



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 July 27, 2009 VSMAI meeting in Durham, CT.

The meeting was called to order by President Fazzino at 19:43 hrs with a salute to the flag.

Attendees – July 27, 2009

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Bob Gerard – Madison | 2. Charles Herrschaft |
| 3. Sam Baber – Haddam | 4. Harry Hall – Durham |
| 5. Paul Fazzino – Essex | 6. Steve Biasi – North Madison |
| 7. Jim Budney – Deep River | 8. Tim Lee – Deep River |
| 9. Gary Clare – Haddam | 10. Scott Wright – Durham |
| 11. Jeff Long – Westbrook | 12. Rob Carlson - Middlefield |

Special Presentations:

NONE

Approval of the previous meeting minutes: MMS (Hall/Baber) to accept the June 22, 2009 minutes as distributed. Motion passed unanimously.

Reading of communications: None

Treasurer's report: The Treasurer reported an opening balance of \$7,184.89, with \$100.00 of income and no expenses. Ending balance is \$7,284.89. 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:

NONE

Regional Preparation/Pre-Planning:

NONE

Radio Frequency/Communications Committee:

The committee met this month.

On August 3rd, Chief Klare reported that Haddam Fire Department will be switching to high band with cross banding between low band and high band.

CHESTER HOSE CO., INC.
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Clinton, CT 06413-2049
860-669-8131

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57 Union Street
Deep River, CT 06417-2011
860-526-6042

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PO Box 154
Durham, CT 06422-0154
860-349-9112

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11 Saybrook Road
Essex, CT 06426-1402
860-767-1258

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390 Church Street
Guilford, CT 06437-2004
203-453-8000

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439 Saybrook Road
Higganum, CT 06441-4110
860-345-4945

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Killingworth, CT 06419-1218
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PO Box 573
Madison, CT 06443-0573
203-245-2772

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203-245-2772

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69 Lyme Street
PO Box 102
Old Lyme, CT 06371-0102
860-434-2424

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310 Main Street
Old Saybrook, CT 06475-2372
860-395-3149

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Chief Budney reminded the attendees that Chester is now operating on high band without cross banding and added that Deep River will remain on low band on 44.00. Mutual aid departments responding to Chester will be provided with a portable radio on site by the incident commander or his/her assistant. Incoming mutual aid departments may lack information concerning incident size-up and ongoing tactics and strategies.

Chief Herrschaft explains that everyone is moving towards UHF.

Chief Budney explains that his department has some portable radios with only 16 channels. Chief Herrschaft stated that Deep River may have to prioritize channels and frequencies to meet the demands and needs of their department.

Chief Budney explains that on 44.00 he can pick up the radio transmissions of various valley shore towns and can report things in various valley shore towns such as in Durham. Chief Budney asked if there will be a regional channel in the future to report such incidents throughout valley shore.

Scott Wright explained to the attendees that everyone will have their own channels and frequencies and there are not enough available frequencies to have a regional channel. Mr. Wright explains there will have to be a “bridge” put in place eventually to go between towns that are not adjacent to on another such as between Chester and Durham. Currently, there is a loss in communications between two such towns. Mr. Wright also adds that 46.18 will remain active and in place.

Chief Fazzino explained that Essex is still cross banding along with many other valley shore towns. Chief Fazzino adds that valley shore may want to look into developing a regional frequency in the future. According to Chief Fazzino, Essex’s frequencies only have enough coverage to cover the Town of Essex and outside that coverage area they start interfering with other towns and frequencies over in Long Island, NY

Scott Wright explains the FCC will be opening up the “T” Banding and had previously had a period of open comment on the issue in the Federal Register. The period for comments are closed and the topic of the “T” banding is currently on hold by the FCC. Mr. Wright recommends departments look to operate and purchase radios and equipment capable of operating between 450 and 520. Mr. Wright adds that its preferable to buy narrow banding.

President Fazzino explained that once the radio committee is complete, Valley Shore needs to revisit the issue of operating during mutual aid incidents. Mr. Wright adds the emphasis needs to be placed on firefighter safety. Mr. Wright explains radios are tools and need to be used properly like any other tool on the fire ground.

Chief Hall adds Valley Shore can not manage ten different departments; their policies on mutual aid assignments/SOPs and there needs to be one standardized system. Chief Hall used the example of plain language as an example of a standardized policy.

President Fazzino stated that all the valley shore chiefs need to get together for a meeting to standardize the system.



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Chief Herrschaft adds the group also needs to ensure the UHF system works properly.

Old Business:

Chief Budney reported that the CDL testing is scheduled for August 22, 2009

Chief Hall reported that Portland Fire Department is planning to conduct a CDL/Q restriction class in the fall 2009. Upon further information, Chief Hall will forward the information to the Valley Shore Secretary.

New Business:

Chief Hall opened discussion on the use of identification systems within various departments in Valley Shore. Chief Hall acknowledged that he received information from JT Dunn of Old Saybrook concerning their use of the Salamander system.

Chief Herrschaft stated the State of Connecticut is planning that all departments will eventually go over to the Salamander system. Region 2 is moving forward in implementing the system. Guilford has started implementing the system.

Chief Fazzino explained that Essex currently has a hard card with bar codes only. It was discussed that the Salamander system initial investment is approximately \$15,000.00 that includes a printer, cards and software. Higgins is the sales representative. An additional \$10,000.00 is needed to upgrade to the card scanner. Cheshire Fire Department is the closest department using the fully implemented system.

Large scale events/incidents will utilize the Salamander system.

Currently, for the vast majority of departments are using a "very nice identification" card.

Middlefield is only using the simple cards.

Discussion opened concerning the use and availability of the Region 2 burn trailer. The burn trailer will be stored at the New Haven Regional Fire Training Center in New Haven. There will be a nominal fee for departments looking to use the trailer. The fee will be for the cost of towing the trailer to the requesting department. The trailer can be used by Region 2 departments for a couple of weeks.

Discussion opened concerning how Valley Shore towns handle tuition payments for fire and EMS course that department members attend. Some departments reported they have the student pay the cost up front with re-imbusement to follow the course completion. Some departments pay the cost up front and then request re-imbusement from the student if the individual did not complete and/or pass the course. The difference between departments was about evenly split.



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Interest to the Organization:

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MMS to adjourn at 20:18 hours (Hall/Herrschaft).

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Biasi
Secretary / Treasurer

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, August 24, 2009 in Essex at 7:30 PM.