



President
Paul Fazzino
 Essex Fire Engine Co. No. 1

Vice President
Mike Jenkins
 Westbrook Fire Dept.

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

Minutes of the March 23, 2015 VSMAI meeting in Durham, CT.

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

Attendees – March 23, 2015

Charles Herrschaft – Guilford	Jeff True – Old Saybrook
Robert Chadd – Durham	Jed Perkins – Essex
Sam Baber – Haddam	Dick Bauer – Killingworth
Jim Schaefer – Chester	Rick Swan – Fire Coordinator
Steve Biasi – North Madison	Paul Fazzino – Essex

Special Presentations:

NONE

Approval of the previous meeting minutes: MMS (Bauer/Perkins) to accept the February 23, 2015 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Reading of communications:

None

Treasurer’s report: The Treasurer reported an opening balance of \$4,040.11, with \$0.00 of income and \$0.00 bills or payments. The Secretary announced a correction to the Treasurer’s report from last month. The two donations (\$250 per auxiliary) to the ladies auxiliaries were missing from last month’s Treasurer’s report. With the correction made the ending balance is \$3,540.11. MMS to accept the Treasurer’s report as presented (Bauer/Schaefer). Motion passed unanimously.

Bills to be paid:

None

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Committee report(s):

State Fire Coordinator's Report:

State Fire Coordinator Rick Swan announced an additional fire coordinator would be forthcoming for northern Middlesex County.

- Fire Coordinator Swan announced there are approximately 2,000 I-TAC radios throughout the State and less than 700 of the radios have been update with the most current data and frequencies. Fire Coordinator Swan stated if anyone needs assistance with updating the radios your department currently possesses please seek assistance. Fire Coordinator Swan will be more than glad to assist. Fire Coordinator Swan stated the radios can be used throughout the State and the radios have lots of frequencies that can be extremely valuable. Fire Coordinator Swan strongly advised everyone to become familiar and knowledgeable with the radios and the frequencies/information contained within them. Fire Coordinator Swan stated they are “worth their weight in gold”.
- Chief Bauer of Killingworth inquired whether someone intricately knowledgeable (strongly preferred an individual extremely and sophisticatedly trained to the “Expert” level) with the I-TAC radios could attend an upcoming Valley Shore meeting and provide some additional information and instruction on the use of the radios.
- Fire Coordinator Swan stated, “YES”!
- President Fazzino announced the last re-programming was approximately 6 months ago and prior to the re-programming 6 months ago he believed it was done approximately six years ago.
- Fire Coordinator Swan announced the I-TAC radios are also located on the State De-Con trailers throughout the state.
- Fire Coordinator Swan also explained Hartford County tests their I-TAC radios monthly. He recommended Counties test their radios on a routine basis as well.

Fire Coordinator Swan open discussion on the State Fire website and inventories.

- Fire Coordinator Swan stated all the counties have updated fire equipment listed on the inventory except New Haven and Middlesex counties. New

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Haven County did not have their information updated until recently because New Haven County only recently got a new fire coordinator. Fire Coordinator Swan stated an updated list and information is needed for Middlesex County.

Fire Coordinator Swan opened discussion on large-scale fires.

- Fire Coordinator Swan described the situation as when major or multiple fires occur and areas are stripped of personnel and apparatus. Fire Coordinator Swan explained some areas of the State are using strike teams similar to the tanker strike teams to backfill areas that have been stripped of personnel and apparatus during major and multiple fires. Fire Coordinator Swan stated tankers from New London county should have been brought into Madison and Middlesex county to backfill stripped towns during the simultaneous Madison fires in March. Fire Coordinator Swan also recommended using departments from upper New Haven and Middlesex countries to backfill these areas.
- Chief Bauer from Killingworth stated it was a great help having a fire coordinator to look at the larger picture and provide assistance backfilling fire stations during the two simultaneous fires in Madison.
- President Fazzino added daytime fire calls are the most taxing on fire departments and the lack of manpower is a huge problem. Many questions arise such as “do you call for mutual aid for a first alarm? Structure fire? Confirmed structure fire? Chimney fire? And it also depends on the dispatcher.
- President Fazzino believed it was a good idea to pursue and to have a plan similar to the tender strike team to backfill stripped area fire departments during large-scale fires and multiple fires.
- Second Assistant Chief Jeff True of Old Saybrook agreed and stated it would be a great help even if each department sent one or two resources from surrounding areas
- Fire Coordinator Swan recalled the Colchester mill fire where tanker task forces staged at the four corners and were under the impression they were a tanker water supply for the fire. However, it was later determined the tanker task forces staging at the four corners was providing town coverage for the towns that were stripped of personnel and apparatus. Many of the staged tankers only had a driver with not other firefighting personnel. Fire



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Coordinator Swan stated the purpose of the story was the dispatchers did not convey to send tankers and manpower. The dispatchers only called for tankers that ended up being the tankers and the driver.

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Regional Preparation/Pre-Planning:

NO REPORT

Radio Frequency/Communications Committee

NO REPORT

Website:

NO REPORT

Tanker Strike Team SOP:

NO REPORT

Tanker Fill Site Setup SOP:

NO REPORT

Accountability SOP

NO REPORT

RIT/Mayday SOG Review

NO REPORT



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Old Business:

- President Fazzino opened discussion concerning town participation at monthly meetings. Past Chief Hall of Durham has expressed interest in participating for Durham.
- President Fazzino stated these monthly meetings are not chief's meetings and firefighters can attend and speak on behalf of the chief, if necessary.
- Chief Chadd of Durham stated his department has made arrangements to ensure either he would attend, one of the assistant chiefs or a captain.
- President Fazzino strongly encouraged anyone interested to attend.

New Business:

- Second Assistant Chief True of Old Saybrook announced the Old Saybrook Firefighter competition would be held on June 7th with year with a rain date of June 15th.
- President Fazzino on behalf of the valley shore organization offered any needed assistance with the competition.
- Second Assistant Chief True stated the Competition Committee is currently organizing the competition and will let the organization know if ay assistance is needed.

Interest to the Organization:

- President Fazzino announced Clinton Fire Department would be hosting a Firefighter I course.
- Deputy Chief Jim Schaefer of Chester announced his department would be hosting a Rescue Technician Core class. Once additional information is received it will be sent to the Secretary for distribution.
- Second Assistant Chief True of Old Saybrook announced Old Saybrook would be hosting an EMT course and a Q class.
- A short discussion was had concerning the new law stating the chief of the department can sign off for fire apparatus drivers. The attendees believed it was still best to have either a state instructor or a CT State DMV official sign off. Attendees were also reminded departments with CDL drivers that they must self certify on line and fax it as part of the new CDL law.



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MMS to at 20:38 hours (Perkins/Bauer).

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Biasi

Steve Biasi
Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 27, 2015 in Essex at 7:30pm.

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