



*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 August 22, 2011 VSMAI meeting in Deep River, CT.**

The meeting was called to order by Secretary Steve Biasi at 19:40 hrs with a salute to the flag.

**Attendees – August 22, 2011**

Tim Lee – Deep River	Todd Hajek – Killingworth
Dick Bauer – Killingworth	Paul Fazzino, Jr. Essex
Jim Budney – Deep River	Charlie Herrshaft – Guilford
Joe Johnson – Old Saybrook	Steven Olsen – Essex
Tom Swaney – Old Lyme	Steve Biasi – North Madison

**Special Presentations:**

NONE

**Approval of the previous meeting minutes:** MMS (Bauer/Olsen) to accept the July 25, 2011 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**Reading of communications:**

None

**Treasurer’s report:** The Treasurer reported an opening balance of \$9,084.89, with \$100.00 of income and \$0.00 bills or payments. Ending balance is \$9,184.89. MMS to accept the Treasurer’s report as presented (Hajek/Olsen). 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:

No Report

### Website:

No Report

### Tanker Shuttle SOP:

No Report

### **Old Business:**

Lt. Paul Fazzino, Jr. of Essex opened discussion on the issue of firefighter accountability and asked the attendees if there were any answers or conclusions made on whether departments are going to use one or two accountability tags for firefighters. Lt. Fazzino explained his department is currently using one tag but added the organization should decide whether departments are going to use one or two.

Chief Todd Hajek of Killingworth explained that during last month's valley shore meeting it was decided that a committee would be set up at the end of the summer to review the organization's current accountability policy and make recommendations, if necessary. Chief Hajek also stated the RIT policy would be reviewed at that time as well either by the same committee or another committee.

Chief Herrschaft of Guilford asked the attendees which departments were using two tags. It was noted that Deep River, Killingworth and North Madison were using two tags.

Lt. Fazzino of Essex stated he felt it was important to come together as an organization and get a general consensus as to the best means for accountability.

Chief Herrschaft re-emphasized the accountability issue was discussed at last month's meeting and discussed the "home rule" policy. Chief Herrschaft

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discussed the importance of the “home rule” policy, honoring the home department’s accountability policy and ensuring safety of all firefighters on the fireground. Chief Herrschaft explained Guilford is using one tag and they focus on which firefighters entered the fire structure.

Deputy Chief Jim Budney of Deep River explained his department has had some freelancing problems and inquired what the current accountability policy is.

Assistance Chief Jim Long of Westbrook explained the current policy states two tags.

Deputy Chief Budney inquired as to whether the policy contains color coded tags for accountability.

Assistant Chief Long of Westbrook explained the policy does not contain color coding.

Lt. Fazzino of Essex stated the organization needs to at least determine what each department is utilizing for accountability tags and policies and agreed the “home rule” policy needs to be taken into account.

Assistant Chief Tim Lee of Deep River inquired and stated one of the organization’s purposes and scope was to make sure each of the departments work as close as possible.

Assistant Chief Long of Westbrook acknowledged that is the organization’s policy and is included in the organization’s mission statement.

Chief Herrschaft of Guilford explained they use their fire police officials to conduct accountability and they prefer to have a designated individual oversee and maintain the accountability tags of interior firefighters. Their job also includes overseeing the time periods interior firefighters are within the structures and if they do not observe or have contact with that interior firefighter within 10 or 15 minutes then they need to contact the incident commander. Chief Herrschaft also explained that he still observes seeing many firefighters wearing their tags on the back of their helmets and not being properly utilized.

The Secretary will email out the current valley shore accountability for review.

### **New Business:**

Assistant Chief Tim Lee of Deep River inquired as to whether the Old Lyme repeater was on-line and operational.



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Chief Tom Swaney of Old Lyme believed it was up and running but could not saw 100%. Chief Swaney explained he would find out and let Assistant Chief Lee know the status of the repeater.

Assistant Chief Tim Lee of Deep River opened discussion that approximately one year ago the organization adopted and starting using plain language for radio transmissions but is also using plain language being used for apparatus designations.

Chief Hajek of Killingworth explained the policy was primarily just for the radio transmissions but acknowledged some towns are also using plain language for their apparatus.

Deputy Chief Budney of Deep River stated he felt it could create some problems and used the example of when the state trooper got fatally injured a couple of years ago and they incident commander requested Engine Two to come up to the incident location which created confusion as to whether the incident commander was requesting Deep River's Engine Two or Essex's Engine 2.

Assistant Chief Tim Lee of Deep River announced that Deep River will be implementing the use of their UHF tactical channels starting on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Deep River will be conducting in-house radio training for the next two weeks. Assistant Chief Lee explained his department will still be dispatched on 46.08, will announce their responding on 46.08 but their on-scene fire ground operations will switch to the UHF tactical channels.

Chief Herrschaft of Guilford announced his department will conduct a Heavy Extrication Class in November. When more information becomes available he will send out the information.

Assistant Chief Tim Lee of Deep River is looking for a Firefighter I course for some new firefighters new to his department.

Lt. Paul Fazzino, Jr. of Essex announced that an application was submitted to the State of Connecticut to conduct a Firefighter II course in the future. Dates and times were not available.

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

Chief Hajek of Killingworth reported that tanker 8-6-2 was back from refurbishing and should be back in service within a week, however, tanker 8-6-8 will be going out of service shortly thereafter for refurbishing as well.

Lt. Paul Fazzino, Jr. of Essex announced that classes are starting to be planned for the Sunrise Resort facility. CT DEP has approved the use of the facility. The



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First 10 Minutes class will probably be held in spring 2012 and a RIT class is being put together currently but times and dates have not been finalized. As far as using the facility for live burns, final approval from CT DEP is in the process. Upper management from CT DEP is currently reviewing the use for such purpose (live burns). Lt. Fazzino also reminded the attendees that there still may be some upcoming costs for using the facility for live burning. Details were still being reviewed.

Chief Herrschaft of Guilford announced that he spoke with Raymond Crowley from the State of Connecticut concerning the training of valley shore personnel being provided with a Train-the Trainer class for the burn trailer. Mr. Crowley assured Chief Herrschaft that there should not be a problem conducting a training class within one or more of the valley shore departments. Chief Herrschaft suggested a central location such as Clinton or Essex to conduct the course.

MMS to adjourn at 20:16 hours (Hajek/Olsen).

Respectfully submitted,

**Steve Biasi**  
Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, September 26, 2011 in Durham at 7:30 PM.