



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 May 18, 2015 VSMAI meeting in Guilford, CT.

President Paul Fazzino called the meeting to order at 19:45 hrs. with a salute to the flag.

Attendees – May 18, 2015

James Budney – Deep River	Paul Fazzino, Jr. – Essex
Don Venuti – Killingworth	Jed Perkins – Essex
Mike Jenkins – Westbrook	Charles Herrschaft – Guilford
Jim Schaefer – Chester	John Brainard – Chester
Steve Biasi – North Madison	Paul Fazzino - Essex

Special Presentations:

None

Approval of the previous meeting minutes: MMS (Budney/Jenkins) to accept the April 27, 2015 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Reading of communications:

None

Treasurer's report: The Treasurer reported an opening balance of \$4,740.11, with \$300.00 of income and \$0.00 bills or payments. The ending balance is \$5,040.11. MMS to accept the Treasurer's report as presented (Perkins/Venuti). Motion passed unanimously.

Dues payments was received from the following departments:

1. Durham (2014)
2. Madison
3. Westbrook
4. Haddam
5. Deep River
6. Chester
7. Killingworth
8. North Madison
9. Guilford
10. Old Saybrook

CHESTER HOSE CO., INC.
 PO Box 214
 Chester, CT 06412-0214
 860-526-0019

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 35 East Main Street
 Clinton, CT 06413-2049
 860-669-8131

DEEP RIVER FIRE DEPT.
 57 Union Street
 Deep River, CT 06417-2011
 860-526-6042

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 860-767-1258

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 Guilford, CT 06437-2004
 203-453-8000

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OLD LYME FIRE DEPT.
 69 Lyme Street
 PO Box 102
 Old Lyme, CT 06371-0102
 860-434-2424

OLD SAYBROOK FIRE DEPT.
 310 Main Street
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 860-395-3149

WESTBROOK FIRE DEPT.
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Bills to be paid:

None

Committee report(s):

State Fire Coordinator's Report:

No Report

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

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Accountability SOP

No Report

RIT/Mayday SOG Review

No Report

Old Business:

- President Fazzino announced Assistant Chief Tim Ballantyne of Deep River requested to work on revising the Incident Command SOG for the Valley Shore organization. President Fazzino and Deputy Chief Jim Budney of Deep River discussed having Assistant Chief Mr. Ballantyne attend an upcoming valley shore meeting and create a committee to revise the SOG
- President Fazzino stated the SOG was created a couple of years ago when NIMS came into effect and using the correct plain language.
- Deputy Chief Budney opened discussion concerning the valley shore organization hosting a STOC box/8TAC radio class and whether there was any interest with any of the departments.
- Chief Fazzino of Essex stated he did believe there was enough interest at this time nor was their enough material concerning the radios to have an eight hour class/course.
- Chief Herrschaft of Guilford stated the STOC boxes are easy to use and many of the departments in the area have the boxes and radios. Chief Herrschaft stated the use of the boxes and radios will typically be used at large scale events such as a railroad incident along the shoreline.
- President Fazzino inquired about a Region 2 Management team.
- Chief Herrschaft explained there is a management team that is headed by Deputy Chief Swartz of the West Haven Fire Department.
- President Fazzino opened discussion about Old Saybrook Fire Department hosting a Q class for certified trainers. Killingworth and Westbrook expressed interest. With departments expressing interest, Deputy Chief Joe Johnson will be contacted to see if Old Saybrook could organize a course/class.



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- Chief Fazzino of Essex stated the Fire Academy offers a class for driving/Q course evaluators but there was not interest expressed by the attendees at the meeting.
- President Fazzino announced there was possible legislation pending in the State House and Senate to have DMV visit fire departments in order to conduct fire apparatus inspections.
- Deputy Chief Budney of Deep River inquired with President Fazzino if there was any discussion of doing away with the Q restriction. The attendees had discussion concerning the Q restriction and nobody was aware of any possible legislation of doing away with the Q restriction. It was discuss that doing away with the Q restriction and requiring CDL licenses may then involve Grandfathering with the Q restriction and the State does not want to entertain that issue.
- Chief Fazzino of Essex opened discussion about setting of automatic mutual aid within the Valley Shore departments due to the difficultly of getting responder to fire and EMS calls.
- Deputy Chief Budney of Deep River explained his department set up mutual responses with other departments approximately 10 years ago and divided their town up into sectors with designated mutual aid departments responding to those sectors.
- Chief Fazzino of Essex inquired with Deputy Chief Budney whether Deep River was going to become an R1 department. Deputy Chief Budney stated his department would not become an R1 department and would remain only supplemental to the EMS services.
- President Fazzino stated there is a written mutual aid protocol with Rick Swan about going mutual aid after a designated amount of time. If a department does not sign on the air after a designated amount of time there is a protocol to dispatch mutual aid.
- Discussion was had amongst the attendees concerning multiple tones/dispatches for EMS call and transporting non-emergency patients to medical facilities along with the limited and/or lack of personnel.
- Chief Herrschaft stated it may be the time for the valley shore departments to start considering hiring a full time EMS crew during the day to cover the EMS calls/dispatches.
- President Fazzino stated the ambulances transport non-emergency patients because it brings in revenue for the EMS services.
- Deputy Chief Budney inquired about the three ambulances Middlesex Hospital was going to purchase.



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- President Fazzino explained the ambulances were going to be used for inter-facility transfers and transports but the concept did not get initiated due to the State of Connecticut requiring the ambulances to be licensed.
- President Fazzino stated the valley shore towns in need of daytime EMS responders need to start considering hiring three to four paramedics to cover these towns where there is problems with daytime responses
- Chief Fazzino of Essex inquired as to whether the ambulances services within the valley shore area have meetings similar to the Valley Shore Mutual Aid organization.
- President Fazzino announced they do have monthly meetings.
- Deputy Chief Budney recommended meeting with the ambulances chiefs and leaders to discuss the limited and/or non-existent responders during the day and have discussion with them how the fire departments are encountering the same problem.
- Chief Herrschaft explained the hiring of paramedic and EMT will just be the start and eventually it will evolve from there into the fire department
- Deputy Chief Schaefer of Chester explained how Chester currently has part time/daytime EMS responders but the responders are limited to working a maximum amount of hours (as per the Selectman) so as to prevent the town from having to provide benefits to the responders.
- Chief Fazzino of Essex explained some of the valley shore towns are not providing the required services and these services simply do not want to recognize the problem they are currently facing.
- Secretary Biasi stated it may be these services know of the response problems but are resistant to addressing the problem because they may feel hiring paid responders is “cracking the door open” to the start of a combination or paid department.
- Chief Herrschaft agreed the statement by the Secretary is a very true statement but its only a matter of time until that statement becomes a reality based upon listening to the valley shore radio and hearing three and four tones going out. Chief Herrschaft stated the Valley Shore Chiefs need to discuss these issues and problems and move forward addressing them with the order organizations such as EMS services.
- Deputy Chief Budeny inquired with the attendees whether members of other towns can ride with different departments.
- President Fazzino stated it is allowed and is covered by the mutual aid agreements and State statues.



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- Deputy Chief Budney of Deep River opened discussion concerning replacement of Scott bottles and whether any department was in the process or going to be purchasing new bottles. Deputy Chief Budney suggested the valley shore organization “pool” resources in order to possibly get a better price for the bottles.
- President Fazzino stated the organization could annually discuss “needs” for each department and determine the best means to purchase items. These items can include but could not be limited to hose, tools and bottles.
- Assistant Chief Perkins of Essex agreed this would be a good idea but these discussions about discussing department “needs” need to start early before the budgeting process starts in each town.
- Chief Herrschaft explained he has already conducted some competitive shopping and has found Shipman’s is competitive with many other vendors. The cost for replacing 48 Scott bottles is approximately \$48,000.00.
- President Fazzino stated these are some good ideas but these discussions need to continue and need to be pursued.

New Business:

No Report

Interest to the Organization:

- Assistant Chief Perkins of Essex presented the R.O.S. Platform. Assistant Chief Perkins discovered this device at FDIC and presented a PowerPoint handout that was shared amongst the attendees to view it’s in service use on a roof ladder. Assistant Chief Perkins stated the cost of the platform is \$498.00.
- Assistant Chief Schaefer of Chester explained a recent fire training drill his department conducted with Essex and Deep River. The drill was called Air Management Dodge Ball. The details and information on the drill was found on Facebook. Assistant Chief Schaefer believed it was a god drill. Chief Fazzino of Essex and Deputy Chief Budney of Deep River both agreed.



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- Assistant Chief Schaefer of Chester announced Chester would be hosting the Rescue Core class in October. Assistant Chief Schaefer explained this course was originally scheduled for this summer but is now re-scheduled for October.

MMS to at 21:28 hours (Jenkins/Budney).

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Biasi

Steve Biasi
Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 22, 2015 in Haddam at 7:30pm.