



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 September 28, 2009 VSMAI meeting in Guilford, CT.

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

### Attendees – September 28, 2009

- |                                  |                                    |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Brian Manware - Clinton       | 2. Charlie Herrschaft – Guilford   |
| 3. Bob Voss – Clinton            | 4. Clark Maxson – Old Saybrook     |
| 5. James Budney – Deep River     | 6. Tim Lee – Deep River            |
| 7. Chris Bernier – North Madison | 8. Mike Jenkins – Westbrook        |
| 9. Gregg Provost – Westbrook     | 10. Charles Greeney, Jr. – Chester |
| 11. Dick Bauer – Killingworth    | 12. Robert Gerard – Madison        |
| 13. Steve Biasi – North Madison  | 14. Paul Fazzino - Essex           |

### Special Presentations:

None

**Approval of the previous meeting minutes:** MMS (Manware/Provost) to accept the August 24, 2009 minutes as distributed. 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 (Bauer/Manware). Motion passed unanimously.

### Bills to be paid:

NONE		
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### Committee report(s): Statewide Disaster:

None

Gregg Provost reported the International Association of Fire Chiefs awarded the State of Connecticut with a \$5,000.00 grant for disaster planning. The State of Connecticut will be looking for task forces and strike teams to participate in an event in possibly April or May 2010. A tabletop planning session will be conducted in January in the northeast part of the state. Plainfield was a possible site. The State of Rhode Island also received a similar grant. The northeast part

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of the state was identified as the most likely area for the event so as to plan with possible participation with Rhode Island.

### Regional Preparation/Pre-Planning:

NONE

### Radio Frequency/Communications Committee:

NONE

### **Old Business:**

Deputy Chief Budney of Deep River reported Deep River Fire Department has a new 1,800 gallon tanker which they plan on placing in service in late November/early December. The tanker was purchased from Durham Fire Department.

### **New Business:**

Deputy Chief Budney of Deep River opened discussion on dispatchers repeating messages during emergency operations and while emergency personnel are responding. Deputy Chief Budney was mainly focusing on Valley Shore communications and explained the dispatchers should be repeating messages and radio transmissions. Deputy Chief Budney suggested a group of departments should get together and petition Valley Shore Dispatch to help fix the problem. Clinton, Guilford, Old Saybrook and Madison are not using Valley Shore Dispatch but their own dispatch centers.

Deputy Chief Budney explained some dispatchers in Valley Shore are repeating back messages while others do not.

Chief Maxson of Old Saybrook explained a Valley Shore standard operating procedure (SOP) on radio dispatch communications would be helpful and could be used as a leverage tool to enforce proper dispatching protocols.

Assistant Chief Bauer of Killingworth explained that as the Valley Shore Mutual Aid Organization we could have an SOP and utilize the change in that manner.

Chief Herrschaft of Guilford explained his department has a standard SOP on dispatching, repeating back messages, radio transmissions and time frames when dispatch locations will be repeated during emergency responses. Chief Herrschaft



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stated he would share the SOP and make it available for Valley Shore Mutual Aid as a guideline and reference tool in drafting a SOP procedure.

President Fazzino nominated Assistant Chief Lee of Deep River and Deputy Chief Budney as nominees for a Dispatch Committee.

Assistant Chief Bauer of Killingworth stated Killingworth Fire Department will be switching to plain language from fire codes on October 1, 2009.

Deputy Chief Manware of Clinton reported the Valley Shore Water Supply and RIT channel frequencies have been changed and to please note the changes. A handout containing the most updated frequencies and related changes was passed out at the meeting. Chief Manware also reported the STOCS 2 channel may interfere with Guilford Police Department's frequencies.

Chief Provost of Westbook Ambulance explained the 25 Khz or wide band is now older technology and explained narrow banding is the new technology many departments are using. The narrow banding is 12.5 Khz. Chief Provost reported everything must be narrow band by 2012. Chief Provost reminded everyone the STOCS channels are available for operations throughout the State of Connecticut.

Assistant Chief Bauer of Killingworth explained channel labeling may need to be addressed to ensure everyone is identifying channels the same way.

A vote on passing and adopting the updated frequency spreadsheet was tabled to next month.

### **Interest to the Organization:**

Deputy Chief Manware of Clinton thanked everyone that attended their seminar last month.

Chief Voss of Clinton explained their rescue boat was out of service due to a catastrophic motor failure.

Chief Provost of Westbrook Ambulance reported there were still openings available in Westbook Ambulance's EMT/MRT bridge course.

Chief Greeney of Chester reported his department may be running a Firefighter I course. Dates and a schedule had not been determined. He would report back with any future updates.



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Deputy Chief Biasi of North Madison reported there are still opening for the Basic Emergency Vehicle Operation and Apparatus Safety course being conducted on October 17, 2009 in North Madison. The course is a Connecticut Fire Academy calendar class. Anyone interested can sign up through the fire academy.

President/Chief Fazzino of Essex reported that Essex fire officers along with Deputy Chief Manware of Clinton met with representatives from Rescue Jacks and Firematic concerning the Rescue Jacks class tentatively scheduled for spring 2010. The class will be a Saturday/Sunday class in mid-April. The class will be taught by three to four Rescue Jack factory representatives and three to four representatives from Firematic. There will be at least 25-30 cars available to perform practical exercises on for the class. There will be no charge for the class – it will be FREE! Lunch will be provided for both days. The class is open to all Valley Shore Mutual Aid towns.

Discussion ensued among the group and it was reported that the new Rescue Jacks can lift 6,000 lbs and can holdup to 10,000 lbs. Departments using the Rescue Jacks reported the jacks have paid for themselves and are very versatile.

MMS to adjourn at 20:20 hours (Bauer/Manware).

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Biasi  
Secretary / Treasurer

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 26, 2009 in Haddam at 7:30 PM.