Town of Seymour

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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

BOARD OF FIRE CHIEFS

1 FIRST STREET, SEYMOUR, CONNECTICUT 06483

Meeting Minutes
November 2, 2026
Citizens Engine

Attendees: Chris Edwards, Dave Van Wart, Andrew Satkowski, John Oczkowski

1) The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2) All were led in the pledge to the flag.

3) Public Comment- no public comment

4) Approval of Chief's meeting minutes

Andrew Satkowski/ Dave VanWart made a motion to approve the Chief Meeting Minutes dated October 2026. Vote: 4/0

Fit testing is done. Two people left to go. Still waiting on final paperwork.

5) Correspondence: Letter submitted by Scott Martin requesting to be added to the 65/25 list. Letter of resignation submitted by Noah Zupan.

6) Unfinished Business:

7) New Business:

Chief Edwards announced that the three chiefs will be running the department going forward. Chief Oczkowski will be in charge of Maintenance, Chief VanWart will be in charge of Training, Chief Satkowski will be in charge of Health and Safety. Chief Edwards will start the budget and the three chiefs will present the budget. He will help when there is something they cannot do. It has been a pleasure to serve as chief but now feels his time has come. It is not fun anymore and he is stepping back for his welfare. Come July the three chiefs will be ready to take over. He will make sure they have all the tools they need between now and July first.

John Oczkowski/Dave VanWart made a motion to add clean up ordinance to the agenda Vote: 4/0

a) Discussion was had regarding the clean up ordinance for non-residents. There will be a lot of paperwork for whoever is the IC. Ordinance is not ready yet because the billing process needs to be figured out and the town needs to figure out how to get the money back into the Seymour Fire Department account. Town hall and town attorneys gave the okay to move forward with creating the ordinance. If anyone has any ideas please throw them out.

Dave VanWart/Andrew Satkowski made a motion to add 2027/2028 budget to the agenda. Vote: 4/0

b) Chief Edwards stated that there is a new computer based budget system. The budget isn't due until January. Budget workshop was scheduled for 11/23/26 at 7pm at C2.

8) Training: Chief VanWart was put on the Board of Directors for the Valley Fire School. He is the main person and there is one alternate.

- 11/11/26 Art of Reading Smoke class at Hilltop Hose and it is open to all members

January 2 and January 9 Building Construction class, state class held at Great Hill Hose.

- 2/6/27 Intro to Elevator Rescue class location tbd
- 1/27/27 Firefighter I class at Hilltop Hose
- March 2027 Instruction class in Orange upcoming. Potential exterior fire fighter class in Orange as well.

CFA burn building finally getting worked on.

Region 2 Radio Program for Orange.

Discussion was had regarding a deposit for contract classes so that the fire school can recoup money if people cancel.

Next meeting will be 1/18/27 at Pine Rock Park.

In December an incident safety officer class to be held on the 8th at the Ambulance Corps, 9th, 12th, and 13th at Great Hill. Chief Van Wart will be attending.

Discussion was had regarding the need to get guys to show up and show interest in the classes. They try to do a variety of classes and pay good money for them.

Chief Edwards stated that he received good feedback from swift water class. The next session will be held in the spring and it will be more operations based. It will be with the same 8 people that just took the swift water class. More info to follow.

Chief Oczkowski stated the instructor requested any feedback on the class, if there was anything he needed to change, etc. Chief VanWart will follow up with those who took the class for their individual feedback.

Make sure the companies let Chief VanWart know what is going on with training so that there are no issues and everyone is on the same page. Use the firetech calendar. Good job the other night with the tree.

9)Repairs and Maintenance – Great Hill: 16 worked on the latch as much as they could. If it is still a problem they will have to order a new one.

MES has not been down for service but when they to they will take a look at the booster pump. Back up camera has been ordered and just waiting on that to come in. Door openers need to be replaced. Mike Blood is getting a quote for 15 of them. They are all starting to die so they need to be replaced across the board. Will order an extra one for each house captain.

AED pads will be added to the new system.

Looked at the headlights on 15 and 16. Cannot file a replacement LED. Would have to be done like the tanker.

Citizens: Aware of the antifreeze leak on 11 but just waiting on 13 to come back to send that one down. Same regen problem on 12 has been going on for months and will have them look into it again. Will get a quote for a hose cover for 14 to see what it costs. Discussion was had about having it steam cleaned.

Update requested on RIT packs.

Update on if UTV will be going out for service.

Officers please be careful with the saws – spent $1,200 in the last week on chainsaw blades.

10) Committees – none right now

11) Fire Police Commander Report – none

12) Junior's Report- See attached

13) Quartermaster Report – New gear has been handed out, waiting on exterior gear. If anyone needs anything let quartermasters know. Masks will be fixed. Need to run through the gear for the guys in January. New system is working out, working on the excel sheet.

14) Company Events for November

Muster truck event

Blood drive 11/14

Great Hill tree lighting 12/4 at 7 pm.

Santa Toy delivery 12/13 – Discussion was had regarding either both houses do it or neither houses do it. Houses will work together on a plan.

Christmas party 12/15

Kids party 12/6

Muster truck: Beacon Falls, Prospect and New Milford

Discussion was had regarding a light up truck parade.

Dave VanWart/John Oczkowski made a motion to go back to correspondence line item Vote: 4/0

15) Captain's Comments –

16) Chief's Comments-

Chris Edwards- Good job to all the RIT guys at the Derby fire. It reinforced his decision to go back to a black helmet. It has been a trying year with 650 calls so far this year, 76 calls last month and its not getting any slower. Regarding training in the department and commitments: Families come first, jobs come first, but at some point training needs to happen. Some training dates are assigned and they don't get to pick. Tried to get a date changed from January 2 with the state but was unsuccessful. Training still needs to happen. The drill the other night should show that training is needed. Talk to the members and make an effort to get there. The training the other night with Ethan, Mike and others involved a lot of thought and work and to have the showing that they had was pathetic. Speaking to the older members, you should have been there because all the older members had that call here in town on 67. It was right before he joined and it was that exact scenario. They could have helped the young kids that were there that hadn't seen anything like this before. Just because they are older and don't want to do anything, they have the knowledge and should still come out and train.

We are bringing a lot of outside speakers. The solar class was an invaluable class and wished more people went because that it the way the service is going. Recently on the news a Porche dealer had a battery blow up inside the bay. He wasn't even in the car. This is where it is headed. They pick out these trainings to bring in and they're building on it. There has been poor attendance and he is not sure how to fix it. Bottom line, members need to train. The young guys are showing up, but anyone who has been there for more than five years seems to have ghosted. They show up for calls, they do the job but they don't want to train. If anyone has any suggestions on how to pick up the morale in training let the board know. And it isn't just

Seymour Fire, he has talked to other departments and it is an issue across the board. The next thing that is going to have to happen is mandatory training. If something happens on a call and the department can't back it up, the department – specifically Chief Edwards – is in deep water. Talk to the guys and see what the issue is and bring it back to him.

Dave VanWart- Great job at the Derby fire. It was an interesting building with the only access in and out was the main level on the street side. Please let him know if there were any issues on how he did things, and tell him how you would have done it differently.

Andrew Satkowski- No comment

John Oczkowski There is a budget workshop coming up, officers can bring ideas on classes that people will want to get into. Hosting classes are great. If you're signing up for a class you need to be there. Get the info out there ahead of time to get the class filled.

17) Executive Session - None

18) Chief's Requisitions – None

19) Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Chernesky

SEYMOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT

JUNIORS REPORT



November 2026

- 11 Juniors
- 2 Riders
- Will be looking for 2 new Lt's in the next month.
- Helped with C2's breakfast.