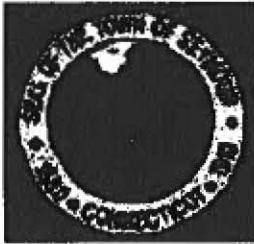


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Town of Seymour

BOARD OF FIRE CHIEFS

1 FIRST STREET, SEYMOUR, CONNECTICUT 06483

Special Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2025

Citizens Engine Co.2

Attendees: Chris Edwards, John Oczkowski, Quinn Levey, Dave Van Wart

- 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 May 2025 meeting minutes

Quinn Levey/John Oczkowski made a motion to approve minutes from May 2025 Vote: 3/0

- 5) Correspondence- Email from George Junko to Board of Fire Chiefs requesting 65/25 status.
- 6) Unfinished Business:

a) UTV Training- Now insured by VFIS. Going to be bringing them in to run a program.

7) New Business:

- a) VFIS- Department now covered by them. Still waiting for the policy but Chief Edwards received the insurance cards.
- b) FireTek- new app chiefs and officers have been demoing. The contract was sent over today. Within the next few weeks it will be up and running. Once the box comes in they'll have an option to listen to the radio. Working on API as it is a next gen issue.
- c) AFD Reporting- Will have dates for training and will email them out when they are sent to him.
- d) 30 call SOG- Officers please let members know that grace period they have had for the past three years is over. Chief Edwards was given a hard time by a member so now if members don't have 30 calls by the end of the year they will be suspended. Chief Edwards stated that he was the good guy for the last three years and its given him

nothing but aggravation for the past few months so now we are going to follow the SOGs.

- e) Physicals- One member is suspended because he has not had a physical. Up until he received his suspension letter this member had no contact with the Board of Fire Chiefs. Since receiving letter, after being reminded for 3-4 months to get a physical, this member feels like being targeted and discriminated against. Chief Edwards is expecting to hear from this members lawyer. Everyone else is up to date. The two that were due this month went for their physicals, the two that were out of service have dates that have been sent to Chief Oczkowski.

- f) New member protocol- tabled for one month.

8) Training: Live burn at Fairfield had 29 people present including three juniors. It was very warm, one firefighter needed rest time. Chief Levey is looking at doing advanced extrication training classes after the summer.

Upcoming Training Opportunities from VIFS:

Emergency Services Trailer Operations and Safety UTV/ATV safety, Durham CT

EVDT Training, Salem CT

Traffic Incident Management Chester CT

9) Repairs and maintenance- DOTs will be done. MES will be coming down. Hose testing will be done in August. Chief Levey and Chief Van Wart's vehicles are due for an oil change. Lift kit needed for Chief Edwards truck.

10) Committees-

11) Fire Police Commander Report- none

12) Junior's Report- See attached Junior's Report

13) Quartermaster Report – Hoods, gloves and boots requested

14) Company Events for July
Concert at Great Hill 7/12

15) Executive Session- none needed.

16) Captain's Comments -

Nick Russell- Two members that they have reached out to and are not responding. They are being asked to return gear. It has been a few years. Ran into one at a gas station and the member said they would return the gear but never did. Chief Edwards requested that they please give names and contact information to FD3 to report stolen equipment.

Mike Fritz- Any chance lockers can be installed at Great Hill. Concern about the compressor and is there a plan in place when the ladder truck arrives? Chief Edwards will redo the 5 year plan in the fall. Ladies Aux Craft Fair is 11/22.

17) Chief's Comments-

Chris Edwards- Congratulations to Zachary Goodrich who received Fire Fighter 1 certificate dated July 10, 2025.

Daytime has been tough. He has had to get a truck himself a few times. That said, he feels it is work schedules, summertime and people on vacations.

Going on record that this is his last year as Chief. He may not make it to December at this point. What he has had to go through over the last three months with certain commissioners trying to oust him – he is done. He does not enjoy it and doesn't have the heart for it anymore. He was walking in July but was asked to stay and now he is upset he did. There is a certain commissioner who is after him that thinks everything he does is wrong. He believes he has done a fantastic job with the chiefs he's had over the past 3 years, to have it all ruined by what he is going through is not right. Tried to be a nice guy and let things slide and it came back to bite him. There have been backdoor deals. He will stick it out to help and he will make sure the chiefs are ready next year. Come hell or high water he will not be here next year. It is time for him to focus on his family and career and not worry about the Seymour Fire Department. He knows there are a lot of guys who back him, he knows who that is and he appreciates it. He is tired of the people that don't back him. Secondly, there are people at Great Hill who think he is messing them out of tax abatements. Chief Edwards is going on record that the computer put out the totals and that is what he is going with and not changing anything. He doesn't care what someone has written down in a notebook. He can see a mistake on one or two calls, he's not making a mistake on 65 calls. He had a firefighter come to his office during work hours to fight with him saying he had 32 calls last year but was only given 27. He is here, he will get the Assistant Chiefs ready, show them how to do the budget. He will be done in July due to the commissioners, and he feels backdoored by two commissioners. They wanted him gone and they almost had their way by somebody who is not even compliant with the department. If that is what they want they can have it.

Quinn Levey- Remember to hydrate- it is hot out.

John Oczkowski- Drivers during the day will be short due to losing several drivers.

Dave VanWart-Good job at the Oxford fire on Sunday. He happened to be in the area and was able to get there first. There were small issues with the water supply that were squared away.

PSA note- a few weeks back several Idaho firefighters were ambushed at a brush fire. Keep your eyes open, if you get a funky feeling just back out.

18) Chief's Requisition's: See attached requisitions.

Quinn Levey/Dave VanWart made a motion to approve the requisitions in the amount of \$88,857.07 Vote: 4/0

19) Adjournment

Dave VanWart/Quinn Levey made a motion to adjourn at 7:37pm Vote: 4/0

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Chernesky

**Seymour Fire Department
Chief's Requisitions**

#	QTY	Item Description	Vendor	Price	Account Number
1		Turn out Gear	MES	\$41,425.75	615
2		Boots, Gloves, and Hoods	MES	\$7,430.00	615
3		Fire Reporting Software	Micro Business Systems	\$9,000.00	530
4		Juniors Class, Matheson and Smolinsky	CT Fire Academy	\$2,000.00	350
5		Engine 15 repairs	Tracy's	\$697.82	430
6		Utility 20 Repairs	Tracy's	\$2,553.50	430
7		Recruitment Supplies	Positive Promotions	\$1,500.00	350
8		Daddio's Blanket	Daddio's	\$1,000.00	430
9		Watch Station Repairs	Citizens'	\$1,500.00	745
10		Watch Station Repairs	Great Hill	\$1,500.00	745
11		DOT Inspections	Daddio's TRACY'S	\$15,000.00	743
12		Gas services	Auto Repairs	\$1,500.00	430
13		Firefighter One Class	Valley Fire School	\$3,750.00	350
14					
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By our signatures below, we approve the requisitions indicated above				\$88,857.07	

Christopher Edwards, Chief of Department

Quinn Levey, Deputy Chief

John Oczkowski, Assistant Chief

David Van Wart, Assistant Chief

Report:

- 18 Junior members.
- 6 of the 18 are riders.
- 1 Junior to start "R" training.
- 8 members attended the Memorial Day Parade.
- All members now have Junior Polo's donated by C2.
- 3 Junior attended Department live fire training.
- Would like to use the attendance sheet only for drills. Junior's would check the names off on the department roster as in the past. For some reasons it has gotten confusing to the membership. Please let me know if we can go back to the original way.
- 2 members graduated from the CFA program. 1 of them received the "Hard Charger" award!
- 3 more members will be going later this month and August.
- Working on fundraising ideas.
- Attendance has been a little low. Not overly concerned due to vacation and sports. We are watching drill numbers.
- Numerous departments want to drill with our group. Working on some dates with them.
- With summer hours in effect there has been a spike in attendance at alarms.

Respectfully,

Michael Lombardi

Past Chief FSI/FSO

SFD Lead Junior Advisor

FSI SFD Training Division

(203)-627-2792

MAKING SPACE EXTRICATION