

Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department
Monthly Meeting Minutes
July 6, 2026

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

Thanks to Todd and Roberta Miller for the hot dog dinner.

There were 29 members present.

Secretary's Report

M/S/P Jeff Rydel, John DeShazo to accept the Minutes of June 1, 2026.

Treasurer's Report

We finished the year at 101.6% of the 2025-26 Town Budget

M/S/P Matt Ludwig, John DeShazo to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Officers' Reports:

Chief's Report:

Driver training at every meeting to review safety. All drivers MUST have a backer-upper, no exceptions.

Wonderful job with the 250th celebration on the Green. The Badger was a huge hit. Lots of donations! Great T-shirt sales. And of course, the dunk tank.

As many are aware there was an incident with Engine 90 at the scene of a motor vehicle accident. The truck is still in service. We are awaiting the estimate from our insurance company to facilitate repairs. I have written a new directive, and copies are available as well as being attached to the minutes.

Drills this month: July 13 Critical Incident Stress Debriefing talk at 1830 @ Station 1, July 20 Mutual Aid Extrication with Cornwall Fire trucks leaving at 1800 sharp, July 27 Equipment Inspection.

July 10 & 11 is the Nascar weekend at Limerock. Salisbury EMS has requested to use U70 for outfield response. They have asked for an EMR crew on Friday the 10th. They have a crew for it on Saturday. I told them that I would need to get it approved at our meeting. We will have an agreement for them to sign stating that certified operators will use the machine when not crewed by NVFD members and that they will be responsible for any damage beyond normal wear and tear.

July 18th is the Canaan parade & fireworks. Manpower will be needed for the parade, station coverage, and fireworks stand by. Chef Ludwig will bring up the food situation. We will be leaving the station at 1700 (5pm). Look for a work detail earlier that day.

July 16th is hose testing day. Trucks will be in and out during the day.

Physicals, physicals, physicals. The texting will start on July 26th. Please have yours by election night.

We are starting to plan the NVFD banquet. Anyone who would like to help please see C1. We are shooting for September 12th.

We have a Lieutenant who is out on medical leave for up to 6 months. Brad needed multiple neck surgeries. They have established a Go Fund Me donation for him. I think that we should contribute.

M/S/P Steven Hutchins, Mike Listorti to use E70 at Lime Rock on July 10-11. They will sign a release to cover damage.

M/S/P Brian Hutchins, Todd Miller to donate \$500.00 to Brad Funk Go Fund Me.

Car 2:

Would like to have a Steak, Chicken, and ribs dinner for the standby crew at the North Canaan parade on July 18th. Motion for up to \$200 dept funds. Sign up on FireTek for headcount for food or text Car 2.

Submitted a Request to the Fire Academy to host a pump operator certification class here in the fall of 2027. We would get 2 free seats if chosen

There is Critical Thinking for Fire Officer Development scheduled for October 10th at the LCRFS in Classroom 1. RSVP to C2. Great intro class for officers and anyone looking to be an officer.

UTV Ops Train-The-Trainer VFIS class at Torrington fire school Aug 12 9a-5p. 3 free seats.

Trailer Towing Ops & Safety Train-The-Trainer VFIS class at Torrington Fire School Aug 13 9a-5p. 3 free seats

Please RSVP on FireTek for events and trainings for a head count. Everything is posted there for the year and updated as things come up.

E90 has new tires. Old ones were original and 9 years old.

Dewalt Angle grinders, socket sets and nut drivers on S20 & E40. Added to inspection sheets. The Diablo blades are for rescue only. Train with the cheap blades in the tool bags.

Haystack woods road has been added to the LCD CAD for any FD/EMS responses. Same alarm assignment as Old Colony rd.

Applied for a grant for hydration packets “DripDrop” and 5 sets of Ricochet PFAS free Turnout gear.

2026 VFC DEEP matching funds Grant is back. Maximum Grant Award is now \$4,000. Motion to pursue fronting with dept funds pending trustee approval. DEMHS valve for E30, (3) 4to5 adapters, (2) 6” 90° drafting elbows,(2) 6” portable pond drafting flange mounts,(2) tank flange fittings,(2) 3” 50’ hoses, (2) hard suction hose stands.

Congratulations to Wilson and Samantha. Both turned 18 and are now exterior yellow helmet firefighters.

M/S/P Matt Ludwig, Mike Listorti to spend \$200.00 for steak/chicken dinner at Canaan Fire Works to come from department funds.

M/S/P Matthew Ludwig, Ted Hinman to apply for the DEEP, spending a bit over \$8000.00 up front, with DEEP paying back \$4000.00. We would have to purchase, pay for it, and submit cancelled checks to get the reimbursement from DEEP. To come from department funds, pending trustee approval. We could then reimburse ourselves from Town Funds.

Car 3:

Reinforced need to have a back-up spotter at all times.

Still waiting on repair kit for E-90.

New mirrors for front of the tanker in the works.

Regular repairs are very expensive.

Brush truck project still ongoing, new tool kit, etc.

Car 4:

No Report

Car 5:

Make sure you have a spotter when backing up.

Please come around, even in the middle of the night. Help is always needed.

Car 6:

Brad Funk is out on medical leave for the next 6 months. He will be around when he can.

Car 7:

No Report

EMS Captain:

Met with EMS services for automatic dispatch of Life Star on certain types of call. Still working on what calls would qualify. Training will be happening in the future.

Public Relations:

Norfolk not hit during last rainstorm.

Fire Marshall:

No Report

Mechanics:

No Report

Cadets:

No Report

LCD:

No Report

Committee Reports:

- **House Committee:**

No Report

- **Fund Raising:**

Thanks for the help on Friday night, took in \$200+ in donations.

Working on a Trivia Night.

- **Insurance Committee**

No Report

- **Building Committee**

Still ongoing. Had to replace insulation under the slap, has been done and now moving forward. Slab concrete should be poured this week.

Beam signing event for department members, date to be announced when determined. Members will be notified as to specific date.

- **Anniversary Committee**

Packets for the Silent Auction. Nov. 21, Silent Auction 6-9, Karaoke 7-10 at Infinity Hall.

- **Truck Committee**

All but one manufacturer is 100% with their proposal. Last company should have proposal soon, before it goes to the town. We are locked in with pricing, and needs to go to the Town before end of July to prevent price increase.

- **By-Law Committee**

Will have a meeting this month, email will be sent out.

Correspondence:

East Hartland FD parade, Aug. 15, 2026.

Old Business:

Application for membership, Chris Curtis as Active Interior.

Emergency Management trailer is going to Lime Rock for this weekend.

New Business:

Nomination forms.

Dry Hydrant on Winchester Road, Kelly Swamp is broken, was pulled out. Do not use it.

Weekend in Norfolk, in August, do a future fire fighter challenge, small hose, knock down simulated flames, rescue a stuffed animal, and a bounce house for the whole weekend. Amanda will give each child some swag. No charge to department. On Sunday is Sidewalk Sunday, we need to put road close signs up. We can have an informational booth.

Dale Savage, member of Grantville Dogs band, approached Paul Infinity, and Dale and his band will put on a concert, all ticket sales will go the NVFD. Infinity will make money off food sales. Specific date will be announced.

Adjourn at 7:51 pm.

Judy Ludwig
NVFD Secretary



NORFOLK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.

Serving Norfolk and surrounding communities since 1902



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CHIEF'S DIRECTIVE

Safe Apparatus Operations Program

The safety of our members and the public remains the highest priority of the Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department. As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, the department is implementing a **Safe Apparatus Operations Program** to strengthen our driver training, qualification, and operating practices.

Operating a fire apparatus is one of the greatest responsibilities entrusted to our members. The safety of our firefighters, the public, and our equipment depends on sound judgment, professionalism, and consistent operating practices every time we get behind the wheel.

This program reflects our commitment to learning from every incident, regardless of the outcome. Our goal is to evaluate our practices, reinforce safe operating procedures, and provide our members with the training and resources necessary to safely operate department apparatus.

Over the coming weeks, the department will implement the following components of the Safe Apparatus Operations Program:

- Review and revision of apparatus operating and backing procedures.
- Mandatory driver refresher training for all approved apparatus operators.
- Driver acknowledgment of department operating policies and expectations.
- Increased emphasis on backing procedures, spotter utilization, and defensive driving.

These enhancements are intended to strengthen our department, improve consistency among our drivers, and reduce the likelihood of future incidents. Safe apparatus operations are a shared responsibility, and every member plays a role in protecting our personnel, our equipment, and the community we serve.

Our expectation is simple: every firefighter returns home safely, every apparatus returns to the station safely, and every call is completed with the professionalism our community has come to expect from the Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department.

Thank you for your continued commitment to serving our community safely and professionally.

Brian Hutchins

Fire Chief

Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department, Inc