

Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department
Monthly Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2026

Prior to the meeting the EDC prepared hamburgers and cookies for the members for dinner.

President Paul Padua called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He asked for a moment of silence for past and deceased members.

There were 30 members present.

Secretary's Report

M/S/P Todd and Justin to accept the Minutes of May 4, 2026.

Treasurer's Report

We are at 80% of the Town Budget

M/S/P Karl and Justin to accept the Treasurers report. 1 Nay

Officers' Reports:

Chief's Report:

-Thank you everyone who helped on Memorial Day. The parade, open house, and road race went off without a hitch. Job very, very well done.

- Effective immediately, whenever there is a call for service, all members are expected to respond to the station and assist in getting apparatus on the road. We are all part of the same team, and staffing our equipment must be a priority for everyone. If the chiefs are responding to the station to help get trucks staffed and out the door, then every member should be willing to do the same. The success of our response depends on all of us working together and doing our part. I will be requesting a meeting with the Bylaw committee to discuss viable solutions and determine what changes may be necessary to address the issue.

-When turning your gear in to be washed please take the large metal ladder belt hook off your bunker pants.

-I have a communications SOG. The highlights are: Respond on Response 800, Immediately switch to 098 Norfolk Fire, all communications in or out of a building must be conducted on VHF Fireground, Command transmissions to be conducted on Command 800

-Car 1 has the drills this month. June 8th CISD talk, June 15th & 22nd Apparatus Orientation

-Please police any apparatus you are operating. Let's try to minimize equipment left unsecured on the outside of a truck.

-REMINDER: No matter what we are doing, we are always representing the Norfolk Vol Fire Dept. It is our job to honor the past by acting with professionalism, compassion, and dedication in the present.

Car 2:

-Awesome job at the live burn. Everyone should be super proud of how things went. Everyone learned something to hone in on.

-Thank you for all the assistance on Memorial Day that actually started at 2:30am for many of us working a house fire in New Marlboro.

-Newfield Construction donated \$300 toward this year's open house refreshments

-New iPads are in service on the engines.

T-Mobile crediting our account the trade in values of the old units.

-New LED Stop/Slow signs in service on S20, E30, E40.

-Department Events & Trainings with dates and times are posted on FireTek. RSVP for head counts

-Department Physical time at AFC. Due before August 31st. Forms have been emailed and are at HQ. Only get the DOT medical if you need one.

-Hose/Suction/Ladder testing with TopRung

Thursday, July 16th 8a-5p at Botelle School. Need drivers.

-CT House Bill 5460 / Public Act 26-144 — “An Act Concerning Statewide Fire Protection” has now passed the Senate and is awaiting the Governor's signature. If signed, most provisions take effect July 2027.

A few key takeaways from the bill:

- Establishes Regional Fire Coordinators to act as liaisons between DESPP and local fire departments.
- Requires municipalities to provide and maintain necessary fire protection services and facilities.
- Creates a Deputy State Fire Administrator position and outlines requirements for local fire protection plans.
- Establishes a First Responder Health and Benefit Unit focused on firefighter health, wellness, and benefits.

Overall, Connecticut is moving toward a more modernized and standardized fire service system, with greater emphasis on coordination, planning, reporting, and long-term sustainability.

One of the biggest impacts for municipalities is the requirement that towns formally register their fire protection services and maintain local fire protection plans by July 1, 2027.

Thanks to Richard and his work done over the years, Norfolk already has much of this information in place through our existing town-wide fire protection planning, including:

- Fire coverage areas
- Staffing and resources
- Mutual aid relationships
- Apparatus and station capabilities
- Dispatch and response coordination
- Long-term service planning

The legislation will likely require departments statewide to become more formalized in how fire protection services are documented, coordinated regionally, and reported to the state.

Departments may also see additional reporting, planning, and administrative requirements over the next 1–2 years as the state develops implementation standards.

Additional areas addressed in the bill include:

- Increased statewide data collection on staffing, responses, and department capabilities
- Greater focus on firefighter health and cancer-related concerns
- More consistent statewide training standards and operational guidance
- Expanded state oversight and long-term fire service sustainability planning

Overall, the intent of the legislation is to improve communication, coordination, preparedness, and long-term support for Connecticut fire departments and firefighters.

Potential Challenges / Concerns with CT House Bill 5460 / Public Act 26-144

- Increased administrative workload

Departments and municipalities will likely face additional reporting, documentation, and planning requirements. Smaller volunteer departments may feel this impact the most.

- More state oversight

Some departments may view the expanded role of the state and DESPP as reducing local control over fire service operations and planning.

- Unfunded mandates

There is concern that municipalities could be required to meet new planning or reporting standards without significant new funding to support them.

- Regionalization concerns

While regional coordination can improve efficiency, some departments worry it could eventually push consolidation or shared-service models that may not fit every community.

- Staffing and compliance challenges

Volunteer departments already struggling with recruitment and retention may find additional administrative requirements difficult to manage.

- Unclear implementation details

Many specifics, including reporting standards, plan requirements, and enforcement will likely be developed over the next 1–2 years, so departments are still waiting to see how extensive the requirements will become.

Overall, most of the bill's goals are viewed positively, especially firefighter health initiatives, planning improvements, and better coordination but many departments are watching closely to see how implementation affects local autonomy, workload, and costs.

Car 3:

Charts for pump testing pasted, if you notice anything wrong with the trucks, please speak up.

Car 4:

Moving one car from town car, only have one left for training, if anyone knows of a car, see Justin.

Car 5:

No Report

Car 6:

No Report

Car 7:

No Report

EMS Captain:

No Report

Public Relations:

No Report

Fire Marshall:

No Report

Mechanics:

E40 has a small leak in the compressor, it will be repaired.

Cadets:

No Report

LCD:

No Report

Committee Reports:

- **House Committee:**

No Report

- **Fund Raising:**

Reached out to Merch group, no replies to date.

- **Insurance Committee**

No Report

- **Building Committee**

Things are going along, problem with plumber, have replaced him. Proceeding with underground plumbing work, passed test. Making good progress. Fire Department connection outside the building will be ordered. Trench drain will be going in and then the slap, within the next month.

- **Anniversary Committee**

List of vendors has been updated; check off which vendors you contact. All members are encouraged to contact multiple vendors. Silent Auction Nov. 21, at Infinity Hall, they have a kitchen so there will be food.

- **Truck Committee**

Meeting with last of vendors regarding specs. Getting ready to go out to bid after the next fiscal year starts.

- **By-Law Committee**

No Report

Correspondence:

Thank you notes from Litchfield County FF Cancer Screening Group, Date for next screening is Sept. 19, 2026.

Canaan Fire parade July 18, 2026.

Thank you letter for donation to Mike LeMere.

Old Business:

Cancer Screen bill did not pass. But fallen hero bill did pass, a fund set up for monies available for line of duty deaths.

Evacuation at Botelle School, Fri. June 5, 2026, at 1:15, need members to assist with getting students across the street (Rt. 44).

New Business:

New member application from Chris Curtis.

Dale Savage, from Grantville Dogs Band, reached out to David at Infinity Hall, looking into possible fundraiser at Infinity Hall. Zoom meeting set up to discuss.

EDC having a Sidewalk Sunday, Aug. 2, 2026, (Weekend in Norfolk) to have a table/booth on Station Place. Set up barricades for center of town. Members asked to be there to answer questions, looking into other options for the event.

M/S/P Gary, Justin to go into Executive Session to discuss operational issues.

M/S/P Dan, Ashley to leave Executive Session.

M/S/P Karl, Keith to accept the proposed Bed Bug policy as changed.

Richard requested more information about the amount of funds in the accounts so that the Board of Trustees has a better understanding of how much money is in each account.

M/S/P Richard, Keith to complete the necessary paperwork at the National Iron Bank so that the Trustees can have access to statements for the funds on deposit there.

Banks where we have CD's do not provide monthly statements on the amount in each account. Any member wishing to know the balance of a CD account, text Angela and she will get back to you with the amount.

Adjourn at 8:09 pm

Judy Ludwig
NVFD Secretary