

NVFD Monthly Business Meeting  
December 3, 2007  
Called to order @7:30

President Denny presiding.

**Secretary's Report:**

- November's Business Meeting minutes accepted as emailed.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Accepted as presented.

**LCD:**

- The LCD board of directors approved the communication-training program.
- Part time hires pending.

**Chief:**

- Effective January 1<sup>st</sup> we will change our radio communications to plain language.
- Job well done to all who assisted with Karaoke and Breakfast with Santa fundraisers especially Paul Padua and Todd Miller.
- The appeal letter was sent out on Friday 11/30/07 for the new truck fund.
- Engine 30 will be going to fleet masters for the drain valve replacement on Monday December 10th.
- The Litchfield county fire chiefs is hosting a legislative night to the Burrville fire school on 12/10/07 at 730pm
- The department has registered the department for a Fire Corps program a subsection of CERT teams through the Department of Homeland Security. This is an opportunity for us to be active and recognize our general members and explorer post. There is training and funding available directly to us through the Ct DEMHS.
- I have accepted the appointment as the ESF4 Chairman for our 20 town PSTF to help organize a regional response and needs assessment plan. I may request assistance from some of you for this project.
- The Line Officers met with the Ambulance officers and Cirma in regards to our accident policy. There are many areas that our members are not covered by this policy. We will be meeting again with VFIS in conjunction with the Ambulance to see what options are available for accident coverage.
- State of Connecticut regional assets list are available if any one would like one.
- Regional rope rescue team meets every 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month. Any member wishing to participate please see me. There are several tasks on the scene of a rescue you do not have to dangle from the end of a rope to assist. We will be hosting a rope course here in June please see me for the dates if interested.
- There is now a seat belt SOP posted please read.
- The New Stokes basket and wheel have arrived at Shipman's will be delivered this week. We received \$300.00 from the Norfolk ambulance toward the accessories and straps for the stretcher.
- We are hosting a traffic course on March 13<sup>th</sup> 2008. See Matt if you can attend.

- Any budget items anyone would like to see please let me know. We will begin to prepare the budget at January's officers meeting.
- The Infinity Hall theatre is under renovations please use caution if entering the building. The fire alarm and sprinklers are still functioning but may not respond normally to a fire situation.
- The stepladder for firehouse and propane tank for grill both are missing.
- Trustees and Mechanics to meet 12/5 to review tanker valve plan.
- NFPA membership has been renewed any one who would like materials let me know I'll give you the membership number.
- Need motion for the department of forestry excess property grant.
- Received thank you for 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary donation to the town.
- GIS survey for Homeland security is being completed.
- Please fill out VFIS benefit forms.
- Need \$50.00 for the North West training fund.

#### **Wardens:**

- The organization of Engine 30's equipment continues.
- Portable heaters are now in-service on Engines 30 & 60, and Utility 50.

#### **Training Officer:**

- 12/10 - Cold Water Rescue (Classroom) in Winsted Center Station 6:30PM
- 12/17 - Cold Water Rescue (Practical) In Winsted 6:30PM
- 12/30 - Driver Training/Review, Gear/Pager Check 9AM

#### **Mechanics:**

- Engine 60's rear end leak repaired.

#### **Fire Police:**

- No Report

#### **Explorers:**

- The Post 952 Charter has been renewed.

#### **Old Business:**

Building Committee: Ambulance building contracts are in progress.

Truck Committee: No Report.

Insurance Committee: See Chief's report above.

House Committee: No Report.

ATV Committee: No Report.

- Special thanks to The Speckled Hen Pub, Media Services, Norfolk Corner, Bob Pallone, & Norfolk Construction for co-sponsoring Karaoke.
- Membership committee: Pending membership application not recommended by committee. A paper ballot vote resulted in an 8-no, 5-yes, 1 abstention decision. Membership was denied.

#### **New Business:**

- A motion was moved & seconded to Authorize Daryl Byrne, Chief of the Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department to enter into an agreement with the State of Connecticut, Division of

Forestry, for the purpose of acquiring federal excess property under the FFP program and to provide such additional information needed to execute such an agreement. The motion was carried.

- 501c requires an annual audit to maintain status.
- A NVFD By-laws change proposal was submitted regarding the C Membership classification. The proposal will be posted.
- Conversation regarding dry hydrant placement north of town was entertained. See Ted H. with ideas or suggestions.

A motion to adjourn was approved at 8:32

The above is a true copy of the minutes of the Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department, as recorded on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of December 2007. A quorum was present and the motion passed.

Printed name: Paul C Padua Title: Secretary

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 12/3/2007

Minutes recorded and submitted by Paul Padua.

**Bylaw Change:** (Submission Date: Dec 3, 2007)

**Remove the 'C' membership (Article III) classification and all reference to same:**

Justification:

- Creates a dangerous statement of using untrained personnel.
- Newer equipment and technology requires continual training and upgrading skills.
- Courts have already found that lack of training is considered negligence.
- Currently allows for performing tasks that are not trained for (Freelancing).
- Currently creates a liability for the department and town.
- NFPA standards (Neil Rossman):
  1. Writer of the NFPA standards has stated "This policy is a lawsuit waiting to happen"
  2. Writer of the NFPA standards has stated "How can this be a policy in 2005"
  3. "Established industry standards are considered law by the courts (consensus)".
- We have used the same standards as the reasons to obtain the incentive, truck, building & budget increases and yet do not follow the same standards in our bylaws.
- International Association of Fire Chiefs & National Fire Protection Association (Firefighter I & II) state: 'Firefighters must continually seek out additional courses and work to keep their skills current to ensure personal and team safety'.
- Removal will still give the Officers the discretion to direct 'C' type members based on their training & abilities but removes the liability of a untrained member "freelancing" in an area that they are not knowledgeable.

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**Article XII Amendments:**

Any amendments to these by-laws shall be submitted in writing and shall lay over until the next regular meeting for consideration. No amendments to these by-laws shall be made unless two-thirds (2/3) of the members at a regular meeting concur therein.

**Article III Section 1.1.3 Active C Members:**

- Any person who has ten or more years of active A or B service with the NVFD, may request, in writing, to be placed on Active C membership status.
- Can respond to all emergency and non-emergency calls when available.
- Are exempt from Article VII, Section 6.
- Shall not serve as Line Officer or Staff Officer.
- May hold Executive Officer positions.
- May vote for Executive Officers, Line Officers and Staff Officers.
- Shall not be allowed in an involved structure.

**Article VII Section 6 Attendance at Practices and Meetings**

- All active members A, B, D and New Members shall make two (2) practices every quarter of the calendar year.
- All active A, B, D and New Members shall make six (6) monthly meetings per calendar year without missing three consecutive meetings.
- An Active A or B member not meeting these requirements shall be moved to Active D membership until requirements are met.
- An Active A or B member with ten (10) or more years of service can request to be moved to Active C membership.
- An Active D member not meeting these requirements shall be moved to General membership.
- The Training Officer, shall, at six (6) months of the calendar year, inform the membership of their standing for requirements.
- Valid excuses for not meeting the minimum Department requirements shall be:
  - Sickness or death in the member's family.
  - Personal sickness.
  - Performing the duties of their livelihood.
  - Attending school.
- The Chief shall be notified of your absence, and he shall make the final determination.