



*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 November 26, 2012 VSMAI meeting in Essex, CT.**

President Paul Fazzino called the meeting to order at 20:00 hrs. with a salute to the flag.

**Attendees – November 26, 2012**

Mike Jenkins – Westbrook	Richard Tsou – Westbrook
Tim Lee – Deep River	Dick Bauer – Killingworth
Jeremy Adametz – Killingworth	James Budney – Deep River
Paul Fazzino, Jr. – Essex	Doug Harreys – Essex
Steven Olsen – Essex	Charles Herrschaft – Guilford
Steve Biasi – North Madison	Paul Fazzino - Essex

**Special Presentations:**

NONE

**Approval of the previous meeting minutes:** MMS (Jenkins/Olsen) to accept the October 22, 2012 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**Reading of communications:**

NONE

**Treasurer’s report:** The Treasurer reported an opening balance of \$7,901.25, with \$100.00 of income and \$600.00 bills or payments. Ending balance is \$7,401.25. MMS to accept the Treasurer’s report as presented (Jenkins/Tsou). Motion passed unanimously.

**Bills to be paid:**

Ryan Messner – UberSuite(website designs for the <a href="http://www.joinyourfd.com">www.joinyourfd.com</a> and <a href="http://www.valleyshorefire.com">www.valleyshorefire.com</a> websites	\$600.00
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## **Committee report(s):**

### Statewide Disaster:

NO REPORT

### Regional Preparation/Pre-Planning:

NO REPORT

### Radio Frequency/Communications Committee:

President Fazzino announced the committee was in the process of collating the current changes and plan to distribute the new radio frequency list in the next few weeks. The new radio frequency list will then be distributed for one last review before being finalized.

### Website:

President Fazzino announced the website are now completed and available for use.

### Tanker Strike Team SOP:

President Fazzino distributed the revised Tender Strike Team SOP and the revised Tanker Fill Site Setup SOP. The changes to both SOPs reflect the passed motion proposed by Past Chief Frank Schrempp of Clinton during the meeting in Durham. The changes include adding a designated water supply channel (item #5) and designated fire units that will operate on the designated water supply channel. Incident Commanders will either designate a specified channel for water supply units and operations or dispatch centers will instruct responding fire units to operate on the water supply channel.



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President Fazzino announced non-valley shore towns were removed from the Tender Strike Team SOP following a motion passed during the Durham meeting, however, the regional inventory list will remain in the SOP.

### Tanker Fill Site Setup SOP:

President Fazzino opened discussion concerning the new changes to the SOP and explained that not all valley shore departments use or operate with an LDH manifold and therefore that language was removed from the SOP but instead water supply flow designations were referenced and inserted into the document where the LDH manifold information was previously located.

President Fazzino announced the hose requirements remained (item #5).

President Fazzino also announced the removal of the requirement to have a four (4) inch or five (5) inch water supply line.

President Fazzino explained the addition of the water supply officer and the addition of Item #9 that is the same as Item #6 in the Tender Strike Team SOP.

### Accountability SOP

Deputy Chief Fazzino, Jr. of Essex announced the committee met a couple of weeks ago and the biggest question was how do you tell thirteen departments to operate in regards to accountability. Deputy Chief Fazzino explained the committee is leaning towards the "Home" rule policy. The "Home" rule is described as each responding mutual aid department will operate under the "Home" department's accountability policy and procedures. The committee believes the lead mutual aid fire officer will ensure his or her department will utilize the "Home" rule accountability policy. Additionally, the enforcement of the "Home" rule policy should not be the sole responsibility of the home department to enforce.

Deputy Chief Fazzino, Jr. explained the committee was adamant that responding mutual aid departments respond with qualified people for the appropriate tasks being requested by the home department. For example, if a department is requesting a RIT team the responding RIT team should be filled with ONLY



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qualified RIT personnel. Also, if a department is requesting a mutual aid engine then ONLY qualified interior firefighters should respond.

Chief Herrschaft of Guilford announced the policy change would also ensure only qualified firefighters respond. Chief Herrschaft explained if he requests a mutual aid department he should not see fire personnel with red identification tags (red identification tags indicate fire personnel as being non-interior firefighter). Chief Herrschaft explained he does not want to see red tag firefighters on the scene of structure fires.

All attendees agreed that responding mutual aid departments and personnel shall be qualified to perform the task(s) they are requested for.

Chief Bauer of Killingworth stated the new policy should be short if the “Home” rule is used.

Chief Jenkins of Westbrook stated the lead mutual aid officer should be responsible for managing the tag for his or her firefighters. Chief Jenkins also agreed that ALL mutual aid towns must respond with only qualified personnel/firefighters.

Deputy Chief Harreys explained there are fire incidents where the RIT teams are put to work and a second or third team is needed.

Chief Herrschaft of Guilford explained that is why he calls two RIT teams and if one is put to work he still has one qualified RIT team that can still perform RIT operations.

Deputy Chief Fazzino, Jr. of Essex stated more departments should start having two RIT teams respond to structure fires in the event that occurs and explained that the use of more than one RIT team during a RIT operation is extremely possible. Deputy Chief Fazzino, Jr. stated the first RIT team usually gets to the point of only locating the firefighter(s), checking their breathing air status and changing over their air supply, if necessary.

RIT/Mayday SOG Review



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President Fazzino explained he talked with Chief Dunn of Old Saybrook and the last meeting was cancelled but has been re-scheduled for Tuesday, December 11, 2012 at 7:30 pm at Old Saybrook Fire Department. Anyone interested should attend.

### **Old Business:**

President Fazzino announced the RIT training was cancelled due to Hurricane Sandy and the instructors having to cancel.

Chief Herrschaft of Guilford explained most of the instructors are tending to their own homes and the extra work assignments following the hurricane.

### **New Business:**

President Fazzino announced he did receive a confirming email from the company providing the tanker shuttle class in spring 2013 in Killingworth. President Fazzino explained he discussed with the company about conducting tanker work and long relay tanker/engine operations.

President Fazzino reminded the attendees the course is the first weekend in April 2013. (April 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013)

President Fazzino stated he was looking to limit the class attendees to only valley shore departments at this point and is currently creating an informational flyer/pamphlet with information on the course. The flyer/pamphlet will be distributed to valley shore departments shortly in order to get a rough number of valley shore personnel for the course. If space is available, then departments outside of valley shore will be invited to have firefighters/individuals attend.

Chief Tim Lee of Deep River announced members of Deep River Fire Department would be traveling to New York City this upcoming weekend to assist in the Hurricane Sandy relief efforts. Chief Lee explained an uncle of two Deep River firefighters is a retired FDNY firefighter previously with Ladder 24 and is their point of contact for the relief efforts. Deep River FD is going to either Breezy Point or Bell Harbor to provide assistance.

Chief Lee of Deep River announced the Hurricane Sandy Relief Effort is looking for volunteers for the Gut & Pump Operation near Breezy Point.



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Chief Lee announced Deep River FD also held a Fill-the-Boot fund raising event recently in Deep River and raised approximately \$1,000.00 for the relief efforts. Chief Lee explained he did receive a telephone call from the Woodbury, CT Fire Chief looking to coordinate efforts and have Deep River transport supplies and materials to NYC for the relief efforts that were collected by the Woodbury Fire Department.

Chief Lee announced Whalen Engineering offered his department the use of their multi-personnel passenger vans to assist transporting personnel to NYC. Chief Lee announced they would probably take at least one of their vans.

Chief Lee announced three Deep River firefighters would be traveling to Pennsylvania this upcoming Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup> to view aerial apparatus.

Chief Olsen of Essex announced he was looking for the number of attendees from each department for the Paraco Gas class.

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

Chief Bauer of Killingworth strongly recommended to everyone to be familiar with the State of Connecticut laws, rules and policies concerning junior/explorer firefighters.

The secretary will distribute the rules with the meeting minutes.

Chief Olsen inquired if the rules apply to junior ambulance and police personnel. President Fazzino announced the rules do apply to both the ambulance and police juniors and/or explorers.

President Fazzino opened discussion about the use of reserve aerial ladders. President Fazzino explained Essex recently went through a lengthy process where their aerial truck was out of service. Their aerial truck was out of service for over a month for repairs and maintenance. President Fazzino explained Guilford's aerial truck is currently out of service and Guilford is currently using New Haven FD's reserve aerial truck. Chief Fazzino asked the attendees whether they would be interested in collectively sharing the use of a reserve aerial apparatus and putting money towards a reserve aerial apparatus. President Fazzino explained



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many valley shore towns including Old Saybrook, Westbrook, Clinton, Guilford, Madison, Deep River, Old Lyme and Essex have aerial apparatus along with many valley shore town including North Madison, Killingworth, and Chester that utilize or depend on these aerial trucks.

President Fazzino was throwing the idea out for consideration and further discussion at future meetings.

MMS to at 20:45 hours (Bauer/Olsen).

Respectfully Submitted,

*Steve Biasi*

**Steve Biasi**  
Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, December 17, 2012 in Guilford at 7:30pm.