of his daughter and rightfully so.

Riley is a hard worker and focused. Her involvement includes Jamestown Community College Applied Science degree in nursing, a critical care nursing goal, employed by UPMC Chautauqua in Jamestown as a patient care technician ICU, licensed EMT and just recently completed the training for her paramedic certification. She is only 21 years old!

Riley provided some interesting insight from the perspective of a young person about fire/EMT work; Positives-making a save, being able to comfort and stabilize the patients, the excitement and adrenaline rush of the call; Negatives-not being able to save everybody, and motor vehicles accidents are hard, once in awhile being the girl.

Although Riley is only 21, she has grown into a mainstay in our fire district with many of the residents/patients, especially the elderly. She enjoys caring for them and they look for her. Around the station or on calls, Riley has to even patch-up the firefighters sometimes also. Riley and her mother Mary are good cooks and bakers for which we are grateful. Her other release is her dog, Baxter Lenhart.

Riley is concerned for the future of the volunteer fire and EMT service because young people just don't join. She said it seems like it would be the kind of thing that would attract them, but unfortunately it doesn't. Riley thinks this is going to soon be a major problem for our communities.



Jim Steber

After a long career in the financial industry, my wife and I retired in 2016 and moved from Erie to Bemus Point—we immediately fell in love with Bemus!

After meeting Jeff Molnar, Assistant Fire Chief of BPVFD, we talked about what the Fire Department does and the volunteer opportunities. I was intrigued, so I decided to visit the fire station. I was so impressed with what I saw and learned that I subsequently joined. From that first night I have continued to meet and work with a great group of people. They are genuinely interested in assisting the people of the Bemus Point area with everything from firefighting, emergency medical, to water and ice rescue.

After NYS classroom and hands on training, I now serve on the Fire Police Team for my line duty. I also am the Fire Company Treasurer which includes the finances, grants, fundraising, events and work details around the station.

I encourage everyone (yes, YOU) to consider joining the fire department. It has given me a sense of accomplishment in my retirement, pride in giving back to my community and I have made many wonderful friends.

It only takes an hour to visit and see what the department does. As Chief Molnar explained when we first met, "there are volunteer opportunities for everyone in our department."



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