



# TOWN OF VERNON

P.O. Box 54  
Vernon, CT 06066  
[www.vernonfire.com](http://www.vernonfire.com)



## *STAFF MEETING MINUTES*

September 6, 2016

Chiefs: Eppler, Landry

HSO: Hammick (excused – out of town)

Captains: Andresen, Maguda, McKinney, Muniz, Robertson, Shepard, Solito, Tautic

Lieut: Arel, Cascario, Schambach

Communications: Fisher

Ambulance: Gauthier

Deputy FMO: Call

Fleet Mgmt: Westcott, Robinson

Fire Police: Fluckiger

Special Members: Carpenter, Galley

RECEIVED BY EMAIL

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VERNON TOWN CLERK  
16 SEP -9 AM 11:20

The meeting was called to order @ 19:04 by Interim Fire Chief, Stephen Eppler. Motion was made/seconded (Galley/Shepard) to accept the minutes from the August 1, 2016 meeting.

### ***TRAINING REPORT:***

- Training Committee Minutes from August 18th are attached. The next meeting will be Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 19:00 at the Public Safety Building.
- September Staff Meeting Report is attached.
- September Department Drill Schedule is attached. Drill location will be sent out via email.
- Boating safety and certificate course was attended by three members in Coventry. It went well. For future consideration, Vernon could be a sponsor town for this program.

**ADMINISTRATION REPORT – A/C Landry:**

- Ellington Parade attendees were discussed. ET-541, ET-141, (T-541, R-141 tbd) will attend.
- Wishes on Wheels will be held on 9/11, 8:00 – ET-141 will attend.
- Picnic sign ups were due. A majority of the companies have responded. At this point there are 60+ adults/20 children attending. Final signups will be accepted until Saturday, 9/10.

**MEMBERSHIP:**

- **Rank Change:**

A/C Eppler to Interim Fire Chief  
Chief Call will be changed to Deputy Fire Marshal. Cell Phone is: 860-856-3157.

- **New Membership:**

James Baird  
Devon Buck  
Andrew Honan  
Sean Seipel

Nyla Hadden (Aux Member)

There is a hold on new members for the Fire Police Company as it is well staffed.

- **LOA:**

Andrew Gagne 4 month (personal)

**HEALTH & SAFETY:** Hammick – See Attached

**FIRE MARSHAL: Deputy Fire Marshal Call –** (Also see attached)

- Message from Donald Schumacher @ CT Water Co. Work continues on the construction of the new Connecticut Water Rockville Water Treatment Plant.

**This work requires a reduction in available fire water on Wednesday, September 7, 2016, from 8am to 5pm. During this reduction in flow it is important that CWC be notified in the event of any emergency requiring “big water”. Notification will be made by email once flows are restored.**

**Emergency Notification Contact: Don Schumacher 860-391-2635**  
**Back-up Emergency Contact: 800-428-3985**

***FIRE MARSHAL:*** Continued

- State Statute requires FMO investigation for *any* fire so that a report can be filed. Please make sure they are alerted.
- For active criminal investigations into a fire we must be careful of pictures that are released. Pictures must be cleared by VPD Capt. Kelley, Fire Chief, and FMO. Let members know that they should not be shared so that we do not jeopardize the investigation.
- Fox Hill Nursing Home will be starting re-construction soon.
- 80 Franklin Street re-construction will begin soon.
- Amerbelle deconstruction has begun.
- Route 83 mini plaza construction has begun.
- Swiss Laundry is building a new warehouse next to the Windsor Ave. location.
- FMO Radio call numbers were discussed: Adam Libros-FM141, Bill Call- FM241, Stan Landry-FM341, and Christian Frezza-FM441.

***EMD:*** Purcaro

- Community Voice Channel – Public Service Announcement Training – 9/19/16 from 6:00 – 7:30 at the CVC Studios on 105 Notch Road, Bolton – see attached.
- C.E.R.T. Activity – see attached
- IMPACT Training – 10/7/16 from 3:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Rockville High School – see attached.

***COMMUNICATIONS:*** Fisher

- Paging problem at TN was reported today. New system still has problems and is being worked on. Contact Jack if there are paging issues.
- Radio reprogramming is still ongoing. Several radios still need to be done.
- For regular calls Channel 2 should be used for fire ground operations. Although TN may not hear radio traffic on this channel, all units on the fireground will hear and see a “man down” alert.
- TN does not have a “man down” decoder. Our radios transmit a unique tone on our operating channel that anyone listening to our channel #1 or 33.48 can hear. Unless they have a decoder with the proper code (which TN does not have at this time), all they hear is a tone without any indication as to what it is or the ID of who pressed the Orange Emergency Button on our radios. TN has purchased the necessary hardware to decode ID's but it has not been installed or set up at this time.
- East Street explosion comments:
  - Too many communications were being attempted on one channel. In the future there are other channels that can be used as well. Contact TN for alternate channels.
  - For regular calls Channel 2 should be used for fire ground operations.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Continued

- Command (the Incident Commander) should remain stationary at a fixed point. This ensures that people can locate command at any given point.
- Service 119 will be online shortly. All radio communications have been ordered. The State will be funding \$45,000. It is an excellent vehicle for large scale incidents. It will be housed in Ashford St. 20 for the time being. A demo will be planned for a future Staff Meeting.
- Winter months are approaching. If any radio drills are needed contact Jack Fisher for a re-fresher.

**FLEET MGMT:** Westcott/Robinson

Don reported the following:

- Top Rung began annual inspections on 8/15/16. ET-141, ET-241, T-141 and ET-641 are complete.
- Remaining Engines and T-541 were serviced on 8/16/16. ET-341 ball valves were tested after repair by Five Star App. Maintenance in East Hartford.
- Pump and Ladder inspections were conducted on 8/17/16 for ET-141, ET-241, ET-341, ET-641, T-141, and R-441 (ladder only)
  - ET-341 problem found was clamp on front intake leaking – inspection needed to determine repairs.
  - T-141 – recommended that the last extension of waterway packing be replaced. There is no leak on waterway. Wiper seal is broken.
  - ET-141 Transfer Valve sluggish to change over.
- Remaining Pump and Ladder tests were conducted on 8/18/16 (E-441, ET-441, ET-541). T-541 also had the NDT inspection performed.
  - E-441 problem – water manifold has pin holes in a weld. DPW was at the station for pickup of R-141 (repairs) and was shown the manifold in action – leaking.
  - ET-441 engine overheated during the first phase of pump testing and was sent to DPW.
- Result of Ladder Testing:
  - 2 ladders were placed out of service. The roof ladder from E441 – 2 rungs need to be replaced. A spare roof ladder was placed into service until the ladder comes back.
  - Roof ladder (16') was placed out of service and deemed unserviceable; bent beam and a new ladder needs to be ordered.

- NDT was performed on T-541 and no defects were noted. Waiting full report from Top Rung.

Captains, please forward any questions to Don.

James Robinson reported the following:

Unfortunately this is a partial report due to a phone upgrade and other notes were lost.

- ET-441 has received a new radiator. They had two thermostats installed prior to the install of a new radiator; due to overheating.
- ET-341 came back from Detroit dealer, Five Star. It needed a lot of work done. Some of the pump knobs had come back put in backwards; it had to be sent back.
- T-541 had some hydraulic work done to it.
- T-541 lost a roof ladder and a new ladder has been ordered.
- Hose testing went well. A hand-full of hose was bad. Results are:

1155 – 25’ 1 ¼” Yellow – T-141	4089 – 100’ 4” Yellow – E-441
4161 – 25’ 4” Yellow T-141	4132 – 100” 4” Yellow – E-441
1111 - 100’ 1 ¼” White – ET-241	1134 – 1 ¼” White – ET-641
1192 – 50’ 1 ¼” White – ET-241	1037 – 1 ¼” – Off the Trailer
4205 - 4” Yellow – ET-241	1212 - 1 ¼” – Off the Trailer
1135 – 1 ¼” White – ET-341	3034 – 3” – Off the Trailer
4169 – 4” Red – ET341	4214 – 4” – Off the Trailer
	4215 – 4” – Off the Trailer

All old failed hose should have couplings removed and be taken to the transfer station.

- Need to make 25’ “pony lengths” of supply line, 2 per company. They will be tested here and will get into test schedule next year.
- In-line gauges are next for consideration for the high rise packs..
- Supply line was re-packed on the apparatus with the red length being the second to last length so the Engineer will know when the bed is almost empty when laying hose.
- Status of hose behind Station 141 was asked. James Robinson will check it out.
- Air Filter change for T-141 ? Need to confirm if this was completed.
- Aerials and rescues have received hearing protection (ear plugs).

**TECHNOLOGY:** Galley

- R-141 Active 911 PC has been changed.
- Upper Bay printing issues were reported at Station 141.
- Dave was given permission to obtain a quote to replace one of the old XP PC's that is currently in use.
- Scanner feed program needs to be updated.
- Station 441 Active 911 Screen is coming.
- Jean reported that Firehouse Software issues are ongoing. She was instructed to take a picture of the next error message and send to Dave.
- Web Based Firehouse Software is on the way. Contract needs to be signed.

**CENTRAL SUPPLY/UNIFORMS:** Goric

- Four storage boxes with folding/locking lids have been received. They will be used for short/moderate-term storage of uniforms/gear for those members who are temporarily offline. Dave reported that four additional boxes are needed.
- Lt. Williams needs to see CS for new helmet.
- Gear list is ready to be released.
- Uniforms and hardware have been disbursed.
- There is an extinguisher ready to pick up for T-541.
- Extinguisher carry straps have been received and ready to distribute.

**SCBA:** Shepard

- Chico is out for two weeks. James Robinson (860) 268-6045, will cover in his absence.
- Fit testing scheduling issue was discussed by Scott Shepard. The machine needs to be sent to Alabama for re-calibration ASAP. People are not getting their physicals done and therefore fit testing will not be completed. ET-241, R-441, T-141 captains need to confirm their members have completed physicals so that fit testing can be scheduled. If they do not have current physicals on file, they need to get it done.
- Annual Flow Testing will be completed on October 17-20<sup>th</sup>.
- Scott was asked to draw up an annual budget of all recurring annual SCBA expenses including Cascade system and send to Chief Eppler.
- Batteries are needed.

***PUBLIC RELATIONS EVENTS – Muniz:***

- Aug. 20th went ok at the car show. I wanted to say thank you for those who showed up. As of right now, there is nothing on the calendar. I'll advise the dept. if I do hear of anything. I'm trying to get other companies involved to get out there with me. I'll be contacting company captains as events occur so we can get other companies out there other than the ones that are doing it all the time.
- Football game on Friday, 9/9 @ RHS. ET-241 will fill the dunk tank @ 16:00. R-141 and possibly ET-141 will also attend for 18:00. An email will follow.
- Stop & Shop and Kmart are giving us the opportunity to do recruitment at their stores. Anybody interested in helping, contact Captain Muniz. Handouts are needed.
- A Safety Day event is being planned for 2017.
- Open Houses at Station 141 and 441 are being pursued.

***OLD BUSINESS:***

- Payroll is due tonight.
- Impact 2016 will be held on October 7<sup>th</sup>, @ RHS from 3:00 - 9:00. There are opportunities for high school students and adults to volunteer. Additional information will follow.
- Companies needing breathing air system training should Steve Scanlon.

***NEW BUSINESS:***

- Members should not "reply" to Vernon Fire emails. This is an unmonitored email box to distribute important information only. Responses should be forwarded to the appropriate Executive Board officer or individual named in the email.
- Sept 20<sup>th</sup> Town Council will be expressing appreciation to first responders for East Street explosion. More info to follow.
- Rockville Fest – See attached
- Greater Hartford Salvation Army Canteen – See attached.
- Open Executive Board positions were discussed. A/C Landry stated that job descriptions, requirements, and qualifications will be out by 9/15 so that interested members can put their resumes together. The process will then move forward shortly after the 9/20 Town Council Meeting. A panel of outside individuals will be part of the selection process.

***CORRESPONDENCE:***

- A card was sent to us from Chaplain Stephen Johnson of the East Haven Fire Department commending us for the heroic actions displayed at the East Street home explosion. He also offered his services to our department if ever needed. He can be reached at (203) 809-6928.

***UPCOMING EVENTS:***

- Ellington Parade on 9/10/16. ET-541, ET-141, (T-541, R-141 tbd) will attend.

***GOOD & WELL BEING:***

- September County Chiefs Meeting is being hosted by Vernon at the Tolland Training Center on Merrow Road. An email will follow.

***ADJOURNMENT:***

Motion was made/seconded (Solito/Robinson) to adjourn the meeting @ 21:00.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Carpenter".

Diane Carpenter, Secretary