

West Dover Fire Department  
Officer's Meeting  
March 11, 2013

Officers Present: Rich Werner, Gary Carruthers, Mickey Kersten, John Snow, Mike Hescok  
Also Present: Jeannette Eckert, recording secretary  
Peter Lynch, Asst. Chief Brattleboro Fire Dept., and Linda Anelli

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 pm

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:**

Tentative Weekend Schedule:

Friday, July 26

- 6pm—Open house at Fire House—snack food, people can look around
- 7pm—Dedicate fire truck to the Sweeney family and other awards
- 9pm—11pm--Chiefs cocktail party

Saturday, July 27

- 10am (11am) need to confirm time—Parade (done at 1pm?)
- 1pm to 3:30pm—kids' stuff : hot dogs & hamburgers
  - Jumpy house-(check with Mount Snow)
  - Touch a truck—fire trucks, construction trucks—touch base with Mark Wallace on this
  - Knock balls off cone with fire hose
  - Have picture taken in turn out gear and truck—Mark Linton, photographer
  - Rides around parking lots
- 6pm—Dinner & DJ
  - Invited guests and Association members
  - Sell tickets
  - Venue in Dover—need to confirm a place
- 9pm—Possible fireworks?

Sunday, July 28

- 9am (need to coordinate time with Emily)—blessing of the trucks—Rev.Emily Heath
- Linda Anelli is working with the Chamber on Lodging packages—make a weekend of it
- \$2,000 approved by the Select Board—how to use it?
  - Allot \$1,000 (not to exceed) to Jim Dassatti for parade
  - Remaining \$1,000 will go towards awards, trophies for Fire Depts.
    - Trucks that have come the farthest
    - Oldest truck etc.
  - Perhaps engage vendors to cover something to go with prizes
- Banners:
  - As proposed, the cost is \$256.00 each due to the many colors used to create it
  - Possibility of vinyl ones at a cost of \$155.00 each

- John suggested purchasing 2 of the higher priced ones; keep one for Firehouse and auction the other one off
- There is now a link on the Town website for WDFD

### **Training:**

Windham County Fire Association meeting at East Dover Fire House—March 14 at 7pm

### **Hose Pressure Discussions between Peter Lynch & Officers:**

- Rich:
  - Reviewed Mid-Matic Flow & Nozzle Reaction Chart
  - Pressure at pre connect—always have the max amount of water that is needed
  - Nozzles are designed to handle the back flow
  - Concerns with proximity of buildings when there is a fire
  - Object is to get the fire out—using a larger hose for a shorter amount of time is better than a smaller hose for a longer period. Big buildings really need the volume
  - It's important to know when to get out never mind putting the fire out
  - Advocate our policy to wait for third guy to show up and take in a 2.5" hose
  - Guy on the nozzle can control it
- Mickey: I don't think many of our guys have seen a really bad fire
- Rich: That's why I like these live burns so we can show them how important it is
- Gary: I was told you have to have the nozzle all the way open to get the right pattern of water molecules?
- Peter: What it comes down to, is my objective to create steam or penetrate the heat layers to put out the fire; down enough to stop the fire
  - If you can go in a room and stand up in it, then you can probably get close enough to crack your nozzle and effectively put out a fire
  - If I open a door and its hot enough, then I would be opening all the way
  - There are a whole bunch of scenarios
  - A lot of very good fire depts. are going to solid bore nozzles –Brattleboro is using combination nozzles, steady stream but not a solid stream
  - We don't go to a lot of fires- I want to be sure to create a protection blanket for myself and my guys
  - We wear such protective layers now
  - Advocate of solid bore nozzles
- Mickey: Heard people use them so they don't have to get so close to the fire; better range with it
- Rich: Takes more training to work with the solid bore nozzles than the combination, work really well if you have a lot of big buildings & a lot trained to use them—would cause more confusion in our case
- Peter: My biggest challenge is knowing when to pull a 2.5" versus 1.75" hose
  - Takes a lot of discipline and training
- Gary: Pump pressures versus gallons per minute

- Do your guys get beaten up inside if you want 200 gallons per minute out of one 1.75" hose so they are not as effective as they would be if they had two lines running 100 gallons per minute?
- Peter: Good question, initially we don't have the man power to pull two lines
  - Did the calculations; Would like to be able to flow 200 gallons per minute; run at a lower pressure
  - Everyone agreed that more pressure, more volume of water equals the fire goes out quicker and we expend less energy
  - Run pump pressures between 140 and 150 pounds at the pump; creating a nozzle pressure at about 100 pounds
  - Running your nozzle at a 45 degree angle, running your pump pressure at 80-100 lbs. and looking at the water pattern being put out; shining a flashlight on it, you can see right thru the stream
  - Cranking it up to 140 lbs. at the pump and looking at the difference in the water pattern, dramatically different
  - Cranking back to a straight stream, what distance are you getting with 80-100 lbs. versus distance with 140 lbs.
  - Compromise between what the books tell you and what is realistic
  - If you have a 30x30 single story building, you are going to have to flow 300 gallons per minute to control the fire
- Gary: That is if it is fully involved
- Peter: That's true
- Mickey: Even if it is fully involved, multiple rooms on fire, you are basically attacking one room at a time, working your way through. When you have three rooms that are involved, you go from one room to another; do you measure the total square footage or measure each room individually
- Peter: Quick count of the square footage of the whole area; company officer should be making the call
  - Stay with standard pump pressure depending on the size of the line
  - Halifax house fire example—crew ran out of water with 1 ¾ hose and came back in with 2 ½ hose and was able to knock the fire down.
  - Effects of smoke in your system over an extensive period of time
  - If you can't advance in a minute and half, then you need to get out of there
  - It all comes down to what is most effective in your dept.--nothing is right or wrong
- Rich: Our situation is different, more time is spent getting to the fire house, rather than to the fire
- Peter: Advocate not beating yourself up—don't take a line that is too small for the job
  - When a house is burning, it's not about what is comfortable for the firefighter, it's about putting out the fire
  - A good pump operator will look at the elevation
- Rich: Class A Foam—have used it at the end of a fire; on dumpsters, brush fires; haven't gotten so good with it to use on buildings

Cold Fire: considered that as well

- Peter: Wrap up, important points to remember from my experiences
  - If you are thinking it, you should be doing it
  - Accountability—when a group goes in, they go in together, I know who is in charge of that group and they have already tagged out on the board
  - 360 of the building
  - Truss construction
  - Learn from your mistakes
- Rich: 20 years ago, speed limits in our pursuit policy—VLCT sent a memo around: don't do a max or min speed limit in your policy, due to a huge liability issue. Has that changed?
- According to Title 23: Don't have to follow rules of the road, but bound to drive in a safe and prudent manner

#### **Other Business:**

- Tier 2 reports passed around for review
- Mickey: ICS command sheets—searched the internet; can custom design; will do a mock up design for the next meeting

#### **February Fire Calls:**

- February 2- Mutual Aid to Wilmington on a structure fire; Mutual Aid to Wardsboro for a structure fire
- February 6- False fire alarm- Joans Ridge Road
- February 7- False fire alarm- Stugger Road
- February 8- False CO alarm at Tenon Lane
- February 9—False fire alarm at Glenn Run
- February 15—Mutual Aid to Williamsville for a structure fire
- February 24—False fire alarm—Joan's Ridge
- February 26—False fire alarm—Valley View Rd
- February 28—False fire alarm—Villager Loop

#### **Re-certified Firefighter One:**

- Got a letter from the Fire Academy: Rick Fletcher, Leland Pike, The Tanguays, & Chris Weinberg were recertified

#### **Officers reviewed SOG's**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm

**Next meeting March 25 at 5pm**

Respectfully submitted by Jeannette Eckert