

## **NVFD Meeting**

May 5, 2008

Meeting called to order at 7:30PM by President Rowland Denny

**Secretary's Report:** Accepted as emailed.

**Treasurers Report:** Accepted as read.

### **LCD:**

- The membership meeting resulted with all officers remaining.
- Thursday night roll call will now include out of service apparatus confirmation.
- The plain language protocol committee work progresses.
- The daily fire danger warning no longer includes pager activation.
- Phase 2 of the CAD system is scheduled for implementation on 10/1/08.
- The tower sites have been maintained.
- The new LCD director takes command on 7/7/08.
- Funds are being sought for a Sherman tower.
- LCD will investigate the utilization of Troop L area 5.
- The LCD employee Contract was settled resulting in a 3 percent increase over the next two years.
- 4 dispatcher stations have been established.

### **Chief's Report:**

- This past month was very busy with mutual aid calls for service. From routine standby's, brush fires to structure fires those who responded to help our neighboring departments I thank you. I have spoken to each Chief of those towns we assisted and they were grateful for our quick response and eagerness to help.
- On 4/16/08 Tanker100 was inspected. It requires service and will be going to fleet masters on 5/14.
- Engine 90 is at fleet masters for problems with the front end and brakes.
- The front bumper and fender were repaired. The mechanics are finishing installing the winch kit. Thank you to those who helped with the repairs. It was most cost effective and will make the winch more versatile. The repairs were paid for by department funds.
- Jim H. and I met with the BOF to answer questions regarding this year's budget request although a 16% increase was requested the leg work and justification of needs paid off. As we were not by any means the largest increase requested by a town department. I also attend the Budget hearing on 4/28 not one question was asked about the department budget request. The town meeting is next week 5/12 7 pm Botelle school. If you can please attend.
- The ATV raffle was approved by the State. Tickets are in printing and should be out this week.
- The FCC license was completed for the fire ground frequency.

- The DEP Forestry Grant was denied to send one Explorer to the introduction to the fire service. However I have made application to the Norfolk Children's fund to help pay for one student to go. The road race agreed to pay for one as in the past.
- American LaFrance update. The Company is moving out of Chapter 11. The judge delayed the request for three more weeks to address his concerns that company moved out so quickly (less than 90 days) however, all creditors have agreed with the restructuring. So as it was a surprise to ALF of the decision to delay it looks as if by June ALF will be out of Chapter 11. As for Engine 40 it is scheduled to begin the building of the body in October all the materials have been secured for production.
- The Norfolk Lions Club Ambulance has sent a letter stating they would like to propose Jon B. to represent Norfolk on the LCD board of directors. This request was received four days prior to the annual elections of LCD which in turn the fire department was not able to respond to the request or act upon it. I have spoken with Jon and Mark T. and requested that Jeff T. remain as director until next April's LCD election until we are able to complete four on going projects with LCD. The projects include CAD, Preplans, STOC, and iamresponding.com which we will begin here at the firehouse and at LCD by June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Any member that is available to assist with Mock MVA for Regional 7 Monday May 19<sup>th</sup> 930 to 1130 am please let me know. Plan to take E30.
- Ron Z. has arranged for George Zavanggi to paint the floor in the meeting room. Bathrooms entry and office. Next week. He will also be staining the generator shed.
- The Burrville fire school is running a FFI summer course. June 3<sup>rd</sup> until mid August please see Matt or I if you plan to attend. Need to know by May 20<sup>th</sup> because funding is available to pay for the course.
- Two 4500 psi SCBA's Scott air-pak have been ordered. Should arrive this month. This is the beginning of the transition to 4.5's for interoperability with Colebrook, Falls Village and N. Canaan.
- ATT has reported the storage of Sulfuric Acid at the telephone facility #66 Greenwoods Rd. West. Use caution when entering under fire conditions.
- Need a motion of authorization to enter into agreement with Division of Forestry for the VFA 2008 grant. The exact wording as submitted. I plan to apply for one SCBA \$5,792.00. This grant is for \$2,500 matching funds due by May 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Please remember to utilize plain language during radio transmissions. I have posted the proper wording for the old signals.
- After letting them borrow department tables and chairs the TVK movie Production Company donated several items to the department. Including EZ up tents, cooler, tarps, fans, shovels, brooms and trash bins. I thank them for their generosity. Thanks to Matt Ludwig for picking up the donated items.

- The Studebaker went to D&R auto this afternoon. Rich will see if he can get it on the road for Memorial Day parade. The antique wheeled extinguisher wheels were sent for repair. The Loon Meadow Farm took them to a repair shop two weeks ago with some of theirs.
- We have had some delays on the use and productiveness of our website. The administrator is slow in posting and updating the site. Our site is free but I feel is not keeping up with the growth of our departments needs. I have a proposal from a web site company to maintain a site for us. I'm asking for a motion to have the trustees to approve the cost of \$750.00 to update our current site. The annual cost should decrease once it is up and running because we will be able to post on and control the site.

**Wardens:**

- Be sure to keep all apparatus cabinet doors closed.
- The air compressor has been found switched off.

**Training:** to be posted and emailed.

**Mechanics:**

- The new bumper installation on Utility 50 is completed.
- The current brake repair on Engine 90 was considered urgent.
- The winch on Utility 50 and the spotlight on the brush truck will be addressed this month.

**Fire Police:** No Report

**Explorers:**

- 2 Post members will participate in the academy's summer training.
- Post members are prepared to assist with the many department events scheduled for May.

**Correspondence:** None

**Old Business:**

- Road race t-shirt sample was displayed. All NVFD members are urged to assist with the road race activities.

Building Committee: The ambulance-building project is scheduled to break ground sometime in June.

Insurance: No Report.

House: No Report.

ATV Committee: No Report.

**New Business:**

- A proposal to amend the NVFD By-laws increasing the duties of the Board of Trustees was presented.

- A proposal to amend the NVFD By-laws changing the procedure to amend the NVFD By-laws was presented.
- A proposal to amend the NVFD By-laws regarding the elimination of the “C” member classification was presented.
- A proposal to amend the NVFD By-laws regarding membership termination was presented.
- A motion was moved and seconded to authorize Daryl Byrne, the Chief, to enter into an agreement with the State of Connecticut, Division of Forestry, for the purpose of executing the 2008 Volunteer Fire Assistance grant program and to provide such additional information needed to execute such an agreement. The motion was carried.
- A motion was accepted to request the Board of Trustees to approve \$750 for the creation and administration of a new NVFD web site.
- A motion approved \$250 for the purchase of refreshments & supplies for the Memorial Day open house and Road Race.
- Robert Chicoine membership application was submitted and will be addressed next month.

The meeting was adjourn @8:30PM.

Minutes recorded and submitted by:

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Paul Padua, NVFD Secretary.

**Bylaw Change:** (Submission Date: April 7, 2008)

**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 use 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 an untrained member “freelancing” in an area that they are not knowledgeable.

- VFIS: “The emergency service community must use training to enhance performance to provide a safer outcome, a more cost-effective outcome and improved customer satisfaction.” “If someone is badly hurt and it makes it to court, a key question is going to be, “Is training required and did the person attend.””
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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.

**Bylaw Change:** (Submission Date: April 7, 2008)

Article IX Section 1 P2  
**(Resignations, Terminations & Leave of Absence)**

### **Addendum**

Any member not meeting Department minimums as described in these bylaws and after a period of two (2) years shall be removed from the NVFD Roster.

### **Rationale:**

Clarification to maintain updated roster for insurance paid by town. (Cost Savings to taxpayers)