



President  
**Paul Fazzino**  
Essex Fire Engine Co. No. 1

Vice President  
**Clark Maxson**  
Old Saybrook Fire Dept.

Secretary - Treasurer  
**Steve Biasi**  
North Madison Vol. Fire Co.

## Minutes of the June 22, 2009 VSMAI meeting in Clinton, CT.

The meeting was called to order by President Fazzino at 19:52 hrs with a salute to the flag.

### Attendees – June 22, 2009

- |                                  |                              |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Charlie Herrschaft – Guilford | 2. Pete Lefrancois – Clinton |
| 3. Mike Jenkins – Westbrook      | 4. Jim Long – Westbrook      |
| 5. Bob Voss – Clinton            | 6. Tim Lee – Deep River      |
| 7. James Budney – Deep River     | 8. Harry Hall – Durham       |
| 9. Robert Gerard – Madison       | 10. Jeff Hesel – Clinton     |
| 11. Steve Biasi – North Madison  | 12. Paul Fazzino - Essex     |

### Special Presentations:

NONE

**Approval of the previous meeting minutes:** MMS (Long/Hall) to accept the May 18, 2009 minutes as distributed. Motion passed unanimously.

**Reading of communications:** None

**Treasurer's report:** The Treasurer reported an opening balance of \$6,784.89, with \$400.00 of income and no expenses. Ending balance is \$7,184.89. MMS to accept the Treasurer's report as presented (Budney/Hall). Motion passed unanimously.

### Bills to be paid:

NONE		
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### Committee report(s):

#### Statewide Disaster:

No report

#### Regional Preparation/Pre-Planning:

No Report

#### Radio Frequency/Communications Committee:

The secretary reported on behalf of committee chairperson Brian Manware that all departments have reported back on the radio frequency spreadsheet except for Deep River and Haddam.

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### **Old Business:**

Chief Bob Voss Of Clinton reported the firefighter I course ongoing in Clinton was going well. The only issue has been addressed. The issue was the occurrence of some late night classes. The class is going very well.

Deputy Chief Budney of Deep River reported the CDL class in Deep river is progressing very well and the students were moving towards going for their driving test. Discussion ensued as to the difference between the Q Restriction and the CDL. Chief Budney explained the primary difference is the students paid \$60.00 to take the written exam. Discussion progressed into the area of having fire apparatus completing State DOT testing. The meeting attendees were informed by Chief Budney that DOT inspectors will inspect fire apparatus at no cost to the department but also explained that outside, private contractors and automotive service center specializing in commercial trucks can also conduct the DOT inspections. Bill Sullo's commercial automotive repair service center specializing in fire apparatus repair and restoration is an example of an outside, private contractor. The attendees discussed that commercial automotive service centers, however, are required to correct unsafe defects when discovered while performing servicing on fire apparatus.

Deputy Chief Budney of Deep River inquired with the attendees as to which departments are currently using UHF frequencies. It was reported that Old Saybrook was going over to UHF within the next 30-60 days and Clinton reported there department was moving over to UHF later this year. President Fazzino acknowledged that many departments have already moved over to UHF. Chief Voss reported that most of his department's portable radios can communicate with surrounding towns. Chief Budney explained that Deep River bought radios a couple of years ago with only sixteen channels and only have one bank. Most recently, their department has bought new radios with more than one bank for additional channels. Chief Budney explained the radios five years and older may not be capable of holding all the current necessary frequencies due to the limited amount of channels. Assistant Chief Tim Lee of Deep River explained they were in the process of cleaning up their frequency list.

Chief Hall of Durham suggested the completed frequency list, upon revision and updating, could be provided to dispatch centers and programmed into the CAD systems so that incoming mutual aid companies could be notified by the dispatch center as to what frequency to operate on (assigned).

### **New Business:**

Chief Voss of Clinton explained Fire Warden Donald Blifford is looking for an updated list of each department's list of personnel and apparatus. The fire warden has a list of equipment and resources available for brush fires at the state level.



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Additionally, Fire Warden Blifford has resources to obtain fire equipment for brush fires at reduced costs. Mail your department's responses to 35 Main Street, Clinton, CT 06413 or e-mail it to Bob Voss ([flash907@aol.com](mailto:flash907@aol.com))

President Fazzino announced he is planning a presentation at the upcoming Essex meeting. President Fazzino has contacted two electricians to discuss and present information on the installation and de-energizing of residential and commercial solar panels. The purpose of the presentation and discussion is to inform fire department officers on the safe and effective means to de-energize the solar panels during fire related emergencies.

Chief Hall of Durham opened discussion with the attendees on how each department handles fire watches and the compensation of fire department personnel. Chief Fazzino of Essex reported they charge an hourly rate of \$38.00 per hour per firefighter. The fire watch service in Essex is charged to the customer through the fire marshal's office and each firefighter is provided with a W-9 tax form. Chief Hall reported the Durham Fair organization is struggling due to the current economic times and is planning more fair events throughout the calendar year. Currently, his fire department personnel are not getting compensation. Past practice has been not to charge the fair for a fire watch during the four days of Durham Fair in September but with the additional event besides the fair they are moving towards compensation for fire watch services. The attendees had an open discussion concerning the use of a fire watch and who authorizes it and when is it required. President Fazzino explained the local fire marshals shall determine when and where a fire watch is required and also determines the amount of fire watch personnel coverage. President Fazzino added the fire marshal determines that amount of fire watch coverage and the fire chief is responsible providing such fire watch coverage. President Fazzino explained that if the fire department can not provide the fire watch coverage or the customer requesting the fire watch is not willing to pay the cost of the fire watch services then the event can not proceed. Chief Hall explained the fair looked into obtaining (through leasing or purchasing) a fire truck and contracting with local fire fighters. Chief Hall inquired with the attendees as to who's insurance the contract firefighters are covered with. The attendees collectively agreed that coverage would be through the hiring company (fair organization) but the attendees strongly discouraged this practice in the event someone or a firefighter gets injured. Chief Gerard of Madison added that the fire marshal determines when and where the fire watch is required along with the amount of coverage. Chief Gerard reported that his firefighters are paid \$25.00 an hour to perform fire watch activities. Chief Hall explained that the fire marshal in the past years has overlooked people sleeping in the barns with the animals without a fire watch but last year no longer allowed it and required a fire watch for the overnight hours. Chief Hall also inquired as to what training should the fire watch personnel be trained. The attendees collectively agreed the fire watch personnel should be trained to at least the

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firefighter I level. Chief Hall discussed the upcoming gun show and the fire marshal's request for a fire watch.

**Interest to the Organization:**

Deputy Chief Steve Biasi of North Madison thanked all the departments that provided assistance and station coverage during the services and funeral for Jordan Kinscherf.

President Fazzino and the attendees thanked Old Saybrook Fire Department for hosting the annual firefighter competition.

MMS to adjourn at 20:30 hours (Long/Hall).

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Biasi  
Secretary / Treasurer

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, July 27, 2009 in Durham at 7:30 PM.

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