

Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department  
Annual Meeting Minutes  
August 29, 2022

President Paul Padua called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

The President asked for a moment of silence for our past, deceased members, John Allen and Ed Kelley.

There were 29 members present.

Chief Matt Ludwig presented his annual report to the department. (See attached)

Election of Officers for 2022-2023 took place.

Executive Officers

President – Paul Padua

Vice President – Ashley Allyn

Secretary – Judy Ludwig

Treasurer – Katie Hester

Board of Trustees – Daryl Byrne, Ted Hinman, Ron Zanobi

Line Officers

Chief – Matthew Ludwig

1<sup>st</sup> Asst. Chief – Brian Hutchins

2<sup>nd</sup> Asst. Chief – Steven Hutchins

Captain – Mike Fox

Lieutenants –

Car 5 – Thalyia Byrne

Car 6 – Justin Zarzycki

Car 7 – Mike Listorti

EMS Captain – Dan Wuori

Mechanics – John Hutchins, Ken Ludwig

Adjourned at 8:00 pm

Judy Ludwig

NVFD Secretary

**REMINDER – THE ANNUAL DINNER IS SATURDAY, SEPT. 10, 2022 STARTING AT 6:00 PM (DINNER AT 7:00) AT THE COON CLUB. SIGN UP SHEET IS AT THE FIREHOUSE. PLEASE SIGN-UP BEFORE FRIDAY, SEPT. 2, 2022 IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND.**

NVFD Annual Chiefs Report  
August 29, 2022

During the FY 2021-2022 the Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department responded to 184 calls for service.

40 - Automatic Alarms	5 - Lockouts
29 - Medical Assists	4 - Brush Fires
26 - Motor Vehicle Accidents	4 - Rescues
16 - Wires Down	3 - Gas Leaks/Oil Spill
12 - Burned Food	2 - Smoke investigations
10 - Canceled enroute	2 - Chimney Fires
9 - Building Fires	2 - Overheated motors
6 - Basement pump outs	1 - Good intent call
6 - Standby/Station Coverage	1 - Vehicle Fire
5 - Service Calls	1 - Carbon Monoxide incident

The 2021-2022 Departmental Statistics are:

1,352.44 - Staff hours from dispatch to Incident completion

1,264.78 - Staff hours of Non-Incident departmental activities

1,558.00 - Staff hours of Training

4,175.22- Total recorded staff hours logged by NVFD personnel in FY 2021-2022

The membership of the NVFD continues to log many hours of training to meet the annual State, Federal, and OSHA requirements. We respond to emergencies, ensure our equipment is in good working condition, and support the community as we manage the many facets of our town's volunteer fire department. As I've said in previous years and still to this day, there is always something happening down at the firehouse.

This year the NVFD membership was again busy responding to multiple incidents; Motor Vehicle Accidents, Fire Alarms, Assisting the Ambulance, Building Fires in and out of town, and many other calls for service. These emergencies come at all times of day and night. Without our members' continued dedication to training and quick responses, the outcomes of these incidents, and the lives affected, would be greatly impacted.

This year deserves special recognition for our membership for not only answering calls, but going above and beyond in this community. In May, a fast moving microburst thunderstorm quickly wreaked havoc in town causing trees and wires to block many streets, an electric motor at Botelle School to burn up filling the school with smoke, and power issues that affected the residents of Meadowbrook. Seeing firsthand this membership jump into action and tackle these emergencies without questioning who, how, or where on top of the compassion our responders had using your turnout coats to protect the elderly residents that were evacuating Meadowbrook from the wind driven rain. This is a level of selfless professionalism that can't be taught but is instilled in each of you and I've never been more proud to lead such a fantastic group.

The ISO rating of the department recently had its 10 year audit completed. Through the officers and memberships continued dedication to responses, commitment to training, and documentation we were able to lower our Insurance rating from a 5/5y to a 4/4y, and are only 2.92 points away from being a Class 3. For a volunteer department to accomplish this feat in 2022 is no easy task but it shows that our members are up to the challenge of being prepared to help the residents of Norfolk.

The long awaited AFG radio grant that was awarded to the department 2 years ago finally came to fruition despite the Chief telling everyone we would have our equipment by Christmas...which sadly came and went. Forced to patiently wait, we received our \$211k allotment of dual band radios consisting of 27 portables, 9 mobiles, and 1 base station. With some learning curves and messages to the state to boost coverage on the radio core we have/will ultimately enhance(d) our crosstown communication between Fire and EMS services during storms and area wide incidents.

In possession of a section of steel from the World Trade center obtained by Jon Barbagallo that remained behind closed doors at the firehouse, Paul Padua spearheaded a committee to ensure it would never be lost or forgotten and given the solemn respect it deserved. The committee's vision of remembrance for everyone that walks or drives past the firehouse would fall on the 20 year anniversary of the terrorist attacks on our Nation. Combined with granite found at the station, a tribute to all lives taken since September 11th was designed and appropriately constructed at the NVFD as a reminder to everyone to never forget September 11th.

The firehouse committee has been busy meeting and discussing station designs and has a concept floor plan that is moving its way through P&Z and Wetlands for approval. This is a long time coming for many of our members who have been advocating for a station that meets State and Federal standards to properly house the lifesaving tools and apparatus that the community of Norfolk so heavily relies on.

The membership of the NVFD works tirelessly throughout the year staffing and managing the many fundraisers and town gatherings sponsored by the department. Continuing our commitment to the community, our members assist with Halloween providing a safe and fun environment for everyone, Breakfast with Santa, The Annual Tree Lighting on the Town Green, Santa's special Christmas Eve delivery, flooding and maintaining the skating rink on Mountain road, the open house, and running of the 43rd annual road race this year.

The NVFD is not all about firefighting, our members come together several times a year continuing the department's public relations with many of the Town events and outreach programs to bring the citizens together which further supports the mission of the Fire Department and the Town of Norfolk.

I would also like to acknowledge the support that the Fire Cadets provide to the membership of the department. Going into their 38th year of service, this program is vital in sparking the interest in young adults and filling the roles and ranks of the department later in their firefighting and volunteering careers.

The commitment of our membership never goes unnoticed; our efforts are continuously appreciated and even applauded by both our residents and those in neighboring towns.

We continue to look for new members that can offer assistance in any capacity. Help is always needed, from firefighting to administrative functions; we encourage anyone with a desire to help our community's emergency services to apply.

In closing I would like to thank the Town of Norfolk and the citizens we serve, for without their generosity and continued support, we would not be the department we are today.

In Service,

Matthew J. Ludwig  
Fire Chief  
Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department