



*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 July 25, 2011 VSMAI meeting in Clinton, CT.**

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

**Attendees – July 25, 2011**

Bob Voss – Clinton	Todd Hajek – Killingworth
Mike Jenkins – Westbrook	Joe Johnson – Old Saybrook
Tim Lucas – Old Saybrook	Doug Harreys – Essex
Brian Manware – Clinton	Paul Fazzino, Jr. – Essex
Robert Gerard – Madison	Charlie Herrschaft – Guilford
Gary Klare – Haddam	J.T. Dunn – Old Saybrook
Jim Long – Westbrook	Steve Biasi – North Madison
Paul Fazzino - Essex	

**Special Presentations:**

NONE

**Approval of the previous meeting minutes:** MMS (Hajek/Manware) to accept the June 27, 2011 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**Reading of communications:** A letter from the Connecticut Secretary of State was received confirming the acceptance of the organization’s business filing.

**Treasurer’s report:** The Treasurer reported an opening balance of \$8,784.89, with \$300.00 of income and \$0.00 bills or payments. Ending balance is \$9,084.89. MMS to accept the Treasurer’s report as presented (Jenkins/Manware). 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 Brian Manware of Clinton reported there are not current changes he is aware of. Discussion ensued about some possible upcoming changes which would be sent to Deputy Chief Manware from some departments.

### Website:

Chief J.T. Dunn reported the photographs of all the valley shore fire departments are being obtained but the collection of all of them has not been completed.

### Tanker Shuttle SOP:

The Secretary informed the attendees of some slight changes that have been made to the Tanker Shuttle SOP and will re-send the SOP reflecting the changes. A discussion ensued with the attendees as to whether Valley Shore communications is following the SOP. President Fazzino informed the attendees that he would make sure Rick Darin has the most current version and the CAD system is updated with the most current SOP. President Fazzino also added that he would get confirmation from Rick Darin.

President Fazzino reported that he received an inventory list from Rick Swain that obtained the list from DEMS. President Fazzino refined the list to eliminate the outlining towns outside of the valley shore towns such as Cromwell and East Haddam. President Fazzino explained he would finish refining the list and would email the list to each department to review and update. Discussion on the list will continue at next month's meeting.

### Old Business:

Assistant Chief Tim Lucas of Old Saybrook opened discussion about the RIT equipment inventory as to whether it should be contained within the inventory list just discussed or can we develop another list more quickly. Assistant Chief Lucas explained Old Saybrook is looking to comprise a binder with photographs and information on the SCBA packs for each department they provide RIT for.

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Chief Herrschaft added that each department providing RIT service should be aware of and trained on the equipment including the SCBA for the department they are providing service to.

Assistant Chief Lucas agreed but added that Old Saybrook provides RIT service for six departments and nearly all the departments have slightly different equipment.

President Fazzino added it may be a good idea and it's always good to do planning ahead of time.

Assistant Chief Lucas stated he would devise a spreadsheet for RIT equipment and SCBA information and will send it to the Secretary who can send it out to the chiefs.

President Fazzino stated the Valley Shore RIT policy was distributed for review. Assistant Chief Lucas brought up the issue about the RIT teams having a charged handline available for use.

Deputy Chief Manware of Clinton explained the policy started in 1996 and the Valley Shore policy was the basis for department to device their own policy and plan. Deputy Chief Manware explained that if a RIT team needs additional equipment that they do not have on site they can always request such equipment from the host department.

Deputy Chief Manware opened discussion on the Valley Shore accountability policy.

Chief J.T. Dunn of Old Saybrook stated each town needs to review the policy and if they decide to opt out of the policy then they need to let departments know. Many towns are not following the SOG.

Deputy Chief Manware added to the discussion by inquiring as to where the firefighter tags should be placed; with the incident commander, first on site truck, or the first fire officer?

Chief Herrschaft of Guilford asked the attendees which departments are using two tags and explained the most important tags is the one where the individual or firefighter goes into the hot zone. Chief Herrschaft added that after the first ten minutes the incident commander should start determining where people are and evaluate the current status of the incident. The valley shore policy is an organizational policy and we need to take into account the "home" department's policy. The point of entry is still utmost important, oversight of the firefighter



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and accounting for the time the firefighters are inside or working. Chief Herrschaft stated the organization should look into a “home rule” policy whereby the home department policy should be followed. Chief Herrschaft explained it was not fair for the home department change their policy because other departments are coming in for mutual aid. Chief Herrschaft added that even the microchips are not perfect and people were lost using them after they went into the building more than 30 feet. Chief Herrschaft re-emphasized the use of the “home rule” policy.

President Fazzino explained the policy started out as an identification system to identify a firefighter’s status to home and mutual aid departments.

Chief Herrschaft inquired if any department was using the Salamander system.

Chief Dunn of Old Saybrook stated his department was but only to make the identification tags.

Chief Herrschaft explained Cheshire is the only nearby department fully using the Salamander system.

President Fazzino explained the Salamander software, computer, printer and miscellaneous items runs about \$15,000.

Chief Herrschaft stated that with budget season coming up. Maybe each department could put \$1,000.00 into a shared system.

President Fazzino asked the attendees about how they wanted to proceed with the RIT policy.

Chief Dunn of Old Saybrook suggested that after the summer is over a committee should be established to review the current policy, possibly revise the policy and provide suggestions to the organization.

### **New Business:**

Chief Bob Voss of Clinton reported applications are still available for the parade if anyone has not received them.

Chief J.T. Dunn of Old Saybrook opened discussion on the burn trailer in New Haven. Chief Dunn explained there is a 160 page guideline and a train-the-trainer course is being offered. Chief Dunn explained the trained operators must be Fire Service Instructors I and there must be two trained operators when operating the burn trailer. Currently there are approximately 19 trained operators and most are from career departments in and around New Haven.



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President Fazzino commented the overseers of the burn trailer previously mentioned they were going to send out information regarding operator training but sent nothing.

Chief Dunn explained Meriden will be hosting a training session in September and he will send the information out to the valley shore towns. Chief Dunn recommended as many people as possible from the valley shore towns should be trained.

Chief Herrschaft of Guilford inquired to Chief Dunn as to where he obtained this information.

Chief Dunn explained he is on the committee for the trailer.

Chief Herrschaft asked why the training was in Meriden and why are they dictating what the eastern side of the region gets.

Chief Dunn did not know why the training was being held in Meriden and suggested Kidde should give the train-the-trainer course in one of the eastern towns.

Assistant Chief Lucas of Old Saybrook explained the trailer was available for use but you would have to hire two of the certified trainers and get the trailer.

President Fazzino explained that was not the idea. President Fazzino explained we need to get our people trained and added that we voted for a class A burn trailer. President Fazzino suggested chiefs speak to DEMS representatives to express their concerns.

Chief Dunn of Old Saybrook also commented that he would speak to the head of the committee on the training issue and getting people in the eastern side of the region trained.

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

Deputy Chief Manware of Clinton reported there was less than 10 weeks to the parade and state convention. Deputy Chief Manware explained the finalizing of fire coverage for the days of the convention is being completed. Deputy Chief Manware reported all departments coming to the convention and parade will come in off Exit 64 and come into town near the Clinton police station. Line up for the parade will be near Beach Road and in the area of ShopRite.



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Lt. Paul Fazzino, Jr. of Essex reported he will be going up on Sunday to set up buildings for the First 10 Minutes class. Lt. Fazzino reported there are plenty of training opportunities besides the class. There are many cabins to burn and conduct training with. Lt. Fazzino explained the facility is a great opportunity for RIT and large scale search training.

President Fazzino met with DEP officials and explained to the officials that each fire department will be using artificial smoke and not live fire. However, the DEP officials were hoping and looking to have many of the structures burned.

Lt. Paul Fazzino of Essex again re-emphasized the great training opportunities available at the site.

Deputy Chief Manware of Clinton inquired as to whether the training opportunities will be available in the spring.

Lt. Paul Fazzino of Essex stated the site should still be available in the spring and explained the state is not looking to do anything with the property at this point in time.

President Fazzino explained he had been to the site and evaluated the buildings. President Fazzino explained the previous owners left everything and he means everything including furniture, clothing and decorations. If you are looking to provide training on room and content fires then this is the perfect site for you! President Fazzino acknowledged the DEP will set the ground rules for using the property and buildings and everything will be documented with signatures.

Lt. Paul Fazzino, Jr. of Essex reported their Fire Officer I course is nearly full. After the Fire Officer I course they will be looking to sponsor a Fire Instructor II/III course. Fire Instructor II is classroom and Fire Instructor III is an online course. Once completed, you can go and take the written test.

Chief Todd Hajek of Killingworth reported his department had their annual elections with the following results:

8-0: Todd Hajek  
8-0-1: Dick Bauer  
8-0-2: Paul Jacobs  
8-0-3: Jeremy Adametz

MMS to adjourn at 20:45 hours (Hajek/Jenkins).

Respectfully submitted,



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Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, August 22, 2011 in Deep River at 7:30 PM.