

CLINTON VOL. FIRE DEPT. 35 East Main Street Clinton, CT 06413-2049 860-669-8131

DEEP RIVER FIRE DEPT. 57 Union Street Deep River, CT 06417-2011 860-526-6042

DURHAM VOLUNTEER FIRE CO., INC. PO Box 154 Durham, CT 06422-0154 860-349-9112

ESSEX FIRE ENGINE CO. NO. 1 11 Saybrook Road Essex, CT 06426-1402 860-767-1258

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

HADDAM VOL. FIRE DEPARTMENT 439 Saybrook Road Higganum, CT 06441-4110 860-345-4945

KILLINGWORTH VOL. FIRE CO., INC. 333 Route 81 Killingworth, CT 06419-1218 860-663-1785

> MADISON HOSE CO. NO. 1 PO Box 573 Madison, CT 06443-0573 203-245-2772

NO. MADISON VOL. FIRE CO. 864 Opening Hill Road Madison, CT 06443-8202 203-245-2772

OLD LYME FIRE DEPT. 69 Lyme Street PO Box 102 Old Lyme, CT 06371-0102 860-434-2424

OLD SAYBROOK FIRE DEPT. 310 Main Street Old Saybrook, CT 06475-2372 860-395-3149

WESTBROOK FIRE DEPT. PO Box 691 South Main Street Westbrook, CT 06498-0691 860-399-9492 *President* **Paul Fazzino** Essex Fire Engine Co. No. 1

Vice President Clark Maxson Old Saybrook Fire Dept.

## Minutes of the August 24, 2009 VSMAI meeting in Essex, CT.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Maxson at 19:40 hrs with a salute to the flag.

## Attendees – August 24, 2009

- 1. Clark Mason Old Saybrook
- 3. Charlie Herrschaft Guilford
- 5. J.T. Dunn Old Saybrook
- 7. Doug Harrays Essex
- 9. Rob Dahlstrom Essex
- 11. Harry Hall Durham 13. Bob Voss – Clinton
- 15. Gregg Prevost Westbrook
- 17. Tim Lee Deep River
- 19. Charles Greeney, Jr. Chester

- 2. Pete Woodcock Deep River
- 4. Dave Jewitt Old Lyme
- 6. Andy Kressley Essex
- 8. Steve Olsen Essex
- 10. Paul Jacobs Killingworth
- 12. Pete Lefrancos Clinton
- 14. Brian Manware Clinton
- 16. Steve Biasi North Madison
- 18. Jim Budney Deep River

### **Special Presentations:**

A presentation was conducted by Ray Zelek of Zelek Electric on the handling of structure mounted Photo-Voltaic panels and related equipment.

**Approval of the previous meeting minutes:** Secretary Biasi read the one correction from the previous month's meeting minutes. The change was on the second page, the first sentence of the last paragraph. The recorded change was from "Chief Hall adds that Mr. Wright can not manage ten different departments;" to "Chief Hall adds that Valley Shore can not manage ten different departments;" MMS (Hall/Woodcock) to accept the July 27, 2009 minutes as distributed and corrected. Motion passed unanimously.

# Reading of communications: None

**Treasurer's report:** The Treasurer reported an opening balance of \$7,284.89, with \$0.00 of income and no expenses. Ending balance is \$7,284.89. MMS to accept the Treasurer's report as presented (Dunn/Jewitt). Motion passed unanimously.

# Bills to be paid:

NONE

Committee report(s): Statewide Disaster:

No Report



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Regional Preparation/Pre-Planning:

No Report

## Radio Frequency/Communications Committee:

Deputy Chief Manware of Clinton reported that the committee met and finalized the frequency list. Deputy Chief Chief Manware will send the finalized list to the Secretary for distribution to the Valley Shore Chiefs for final review. The finalized list will be voted on at the next valley shore meeting. Deputy Chief Chief Manware also added there were no changes to the fire police or RIT channels but there were changes to the water supply channel due to its conflict with other existing frequencies.

#### **Old Business:**

Chief Hall of Durham reported there are no set dates yet for the Q restriction class in Portland.

Deputy Chief Budney of Deep River reported the CDL class in Deep River went well and the CDL testing had been completed with everyone doing very well. Deputy Chief Budney informed the group that a truck equipped with a five hundred gallon tank with a CDL driver requires the driver to have a tanker endorsement which is required when there is a tanker greater than 119 gallons. Group discussion endued and some attendees questioned if that were only for tankers carrying products such as diesel fuel or contents other than water. Deputy Chief Budney thought it was worth announcing and looking into to ensure proper compliance with DMV laws. Deputy Chief Budney added that the CDL class was really great and wanted to thank Essex, Deep River, Essex Ambulance and Essex public works. Deputy Chief Budney explained the seven class attendees worked well together and stuck together throughout the class.

Assistant Chief Doug Harray of Essex reported that Essex has purchased a 1994 Sutphen TS-100 equipped with a 300 gallon tank, 1,500 gpm pump and a 100 foot bucket. The truck will be going to Sutphen for 90 days for refurbishing. Essex expects the truck to be in town by early November and placed in service. Essex plans to sell their current Maxim aerial truck.

Chief Hall of Durham opened conversation on personal escape ropes and inquired as to what, if any, Valley Shore departments were using.

Deputy Chief Paul Jacobs of Killingworth explained Killingworth is using the Rock and Escape unit.



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VSMAI Vice President/Chief Maxson of Old Saybrook explained his department is using Gemtor belts/harnesses with an escape pack equipped with 3/8 inch diameter rope.

Chief Herrschaft of Guilford explained his department is using the Gemtor harnesses equipped with a low profile rescue pack designed and manufactured by Rescue Products International Incorporated. Chief Herrschaft explains the rescue pack required the user to have an interior or exterior harness.

General discussion ensued and the group discussed that rescue packs should be used with Class II harnesses and have at least 40 to 50 feet of rescue rope/lanyard. Chief Herrschaft added that the company his department purchased from offers a train-the-trainer class for the rescue equipment and explains his department had two firefighters trained to such levels. Chief Herrschaft states the rescue packs being used by his firefighters and also low profile which is a nice advantage instead of having a large pocket full of rescue rope and equipment. Chief Herrschaft noted FDNY and asked attendees to observe their rescue equipment which was not a low profile design.

VSMAI Vice President/Chief Maxson of Old Saybrook explained Mike Donovan came to Old Saybrook and did the rescue equipment training with their equipment. Mr. Donovan, according to Chief Maxson is a Lieutenant with the Bridgeport, CT Fire Department. Chief Maxson believes their equipment is designed and manufactured by Petzl.

Chief Herrschaft of Guilford states his department had forty rescue packs as described above in service and if used buy a firefighter for rescue purposes the manufacturer will replace the rescue pack free of charge.

The attendees asked Chief Herrschaft about training with the rescue equipment. Chief Herrschaft explained the company provides training units.

Deputy Chief Manware of Clinton added that all the rescue packs in Guilford are also equipped with serial numbers and are assigned to specific firefighters.

Assistant Chief Tim Lee of Deep River opened discussion on Valley Shore departments using common language. Chief Lee asked which departments, if any, are using common language.

Chief Hall of Durham explained that Valley Shore Dispatch wants departments to use plain language. Chief Hall also explained he is attempting to schedule a meeting with Valley Shore Dispatch to discuss the matter further.

Gregg Provost explained that in February 2006, Valley Shore adopted the use of plain language and further adds that in order to be in compliance with NIMS requirements it should also be used.



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Chief Herrshaft of Guilford asked the attendees to describe what plain language is and explains there are so many variations such as identifying sides of a structure as #1 side, #2 side and so on as compared to using "A" Side, "B" side and so on. Chief Jewitt of Old Lyme acknowledged that Old Lyme went to plain language and it was working out well for them.

Chief Herrschaft of Guilford added that what about plain language for fire apparatus such as using Engine 1 or Engine 2 instead of 9-5-2.

Gregg Provost explained that many towns still using codes are still mixing up the codes and recommends departments, if they are going to using plain language, adopt a common set of phrases such as on-scene, en-route, responding depending on the nature of the call and the severity of the call.

Chief Hall explained Valley Shore dispatch is questioning the language being used and its commonality.

Chief Herrschaft of Guilford adds that codes still specifically identify the function and actions being performed such as 19, 20, 22, and 10.

Assistant Chief Tim Lee inquired to the attendees if departments are going to operate on the valley shore channels.

Deputy Chief J.T. Dunn of Old Saybrook explained Valley Shore Departments are using the Valley Shore channels. Deputy Chief Dunn explained to the attendees that when departments are called for mutual aid assignments to neighboring towns Valley Shore dispatch will identify and/or assign that responding department a channel to operate on when responding.

Greg Provost explained that around the State of Connecticut the majority of fire departments are using plain language and placed the percentage of departments using plain language at approximately 80% ranging from small departments to large departments.

Chief Herrschaft stated Guilford does not use the Valley Shore RIT channel and uses their Command channel and tactical channels. Chief Herrschaft stated Guilford uses their Command channel when going to Branford for mutual aid and monitor Branford's fire channels while en-route and on scene of their incident. VSMAI Vice President/Chief Maxson of Old Saybrook inquired with the attendees as to whether Valley Shore Mutual Aid should adopt a plain language plan.

Chief Herrschaft of Guilford explained the largest fire department in the country is still using codes and Valley Shore at one time all used the same language and codes but then the eastern side of the organization started changing some of the codes and language.



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VSMAI Vice President/Chief Maxson of Old Saybrook recommended looking into adopting the upper county plain language.

Deputy Chief Manware of Clinton made a motion to have the

Radio/Communications committee research and create a document to present to the Valley Shore organization along with a possible amendment to the current Valley Shore Mutual Aid SOP on radio communications. A second was made by an attendee of the meeting and a vote was voice vote was cast. The motion passed 19-0.

#### **New Business:**

Greg Provost announced an EMT bridge and EMT/MRT refresher course being sponsored by Valley Shore EMS.

The EMT bridge class starts October 19, 2009 and runs through January 27, 2010. Register online at <u>www.VSEMS.com</u>

The EMT/MRT refresher course is being offered over the course of three Saturdays starting on Saturday, September 12, 2009 and running on Saturday, September 19, 2009 and Saturday, September 26, 2009. Register online at <u>www.VSEMS.com</u>

Deputy Chief J.T. Dunn of Old Saybrook announced Vernon Skau will be in charge of the SAFER grant for the recruitment television commercial. Any questions or inquiries can be made to Mr. Skau at <u>vernonskau@yahoo.com</u>. The SAFER grants includes a recruitment television commercial and if any department is interested in participating in the commercial please contact Mr. Skau.

Chief Hall of Durham opened discussion with the attendees on creating another seminar for this year.

Deputy Chief J.T. Dunn of Old Saybrook explained the seminars are a lot of work and the organization should look to maybe doing it every other year due to the amount of needed work to organize and present a seminar.

Chief Hall of Durham added that Mike Callen was interested in presenting and was available in February/March 2010 in needed. Chief Hall stated he would get more information from Mr. Callen.

Vice President/Chief Maxson of Old Saybrook suggested to Chief Hall to get the presenting topics and costs from Mr. Callen. Vice President/Chief Maxson acknowledged the last seminar was very good and informative.

Clinton Fire Chief Bob Voss opened discussion on the use of Bio-fuel for fire apparatus. Chief Voss asked the attendees if anyone from their town governments have been approached about using the fuel. Chief Voss informed his town that Clinton Fire Department was not interested.



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Deputy Chief Andrew Kressley of Essex explained their department was approached by their town officials and they decided not to use the Bio-fuel. Group discussion ensued and it was noted that apparatus manufacturers do not recommend the use of such fuel and do not believe it's good to use and they do not support the use of Bio-fuels in fire apparatus.

Chief Voss added Clinton town mechanics and manufacturers do not support it and further adds that using less than 94 Octane will blow up the engines and the towns will be responsible for the damage.

Chief Herrschaft of Guilford stated there are also problems in cold weather. Chief Hall of Durham expressed concern about using the Bio-fuel and the fire apparatus not properly operating or breaking down during emergency incidents. Chief Voss of Clinton explained an environmentalist in Clinton is pushing the issue of using the Bio-fuel with the First Selectman. Chief Voss explained he has collected a lot of information about the fuel and its use. Chief Voss has been collecting information for at least three months now and if anyone needs any information to please contact him.

### Interest to the Organization:

Deputy Chief Brian Manware of Clinton notified the attendees that twenty one candidates passed the Firefighter I course in Clinton.

Deputy Chief Manware announced Clinton Fire Department will be hosting a Firefighter II course starting on September 10, 2009 and ending on October 24, 2009. The course schedule is Thursday evenings and every other weekend along with one Tuesday night.

Deputy Chief Manware also announced a possible Fire Instructor I course in Clinton starting after January 2010.

Deputy Chief Manware also announced a four hour seminar being presented by District Fire Chief John Sullivan of the Worcester Fire Department on Monday, September 21, 2009 from 18:00 hours to 22:00 hours. The seminar will discuss the Worcester Cold Storage fire and the lessons that were learned that day. Please RSVP Clinton Captain Jeff Skau at 203-627-0241 no later than Monday, September 14, 2009.

Chief Hall of Durham inquired with the attendees about the fatal fire in Buffalo, NY today.

Chief Herrshaft explained on arrival the fire department heard people screaming and when the first firefighter when in the front door he fell through the first floor into the basement. The second firefighter which was a lieutenant also went in behind the first firefighter and fell into the basement as well. A Mayday was called after the first firefighter fell into the basement. The two firefighters had 10 and 22 year experience. The structure was a ordinary type construction.

Gregg Provost explained to the attendees that very recently Old Lyme Fire Department including Chief Jewitt were on an accident scene on Interstate 95 for



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five hours with five different departments. Mr. Provost explained the organization of the event/incident was great and the Incident Commander (D. Jewitt) did an exceptional job. The flow of equipment, apparatus and personnel was really good.

Chief Jewitt thanked all the departments that responded and participated in the event including Flanders Fire Department, Old Lyme Fire Department, Lyme Fire Department, Old Saybrook Fire Department and Essex Fire Department. Chief Jewitt explained the patient/occupant of the truck was very well pinned in the vehicle and the extrication was very complicated. Firefighters/rescue personnel had to enter the vehicle from the topside and bottom side of the truck. The duration of the extrication was three hours and eighteen minutes. The extrication included a large commercial toe truck, four heavy rescue fire apparatus, and nine hydraulic rescue tools operating at the same time including Flanders' Holmatro tools. Old Lyme Fire Department lost approximately half of their cribbing due to contamination.

Assistant Chief Doug Harrays of Essex announced the Rescue Jack class will be held on April 17, 2010 and April 18, 2010. The class will include ten to twelve stations. The class will be taught by representatives from Rescue Jack and Firematic. The class is open to all Valley Shore towns.

MMS to adjourn at 21:21 hours (Jewitt/Dunn).

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Biasi Secretary / Treasurer

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, September 28, 2009 in Guilford at 7:30 PM.