



President
JED PERKINS
Chester Hose Co. Inc.

Vice President
DON JOHNSON
Essex Fire Eng. Co. No. 1

Secretary - Treasurer
BUCK TAYLOR
No. Madison Vol. Fire Co.

Minutes of March 24, 2003 VSMAA Meeting, Deep River, CT.

President Perkins called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. 10 Departments were represented.

The minutes of the February 24, 2003 meeting were read. MMS to accept with the following corrections: Scott Andrews noted an error in the report of Clinton's purchase of a new 100' aerial. The report should have read a new 110' aerial. A second correction was brought forward by Jed Perkins, noting that Chester would be putting out bid documents in May for a new Ambulance, not receiving this ambulance as noted in the report. So voted.

The treasurer's report was not read. The treasurer reports a balance is \$3754.79.

Special Presentations:

1. Jim Hite, from Middlesex Hospital (MH), made a question and answer type of presentation concerning Middlesex Paramedic operations. Jim reported that MH has rolled out the Incident Command System, and completed their bio-terrorism plan. Regarding paramedic services, Jim states that the hospital's program is struggling fiscally- and has been since Oct 2002. MH is experiencing a shortage of beds and nurses, while other costs such as pharmaceuticals has gone up. MH has implemented a no overtime policy to help combat these costs. Jim reports that paramedic service was denied only 46 hours during the month of February 2003, representing 1% of total hours in month. MH always staffs 3 medic units, stationed in Middletown, Shoreline Clinic and Marlborough Clinic. Jim also stated that MH is having a vehicle insurance issue, and was asking for cooperation from departments. Jim states that their insurance policy does not allow anyone under 21 years of age to drive the medic vehicle. MH is looking for a list of possible drivers from each department. A letter was sent on March 21, 2003 to all affected Valley Shore departments.
2. Jim also states that Arnie Moore, MH trainer for EMD is working with dispatchers to refine or refresh dispatch protocols. Jim states that in only 53% of the calls that a paramedic is dispatched for, that there is an actual transport with medics. This was an unacceptable high rate, and was another reason for escalating costs. When questioned by Jim Long, Jim Hite stated that there are no other serious problems with the MH Paramedic program that he was aware of.

Communications:

1. None

Bills to be paid:

1. None

Committee(s) report:

1. None

Old Business:

1. John Tabek reports no new information or leads regarding the February break-in of the Tylerville Station.

CHESTER HOSE CO., INC.
P.O. Box 214
Chester, CT 06412
526-0019

CLINTON VOL. FIRE DEPT.
35 East Main Street
Clinton, CT 06413
669-8131

DEEP RIVER FIRE DEPT.
57 Union St.
Deep River, CT 06417
526-6042

ESSEX FIRE ENGINE CO. NO. 1
11 Saybrook Road
Essex, CT 06426
767-1258

GUILFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT
31 Park Street
Guilford, CT 06437
453-8000

HADDAM VOL. FIRE DEPARTMENT
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Higganum, CT 06441
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Old Lyme, CT 06371-0102
434-2424

OLD SAYBROOK FIRE DEPT.
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WESTBROOK FIRE DEPT.
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2. In response to John Tabeks report, Rob McCarthy reported a possible break-in at the Cross Lane Station in Old Lyme. Again some gear, a scanner, a VCR and one other item appear to have been taken. Police investigating both internal and externally.
3. The statewide ITAC radio bids have come in under budget, and Fred Dudek reports that they will probably be deployed in late May or June.
4. The proposed State Police Boat was cut from the State budget recently, as it received negative reviews from various fire associations statewide.

New Business:

1. Jim Budney reported that Deep River has received 4 bids from vendors for dispatching services.
2. Jed Perkins also reported that Chester has formed a committee to hire a new dispatch service.
3. Charlie Herrschaft reported an incident with a convalescent home where the home used DNR bracelets for ID tags because the home had run out of ID bracelets. This issue came to light during an incident at the home, and the family of a patient stated that the apparent heart attack victim did NOT have a DNR. Corrective action was taken with the home to prevent further mishaps.
4. Jed Perkins also reported an incident with a Convalescent Home several weeks prior to this meeting where there was a fire in a ward that had not been checked by the homes staff. It was found by the FD to be full of smoke, and was evacuated.
5. A group discussion regarding FEMA Grant Applications took place. It appeared that most departments were applying for grants, and many applying for assistance with radio systems and/or equipment. Buck Taylor is collecting a small library of grants. Anyone wishing copies can call or e-mail Buck for a copy.
6. Buck Taylor reported that Madison Hose was given town approval to purchase a new \$35,000 rescue boat. Buck also reports that North Madison will be hosting its annual banquet on April 26, 2003. Invitations should be forthcoming.
7. Jim Long stated that Valley Shore Communications was looking to acquire UHF licenses for use by Valley Shore departments. A discussion regarding UHF versus low-band was held. Information regarding new FCC directives was discussed concerning new narrow-band regulations. More information regarding this topic can be found at: <http://www.apco911.org/frequency/narrowbandmandate.htm>
8. Jim Long stated that he felt the Valley Shore departments should be better represented at Middlesex County meetings, and urged more departments to attend.

Interest to the organization: None

There was no other business to discuss. MMS to adjourn - so moved at 9:07 pm. The next meeting will be held in Chester, on April 28th at 8:00 pm.

Respectively submitted
Buck Taylor, Secretary/Treasurer
March 24, 2003