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TOWN OF VERNON

P.O. Box 54
Vernon, CT 06066
www.vernonfire.com



STAFF MEETING MINUTES

April 2, 2012

Chiefs: Call, Eppler, Landry

HSO: Hammick

Captains: Goric, Landry, Lavoie, Maguda, McKinney, Sereby

Lieutenants: Babcock, Coppinger, Lucas
Andresen, Botteron, Bush, Cascario, Crespo, Dube, Fluckiger, Redshaw,
Schambach, Tautic, Williams

Firefighter: Robertson

Ambulance: Gauthier

Communications: Fisher

Engineer: Mylek

Fire Police: Konarski

Special Members: Carpenter, Galley, Graugard, Marth

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The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chief William Call.

Jim Gucci from Rockville Equipment was present to discuss fuel additives for small equipment. The product proving to be most effective was Ethanol Shield. A 4 oz bottle sells for \$7.99. It is available at Rockville Equipment and other retailers. Machines should be run frequently (at least monthly) for many minutes, with a load (generators).

Cory Lafontaine was present to demo iamresponding.com. This is a web based system that is used to see who is responding to a call. Access is through an 800 phone number and can be used through any telephone. It is not a dispatching tool. The maximum annual cost is \$1,150. More discussion is needed. Bolton, EW, Broadbrook, Columbia and others are using it.

Training Report:

- Training Minutes attached.
- April Drill Schedule will follow.
- Trail System calls are being reviewed by the Training Committee.
- Most current licenses/certifications need to be provided to A/C Eppler for update.
- Target Safety Update new platform will be coming. Valid email addresses are necessary for logon.

Administration Report:

- A/C Landry discussed issues that have come to the Executive Board's attention from the membership. Department morale is low and they want to help improve this. Feedback is requested for possible changes. The Executive Board supports the members. It is desired that company resources be pursued first when problems arise, however, A/C Landry is available to assist. There is an open door policy when the chain of command is followed. Staff is requested to make sure this information is shared with the membership. It is the Executive Board's responsibility to find people who wish to volunteer. It is at the company level that has the responsibility to keep these members interested and active. Training, picnics, social events are ideas to help with keeping the members motivated. Phone call or email A/C Landry with any suggestions. Several members suggested the following ideas that might help:
 - Assignments to companies that people are interested in rather than automatic assignment to an Engine Company.
 - Non Department Drills to rotate with other companies for cross training activities. It will be discussed at the next Training Committee meeting. Pooling of resources may make better drills. Pulling members from company events to conduct department training isn't necessarily working well.
 - Station 141 is considering station drilling so that more individuals are participating in a training event.
 - Assigned group training of similar apparatus to be training together (engines, rescues, trucks). A lot more people to hone skills as well as dissimilar unit training to expose training to mixed apparatus.
 - Department drills are too large for hands on training.
 - More practical fire work/live burn activities (twice a year) would provide good hands on training.
 - A/C Eppler stated that attention of those participating during drills is important. It is discouraging when someone is trying to teach a class and multiple sideline discussions are occurring. It is disrespectful and non productive for all.
 - April 19th is the next Training Committee Meeting. Representation from each company is required so these items can be discussed in greater detail.
 - Members are asked to provide suggestions/solutions in writing to the Executive Board members.
- Beneficiary Forms are attached. A/C Landry requests that members confirm they've received the form via email, or a copy of the form is provided to those without email. SSN Numbers are not necessary.

Fire Marshal Report: Attached.

- All Knox boxes should have been updated.
- Installation of three new boxes needs to be completed. Ambulance, E441, ET-541 (new app).
- UTV should be back within a few days. Brush fires should be treated seriously due to weather conditions.
- Phoenix & Hublard neighbor disputes are ongoing. There are also issues on Ward Street. Respond with caution to these areas.

Membership:

Admin:

Octavio Muniz – Acting Capt E441

Resignation:

Chris Duda

Brian McKinney

LOA

Raymond Estwick – 1 Year

Lars Owren military leave from T141 for a minimum of 3 months.

Returning from LOA:

Richard Wilcox

Mark Barton E441 – discussion tabled

Health & Safety:

- Chris discussed the Fire Grant to purchase additional equipment (\$5,000 cap). The remainder of funding is being reviewed for an amendment to the Grant. Equipment purchases cannot be used with this grant. Inhouse Firefighter I and physicals are being researched.

EMD:

- Michael Purcaro may be able to provide TV's if we pursue the new "iamresponding.com" program. It would be helpful in large scale events.
- Storm data is being requested from the Town for FEMA reimbursement to the town. Better tracking needs to be done for future.
- Vehicles are available from FEMA. Dave Goric is to investigate.
- Mobile communications vehicles are being researched in the Region.

Communications:

- Simulcast radio with PD that was on Fox Hill has been moved to Station 241. It has limited range, but appears to be working better.
- Alpha paging has been lost since QV moved. Jack is researching, but let him know if there are problems.
- Members are urged to use/refer to full apparatus call number (i.e., ET541, ET141, R441, etc.) designations to help TN know which town is talking.

Chief Engineer:

- Ambulance is still down.
- Thermal imaging camera is not on Tower 141 yet.
- Intake valves have issues were discussed for E-341 and E-441. Mike Sereby was requested to provide issues in writing.

Technology:

- Dave Galley gave a presentation regarding location and usage of the Town Terminal Server. It is backed up nightly. A Sonic Firewall is needed. The Town Terminal icon is on town desktops. The Captains have unique ID's and passwords. The Home Folder is for housing of all important company documents. Any Captain needing a password should send an email request to Dave for assignment. Fire House Software and Town Terminal Server are two different networks with different purposes.
- Firehouse Software is down. Do not use it until further notice. They are attempting to restore the database. It may not be available until Wednesday.

Uniforms:

- Uniform hardware was passed around at the meeting, however, there was concern that pieces may not have been distributed for the correct members. Since the departure of Brian Johnston, it is not known who the items were for.
- Job description for Uniform chairperson is being written by A/C Landry.

Old Business:

- ID System is up in the air at this point. The card's minimal information needs to be determined. Time/attendance is being requested by the Town Administration.
- FOB system for remaining stations will be implemented after July 1st.

New Business:

- New apparatus has some new expenses due to changes. Specs for Headsets will cost more if we go wireless. Generators are looking higher as well. Negotiation is still underway. Delivery is on schedule for July.
- A meeting will be held tomorrow night (4/3) in West Stafford with Firehouse Software Vendor. Several members are attending. The purpose is to discuss CAD tool interface.
- Wednesday (4/4) night Chief Call will attend Town Council Meeting @ 7:30 for budget presentation. Members are welcome. Reinstatement of member pay to get back to pre-tax amounts is being requested.
- Funding for Radio upgrade is being pursued/found by the Town Administration.
- Breathing Plan System Overview is supported by the Executive Board. Stations 2 & 5 will lose their cascade systems; however, the air truck will be at scenes. Review was given by Captain Sereby. Approximately 30 days from implementation. The plan is attached.
- Hose Testing in May will be scheduled.
- Tolland is converting to 5" hose. We'll take their 4" that is yellow with cuppling locks.
- ET-441 and T-141 have been requested to attend the Coventry Firehouse dedication in May. Date information will follow.
- Day Drill will be held April 9th @ 9:00 a.m. Email will follow.

Correspondence: None

Upcoming Events:

- There is still room for the Boston trip that is being sponsored by E-441.

Good & Well Being: None

Motion to adjourn was made/seconded (Mylek/Goric) @ 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane Carpenter, Secretary

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