



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

Vice President
Rob McCarthy
Old Lyme Fire Department

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

Minutes of the February 23, 2004 VSMAA Meeting, Clinton, CT.

President Perkins called the meeting to order at 8:05 PM with 12 departments represented.

Special Presentations:

1. None

The minutes of the December 22, 2003 meeting were read, MMS to accept as read.

The treasurer's report was read. The treasurer currently reports a balance is \$4313.60.

Communications:

1. A thank you card from Hugh Allen was presented and read. The card thanks the Association for its support during Hugh's recent illness.

Bills to be paid:

1. Don Johnson presented a bill in the amount of \$97.56 for food and supplies for the annual dinner, December 22, 2003. A MMS to pay the bill as presented.

Committee(s) report(s):

1. Schools: Fred Dudek reports recently meeting with the bond committee concerning funding for construction and improvements to the regional fire schools. Fred reports that it is just a matter of time until the funding comes through.

Old Business:

1. Concerning the matter of regional fire schools: Jed Perkins passed around copies of a letter concerning a proposal by a local State Representative which would have proposed a \$4 million bond for the purchase of training trailers for use by Connecticut Fire Departments. Jim Long and Fred Dudek spoke to this State Representative in concern that a measure like this would jeopardize the bonding and funding of the regional school plan. Fred and Jim thanked the Representative and educated him as to how the fire service works and the types of training resources needed. Don Johnson underscored the importance of improving and rebuilding the regional fire school system after a walk-through inspection by DEP Commissioner Jim Fleming recently at the Willimantic and Wolcott schools.
2. Jed Perkins reports that the Middlesex County Inventory Sheets are completed for the statewide disaster plan. Fred Dudek and Jed Perkins are responsible for the "Southern" county plan. Fred estimates that the nucleus of the plan will be ready in approximately 1 month after concerns about loss of local command was aired.
3. Regarding the Statewide disaster plan, Fred Dudek mentioned that the plan is a high-level plan, and doesn't provide details about local resources such as specialized teams and apparatus. Fred suggested that additional inventory and reporting would be in valuable to local chiefs.
4. Jed Perkins read a response from Valley Shore Communications (VSC) concerning a letter submitted to Valley Shore Communications by VSMAA after a structure fire in Essex in November 2003. Rick Darin responded in a letter stating that VSC followed protocols, and that the faults were introduced by other dispatch centers. Rick also stated that the Tanker

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P.O. Box 214
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526-0019

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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
439 Saybrook Road
Higganum, CT 06441
345-4945

KILLINGWORTH VOL. FIRE CO.
331 Rt. 81
Killingworth, CT 06419
663-1785

MADISON HOSE CO. NO. 1
P.O. Box 573
Madison, CT 06443
245-2772

NO. MADISON VOL. FIRE CO.
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No. Madison, CT 06443
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OLD LYME FIRE DEPT.
69 Lyme St. P.O. Box 102
Old Lyme, CT 06371-0102
434-2424

OLD SAYBROOK FIRE DEPT.
310 Main St.
Old Saybrook, CT 06475
395-3149

WESTBROOK FIRE DEPT.
P.O. Box 691
South Main Street
Westbrook, CT 06498
399-9492

“Task Force” (now Strike Team) assignments were authorized directly by a member chief. Discussions about providing chiefs the flexibility to make interim changes were discussed, as well as the preference for “stacking” tones during mutual aid dispatches. Consensus felt that it should be O.K. for a chief to make changes, and because departments will change chief officers from time to time, that a procedure requesting VSC to provide a written report to VSMAA whenever a change was made by a department chief, so that VSMAA can ensure that documents are kept up to date, and all affected departments are notified. Jed Perkins and Don Johnson will follow-up with a response to VSC.

New Business:

1. Scott Andrews announced that Clinton F.D. has received license approval for a new fire ground frequency, 46.36 mhz, and high-band repeater frequency (460.48750 and 468.48750 mhz). Clinton F.D. will implement the use of this new fire ground channel after notification to surrounding mutual aid departments.
2. Jim Long raised a question concerning a recent act to route cellular 911 calls along state highways to the State Police instead of local 911 centers effective March 1, 2004. Fred Dudek reported that the Department of Public Safety put a freeze on that measure after it was discovered that the initiative was developed without going through proper channels.
3. Jim Long inquired about the feasibility of VSMAA purchasing “Fit Testing” equipment for sharing and use by all VSMAA departments. After some discussion, it appears that there are enough local departments who own fit testing equipment to satisfy local needs. Charlie Herrschaft announced the willingness to lend his departments fit testing equipment and provide training certification to departments in need.
4. Fred Dudek proposed bringing in a speaker, sponsored by VSMAA, for a 4-hour class on smoke reading. Don Johnson suggests that such training should be held between November and April to maximize potential VSMAA attendance. Fred states that the class would be useful to officers and firefighter alike. The class could also be held during an evening session for convenience. Fred will report back with more details.
5. Jed Perkins turned over the meeting to incoming president Don Johnson.
6. Don Johnson presented Jed Perkins with a plaque recognizing the Associations appreciation for Jed’s service to the organization over the past several years. The plaque reads: *“In appreciation for your outstanding service as President of the Valley Shore Mutual Aid Association from 2002 through 2003, and Vice President from 2000 through 2001.”*
7. An audit committee was appointed by incoming president Don Johnson to review the Associations books. Fred Dudek, Jeff True and Jim Long make up the annual committee.

Interest to the organization:

1. Rob McCarthy announced that Old Lyme received Grant monies for new radios and repeater system. Rob also reports that the departments new Pierce Pumper is due in a few weeks. The new pumper will feature a HUSKY foam system with two foam tanks containing both class A and Class B foam.
2. Fred Dudek mentioned a change in Firefighter I practical testing: effective January 1, 2004, all practical testing will utilize Job Performance Review methodology.
3. Bob Girard mentioned that a bill to fund the Limited Access Highway reimbursement program is in the works.
4. Don Johnson mentioned that some departments are billing patients for “Rescue Services” when involved in accidents. This is becoming more common in western states. It was also mentioned as a reminder, that departments who provide R-1 services could also charge for these services.

The next meeting will be held in Deep River, on March 22, 2004 at 8:00 pm

Respectively submitted
Buck Taylor
Secretary/treasurer