

Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department
Monthly Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2026

President Paul Padua called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

The President asked for a moment of silence for our past deceased members, most notably John DeBerry a former member.

There were 27 members present.

Secretary's Report

M/S/P Richard, Todd to accept the Minutes of January 5, 2026.

Treasurer's Report

We are at 43% of the Town Budget

M/S/P Richard, Todd to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Officers' Reports:

Richard Byrne has requested to be moved to Veteran Member as of Feb. 5, 2026. Thanks to Richard for all his years of service.

Chief's Report:

Wonderful job as of late. Especially the 2+ feet of snow and the busy time in the days following.

The Council met this past month. First was the bylaw prescribed half year membership review. It was determined that every member is going to get a letter reinforcing the number of requirements that everyone needs to try to work towards. I would like a motion for postage to make this happen. Not to exceed \$50 (Department funds)

The second part of the Council meeting was the budget prep. After the extremely hard work of everyone in the room we have prepared a proposed budget of \$137,825, an increase of \$5,425. This represents a 4.1% increase. Also, we are going to ask the town to establish a fire apparatus replacement fund and contribute \$130,000 annually. I am asking for a motion to approve both fiscal plans for the upcoming year.

Tomorrow at 1800 there will be a work detail at Station 1 to put the trucks back in service as they should be after the snowstorm. E90 is going to stay in the "front row" for the time being.

On Sunday February 8 at 0900 I would like to do a hydrant digging detail. Please bring any tractors or snowblowers available to make work go faster. I would like to make a motion not to exceed \$50 (Department funds) to feed and keep the workers happy. This is weather dependent.

A reminder to drivers. It is winter and the trucks need to be hosed off once back in quarters. Please take the time to complete driver obligations prior to leaving the station to go home.

Car 1 has the training this month. The first drill will be a special event. I need a motion not to exceed \$100 (Department funds) to accomplish this.

Tomorrow (Feb 3) at 1900 is the after-action review for last November's barn fire in North Canaan. Squad leaves at 1830.

A bunch of new equipment has been ordered from budget funds. Please keep an eye out for packages. Some may be sizable.

New Eversource protocol flyers are out and will be in the apparatus. Also, the user manual for the new state foam trailers will be on E40 after a review period.

M/S/P Karl, Steven to spend up to \$50.00 to purchase postage to send mailing to entire membership, to come from department funds.

M/S/P Judy, Justin to spend up to \$50.00 for food for hydrant cleaning crew, to come from department funds.

M/S/P Karl, Justin to spend up to \$100.00 for special training meeting on Feb. 9, to come from department funds.

M/S/P Richard, Todd to approve the 2026-27 budget and send it to the town.

Car 2:

AFG for turnout gear not possible at this time, looking at extractor and drier for department

Incentive committee meeting this month to compile the numbers. Get your extra credit forms in that are applicable to NVFD operations.

Medic 3 now carries blood for prehospital transfusions
Incentive form deadline has been extended to March 1, 2026.

Richard informed the department that since we are a non-profit, we will not be seeing tax forms from the town.

Car 3:

All trucks are done. E40, all the body work has been repaired, and the doors are working well.

Try to keep trucks clean during this winter weather. Money for truck repair is short, be careful, and if there is any damage, let Steven know ASAP.

Car 4:

No Report

Car 5:

No Report

Car 6:

No Report

Car 7:

No Report

EMS Captain:

Sat. March 7, 8-5 at the Hotchkiss School there is a conference for MCI.

Monday, Feb. 8, someone is coming in to go over critical stress training.

Cardiac training on Thursday at 7:00.

AED's purchased through grant are in-route.

Public Relations:

Over the last 4-6 weeks we have had a lot of positive press, TV, News, and Social Media.

Fire Marshall:

He got everything back from architect and has signed off on the building permit and is in the hands of the building committee.

Mechanics:

No Report

Cadets:

No Report

LCD:

Had a budget meeting.

Committee Reports:

- **House Committee:**

No Report

- **Fund Raising:**

Todd would like to do a fried dough dinner on March 21, 2026, cost of \$8.00, with drink \$10.00. Would only take a minimum of 7 people to hold. Would need permission from ambulance to use their facility. Cost of \$300.00 to purchase 108 fried dough. Proceeds to go to kitchen of the new fire house. Time to be determined. Todd will approach the ambulance for permission and set up announcements.

M/S/P Todd, Matthew to spend up to \$300.00 to purchase fried dough, sauce, powdered sugar, soda, to come from department funds.

Breast Cancer shirts – the bank continues to sell the shirts, hard to come up with a firm number, Treasurer suggested we wait until following October to write check to Norfolk Children’s Foundation, when new shirts are out, for previous year’s sales. We did not make a donation last year.

M/S/P Steven, Amanda, to donate \$500.00 to the Norfolk Children’s Foundation for the sale of the t-shirts from last year, to come from department funds, pending Trustee approval.

So far we have made over \$400.00 this year from the online store. It offers more variety and reaches more people.

Paul is looking for ideas for additional fund raisers for the new fire house. Would like to have a committee formed to come up with ideas. He has ideas of mugs with our logo, shopping bags with our logo, etc. Amanda volunteered to be chairperson.

- **Insurance Committee**

No Report

- **Building Committee**

Not much has happened due to weather. On pause for 4-6 weeks because of snow and cold weather. Schedule will be adjusted.

Paul reached out to Falls Village FD, to ask if we could tour their kitchen and facilities. Thursday nights would be the best for them. Email will be sent out to House Committee giving a choice of dates to go.

- **Anniversary Committee**

No Report

- **Truck Committee**

No Report

- **By-Law Committee**

No Report

Correspondence:

Thank you note from Torrington VA service office for the money we raised from the Veterans tree.

Check from the 'bottle ladies' at the dump with a check.

Thank you note from Linda Garrison.

Thanks from the DOT for the help at the recent accident.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Keith reported that the two ropes team, Riverton and Northwest, and now officially one. Under the name Northwest Regional Ropes Team. Equipment has remained in the original locations. There are 3 team leaders, 4 Technical Rescue officers, one Administrator. Over 30 active members.

Adjourn at 7:45 pm

Judy Ludwig
NVFD Secretary