



President
Paul Fazzino
 Essex Fire Engine Co. #1

Vice – President
Brian Manware
 Clinton Fire Department

Secretary – Treasurer
Steve Biasi
 Unaffiliated

Minutes of the January 25, 2021 VSMAI meeting via Zoom.

President Paul Fazzino called the meeting to order at 19:30 hours.

Attendees – January 25, 2021

Paul Fazzino - Essex	Ethan Goller - Essex
Greg Carroll - Madison	James Budney – Deep River
Kevin McManus – Fire Coordinator	Michael Neff - Clinton
Mike Shove - Guilford	Rick Swan – Fire Coordinator
Steve Lesko – Old Saybrook	Sam Baber - Haddam
Will Heiney – Old Saybrook	William Cusson - Westbrook
Brian Manware - Clinton	Rick Darin – Killingworth/VS Comm.
Tim Lee – Deep River	Mark DeCillis – North Madison
Aron Schumacher - Essex	David Cone – North Madison
Gabe Balsamo – North Madison	Steve Biasi - Unaffiliated
Mike Carri - Killingworth	Don Venuti - Killingworth
Andrew Kressley - Essex	Charles Herrschaft - Guilford
Chris Bernier – North Madison	John Brady – North Madison
Mike Howley – South District	

Special Presentations:

None

Approval of the previous meeting minutes:

No previous meeting minutes to accept and approve.

Reading of communications:

None

Treasurer’s report: The Treasurer reported an opening balance of \$3,937.86, with \$0.00 of income and \$0.00 of bills, service charges or payments. The ending balance is \$3,937.86. MMS to accept the Treasurer’s report as presented (Heiney/Baber). Motion passed unanimously.

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Bills to be paid:

None

Committee report(s):

State Fire Coordinator’s Report:

Middlesex County Fire Coordinator Kevin McManus announced an update to the State Intel Contact List. Mr. McManus will send out a request for information to each department requesting second and third tier department officers.

Mr. McManus announced if any department is interested in the Everbridge notification system please contact him. Everbridge is an additional contact resource for departments.

Mr. McManus is also working on an updated fire department inventory list.

All Hands Call Committee:

No Report

Regional Preparation/Pre-Planning:

No Report

Radio Frequency/Communications Committee

No Report

Website:

No Report

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Tanker Strike Team SOP:

No Report

Tanker Fill Site Setup SOP:

No Report

Accountability SOP

No Report

RIT/Mayday SOG Review

No Report

Incident Command SOG

No Report

Field Day

No Report

NASH

No report



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Old Business:

Deputy Chief James Budney open discussed requesting information as to how each department transition their junior members to senior members. Prior to the meeting, Chief Tim Lee emailed questions out to the Valley Shore departments requesting information.

President Fazzino invited Past Chief John Brady to attend tonight's meeting to provide additional information and answer questions presented.

According to Chief Tim Lee, Deep River juniors that reach 18 years of age must graduate from high school in order to be voted in as senior department members but inquired with the other department meeting attendees as to what requirements other department current have in place such as maintaining specific school grades for eligibility. For a junior member that reaches 18 years of age but has not yet graduated from high school are there restrictions such as designated hours they are allowed to respond?

President Fazzino stated in Essex juniors can apply at 18 years of age but are required to be voted into the senior membership. Deputy Chief Andy Kressley stated Essex does not currently have a GPA or grade requirements but must comply with the junior work hour restrictions.

Chief William Cusson stated in Westbrook the juniors must maintain passing grades and where instances are discovered that junior members were not maintaining such grades, parents are notified and the junior member was placed on restricted activity until grades improved.

Deputy Chief Budney asked Chief Brady if the State of Connecticut is proposing any changes to the current state rules and requirements for juniors.

Chief Brady stated the rules and requirements are established under State of Connecticut law and are enforced by the state Department of Labor. Chief Brady explained there are some exemptions to the rules and requirements such as educational environments (technical high schools and the State Fire Academy) but not with specific/individual fire department training.

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Deputy Chief Budney expressed concern that under the current state rules and requirements the juniors are losing interest and are leaving.

Chief William Cusson suggested departments should consider evaluating their current junior programs and suggested providing alternative opportunities such as enrolling the juniors in the Connecticut Fire Academy's Introduction to the Fire Service program.

Chief Lee inquired with the meeting attendees if any other departments have junior stipulations upon moving to senior membership.

Chief David Cone announced that in North Madison there have been cases where the juniors graduate high school, are unsure of their college aspirations, and hold off applying to senior membership until they make their decision. Chief Cone added some wait until after college graduation to apply for senior membership.

President Fazzino announced the recent Class B foam email that was distributed. Rick Swan sent an email containing the approved foams to replace the old Class B foams. President Fazzino reminded the attendees of the recent foam demonstration in Guilford and advised everyone the product that was demonstrated during the Guilford event is not included on the list contained in Rick's email.

Deputy Chief James Budney asked if the foam trailers currently have the new approved foam.

Fire Coordinator Rick Swan explained the funding has been approved for new foam for the trailers and the trailers are getting the necessary maintenance.

Chief Mike Howley announced the State is currently obtaining work requests (quotes) to obtain and dispose of the old Class B foam. Chief Howley believes some foam trailers still have the outdated (prohibited) Class B foam.

Deputy Chief Andy Kressley announced Essex currently has six containers of the prohibited foam and they are tagged as out-of-service. Assistant Chief Kressley stated Essex purchased new foam.



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Chief Brian Manware announced the foam trailers are located in Norwich, New Haven and Hartford.

New Business:

At the request of President Fazzino, Past Chief John Brady opened discussion on fire department tax abatements. Chief Brady announced starting in 2021 for an eligible fire department member the tax abatement will increase to \$1,500 and in 2022 it will increase to \$2,000 in Madison. The lifetime abatement will be for 25 years of service or greater. Previously, the tax abatement was a graduated increase over a designated period, however, that was changed and an eligible member can get the full abatement in their first year. For eligible members that do not have taxable property, they can opt for a \$1,500 and a \$2,000 direct payment. The Madison ordinance also allows for increases with State of Connecticut increases. For example, if the state approves an increase to \$3,000, the town will automatically increase the tax abatement to the same amount. Chief Brady stated the tax abatement is still considered taxable income.

Valley Shore Communications Director Rick Darin announced Killingworth town officials are discussing a similar tax abatement and are looking to update the town's pension plan.

Deputy Chief Jim Budney announced there are no updates for the Field Day event in September due to the COVID-19 pandemic but will coordinate with Old Saybrook and Old Lyme.

Interest to the Organization:

President Fazzino announced the following upcoming fire training course:

1. Firefighter I – Old Saybrook
2. Firefighter II – Westfield
3. Firefighter I – Middlefield

Please send applications to Jay Woron at the Middlesex County Fire School for the training course.



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MMS to at 20:15 hours (Kressley/Manware).

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Biasi

Steve Biasi
Secretary/Treasurer

The next meeting is Valley Shore meeting is Monday, February 22, 2021 via Zoom at 7:30 pm.

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