



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

*Vice President*  
**Jim Long**  
 Westbrook Fire Dept.

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

**Minutes of the November 22, 2010 VSMAI meeting in Haddam, CT.**

The meeting was called to order by President Paul Fazzino at 19:42 hrs with a salute to the flag.

**Attendees – November 22, 2010**

1. Tim Lee – Deep River	2. Jim Budney – Deep River
3. Jim Long – Westbrook	4. Charlie Herrschaft – Guilford
5. Bob Voss – Clinton	6. Todd Hajek – Killingworth
7. Gary Klare – Haddam	8. Sam Baber – Haddam
9. Brian Manware – Clinton	10. Harry Hall – Durham
11. Paul Fazzino – Essex	12. Steve Biasi – North Madison
13. Paul Fazzino Jr. – Essex	

**Special Presentations:**

NONE

**Approval of the previous meeting minutes:** MMS (Long/ Budney) to accept the October 25, 2010 minutes as distributed. Deputy Chief Manware of Clinton reported that there was a correction to last month's meeting notes in that the notes written under the Radio Frequency/Communications Committee belonged under the Statewide Disaster notes and that information was provided by Chief Prevost and not himself. Corrections will be made and the corrected version will be distributed with the November meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**Reading of communications:** None

**Treasurer's report:** The Treasurer reported an opening balance of \$8,034.89, with \$0.00 of income. Ending balance is \$8,034.89. MMS to accept the Treasurer's report as presented (Manware/Long). Motion passed unanimously.

**Bills to be paid:**

NONE		
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**Committee report(s):**

Statewide Disaster:

No report

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## Regional Preparation/Pre-Planning:

No report

## Radio Frequency/Communications Committee:

- Deputy Chief Manware made everyone aware of Deep River's frequency change.
- Assistance Chief Lee of Deep River reported Deep River conducted a tanker drill approximately one month ago and did have some problems operating on the Valley Shore water frequency channel.
- All the attendees agreed it would be a good idea to re-send the Valley Shore Radio Frequency list to everyone. Please review the radio frequency list against the frequency currently programmed into department radios.

## **Old Business:**

- President/Chief Fazzino reported the final version of the Tanker Shuttle SOP was distributed to everyone.
- Chief Hall of Durham believes changes are occurring more frequently to the document and recommends the document be reviewed at least annually. Chief Hall explained there are still issues with South District in they selectively use tankers instead of following the tanker shuttle document.
- Chief Hall explained he had a meeting with North Branford Chief Bill Seward and Wallingford Chief Peter Struble. They discussed funding and allocations for their operating budgets along with the continuous reductions in government funding. According to Chief Hall, Wallingford will likely transition from a level one team to a level three hazardous material response team. Wallingford also works with the response team from Cytec but their involvement with Wallingford's team was not known. Additionally, Wallingford may also lose their paramedic fly car which responds to Durham frequently.
- Chief Herrschaft of Guilford discussed town leaders simply do not have the funding any longer to support all the services. Chief Herrschaft inquired with Chief Hall as to the status of Middletown's Haz Mat team.
- Chief Hall explained Middletown's team was up and running but has not had much contact with them. Chief Hall explained he would reach out to them and report back.

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- President/Chief Fazzino explains the NASH East team utilizes surrounding towns to help supplement manpower for the team and even has four firefighters from Essex on the team.
- Chief Herrschaft acknowledged that he uses Madison, Clinton, and other surrounding towns as part the team. Chief Herrschaft adds the government funding is slowly going away and there are no signs in the near future of it returning.
- Chief Hall explained Chief Stuble of Wallingford is looking for certified firefighters with hazards materials certifications and other resources.
- Chief Herrschaft stated the State funding is set down by DEMS.
- Chief Hall asks the other attendee as to what they believe is going to occur with the new governor.
- President/Chief Fazzino explains everyone will continue to struggle with budgets and the lack of funding will continue for the foreseeable future.
- Chief Herrschaft explains just one cost of having a hazardous materials team is the medical physicals which are \$1,200.00 for each person. This is just one cost among many. Chief Herrschaft adds that government leaders asked everyone including fire departments to regionalize where possible and that did occur where possible so what will the Politian's say when confronted with the lack of funding issue.
- Chief Herrschaft reported the next RIT training will be conducted in spring 2011 and not during the winter. The dates are yet to be determined.
- Deputy Chief Manware explained Clinton FD will host a Firefighter I course starting in January 2011. When he gets the course outline and schedule he will forward it to the Secretary for distribution.
- Chief Hall reports Wallingford will not be able to run Firefighter I courses any longer due to the high cost. Chief Hall explained it was costing them approximately \$18,000 to have their employees run the class. The major cost of the course was the overtime paid to the employees to teach the classes.
- Deputy Chief Todd Hajek of Killingworth thanked everyone and departments that helped out during the services for Walt Albrecht.
- Deputy Chief Hajek also reported that Killingworth will be down to one tanker till June or July 2011.
- Deputy Chief Hajek reported that Dick Bauer is working on an instructor course and then following will plan on running an officer course.
- President/Chief Fazzino explained Essex was also planning on running an officer course but will coordinate with Killingworth prior to making any formal arrangements.



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## New Business:

- Deputy Chief Hajek of Killingworth explained they are having a difficult time with the State of Connecticut getting an instructor class put together.
- Chief Hall of Durham inquired with the group as to whether anyone has an MRT/EMT refresher course coming up in the near future.
- Chief Voss of Clinton explained he may have some courses coming up on the near future and will let Chief Hall know.
- Chief Herrschaft of Guilford reports on December 16, 2010 the Region 2 NASH meeting will be held in Guilford at 19:00 hours (7:00 pm).
- Chief Hall reported that he will not be running again for chief in January so therefore there will be a new chief in Durham starting in January.
- Chief Voss of Clinton reported his department had their elections and there were not major changes in department positions.

## Interest to the Organization:

- Lt. Paul Fazzino Jr of Essex reported Essex will be hosting a Fire Officer I course starting in June 2011. The course will be run on Tuesdays, Thursdays and every other Saturday.
- Lt. Fazzino of Essex reported he is currently working with the East Haddam fire chief about conducting some fire training at the old Sunrise Resort which is currently owned by the State of Connecticut. Lt. Fazzino is currently looking to obtain permission from the State of Connecticut.
- Lt. Fazzino reports that, upon stated permission to use the old Sunrise Resort property, he is also looking to host a two day fire training course titled "Fireground Operations for the 1<sup>st</sup> 10 Minutes". The course will teach size-up, placing apparatus, stretching handlines, forcible entry and other crucial firefighting activities within the first 10 minutes. The course would be held the first weekend in April 2011 and will be limited to 100 participants/students with approval from the State of Connecticut. The current cost per participant/student is \$150.00. The prerequisite for the course is Firefighter certification. The overall cost for the course is approximately \$5,500.00 which is mainly the cost being the instructors and some of the amount being incidentals. This will not be a course sponsored or conducted by the State of Connecticut's Fire Academy.
- Chief Hall inquired as to whether the course would meet the protocol of the valley shore departments.
- Lt. Fazzino explained the course was being designed for the valley shore towns.
- Deputy Chief Hajek of Killingworth through it would be a good course to have the various valley shore towns work together.



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- Chief Hall inquired with the group as to whether anyone was currently long through ISO review.
- Chief Herrschaft explained Guilford just completed it. Chief Herrschaft explained they needed to have five years of training records, have it documented and ensure the individuals being trained are signing they understand and completed the training.
- Chief Hall inquired as to what was required to get an “8” designation.
- Chief Herrschaft explained you need to deliver 2,000 gallons of water and have good training records.
- Chief Herrschaft recommended having a representative attend one of the valley shore meetings to discuss the ratings and the review process.
- Chief Hall inquired to the attendees if anyone has a gear washer. Many in the group discussed they did have gear washers and would discuss any information needed after the meeting.

MMS to adjourn at 20:40 hours (Manware/Hall).

Respectfully submitted,

**Steve Biasi**  
Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, December 27, 2010 in Killingworth at 7:30 PM.