



# TOWN OF VERNON FIRE DEPARTMENT

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



## *Department Meeting Minutes*

April 30, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 1900 hrs. by Fire Chief, Stephen Eppler. Motion was made seconded (Shepard/Robertson) to approve the minutes from the January 29, 2018 meeting.

### *Training Report:*

- Live Burn was held on April 28<sup>th</sup>. 34 members attended. All recruits passed. Although it is not yet a department mandate (so long as the member is in compliance with the CONNOSHA guidelines) members are encouraged to attend the live burn activities annually.
- CFA June Fire School calendar has been released. Classes will be held June 4 – 8. Please contact A/C Arel a.s.a.p. if interested in attending. Classes fill quickly.
- Mother's Day Dash is scheduled for May 13, 2018 at Henry Park. 2 UTV's are needed.
- Boy Scouts Annual Youth Protection Training with Junior Advisors has been scheduled for May 14, 2018 at 1900 hrs. at Station 141. All Station 141 members and 1 officer from each company are to attend.
- July in the Sky is scheduled for Tuesday, July 10<sup>th</sup> (rain date 7/11).

### *Administration Report:*

- The last of the Length of Service and Achievement Awards for members who were not at the Awards Ceremony were distributed.
- A/C Babcock discussed the huge void we are experiencing since the passing of Lt. Charlie Konarski. Charlie was involved with so many activities; the depth of his loss is just being realized. A search is underway for a Photographer to be trained to fulfill this function. Also, a SOG regarding photographs, videos and other forms of media is being drafted.
- Continuous problems have been reported with logging into FireHouse Software. Dave Galley assists when possible, but members need to ensure password recovery is set up and to change their passwords as prompted on a routine basis.
- SOG update project continues.
- New Recruitment activities continue.

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***Health & Safety Report:*** No Report

***Board of Firefighters:***

- The Board of Firefighters met on April 19, 2018. Election of Officers was conducted:  
Sean Hadden, Chairman  
Josh Isham, Asst. Chairman  
Kathy Call, Secretary
- David Williams will be the representative from T-541  
Edgar Jackson will represent ET-541

The next meeting will be held on 5/8/18 1900 hrs. at the Nye Street firehouse.

***Uniform Committee:***

- Some progress has been made toward the uniform guide. They will be reaching out to the Awards Committee to blend information.
- Uniform Request Forms are available on the shared drive. Please submit correct forms when requesting Class A or C uniforms. Requests should follow the chain of command.

***Awards Committee:***

- Michelle Kerr has been named Chair to this committee.
- Members are reminded that within FireHouse Software there is an Activity for Recommendation for Award. Please be descriptive and include all members when completing the information.

***Old Business:***

- The Connecticut State Firefighters Association Hall of Fame Dinner was held on April 5, 2018. There were 3 award recipients from Tolland County.
- Read Across America activities were held at the Elementary Schools. Thank you to all members that participated.
- The Annual Awards Ceremony was held on Monday, February 26, 2018. Chief Eppler was happy to report that attendance is growing each year and it is great to see members along with their family and friends attend and join in the recognition of the members receiving awards.

***New Business:***

- Members were informed that in 2016 there were 93 Line of Duty Deaths and 132 firefighter suicides reported. A 48% increase in PTSD was also noted.

The Town of Vernon EAP services are available to all members and their families. Barry Folland and Kathy Call have received additional training for recognition and programs available through EAP. Kathy Call informed that they attended an emotional trauma support course and they want to educate and provide assistance for the department. Information cards with important contact numbers are being created for members and information packets are being created. Additional information will follow at the Staff Meeting.

- Station 141 gear washers are up and running. Additional machines will be pursued for Stations 2, 3, 5. Tide Pods are the only detergent to be used in the machines for washing and can be obtained from Central Supply.
- An email from Bob Sigan informed the scanner/printer issues have been resolved. Please report any continued problems to Dave Galley.
- Any telephone system issues should be reported to Dave Galley who will get them to I.T. (who manages the phone system for the town).
- Responders were praised for their effort at the recent construction site accident.
- The Town Budget passed without need for referendum. Spending for FY 18 is still being limited however the following items are being reviewed:
  - Uniform & hardware requests will be reviewed with fittings to follow.
  - Funding has been encumbered for 13 sets of turnout gear. Fittings to follow.
  - 2 Scott Pak-Tracker units will be purchased (one for each rescue).
  - 14 new SCBA bottles (to replace bottles that are reaching end of life)
  - Hose needs are being reviewed (4" and 1-3/4")
  - New printers and PC's (to replace broken/obsolete equipment).
- A reminder that members should not carry concealed weapons on the emergency scenes (fires, accidents, medical assists). Please use common sense when responding and leave the items properly secured at home or in vehicle for the safety of themselves and other responders on the scene. Weapons are specifically prohibited in any school building or the Police Department.
- Chris Oliver discussed Honor Guard activities. New members are being sought. They have been teaming with South Windsor for events. Please contact Chris or Brian Johnston for additional information.

***Upcoming Events:***

- RHS Mock Car Crash on Wednesday, 5/2/18.
- Mother's Day Dash will be held on May 13. One Ambulance, 2 UTV's (drivers/EMT's) to attend.
- Recognition Walkway Dedication will be held on Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 1300, Public Safety Complex.
- Memorial Day Parade, 5/28/18 at 10:00 from Northeast School.
- July in the Sky, 7/10/18 (7/11/18 rain date). Normal 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday activities will be cancelled.
- Fire Department Annual Picnic on 9/15/18.

***Good of the Order:*** None

Motion was made/seconded (Fischer/Lafontaine) to adjourn the meeting at 1944 hrs.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Carpenter". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Diane Carpenter, Secretary