



Town of Seymour

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DATE: 2/17/26
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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

BOARD OF FIRE CHIEFS

1 FIRST STREET, SEYMOUR, CONNECTICUT 06483

Regular Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2026
Citizens Engine

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 meeting minutes

Dave VanWart/John Oczkowski made a motion to approve the Chief Meeting Minutes dated November 2025. Vote: 4/0

5) Correspondence- Email from Cindy Dion read regarding Adopt-a-Hydrant program similar to Beacon Falls.

6) Unfinished Business:

- a) New Fire Trucks- There is now an issue with Seagrave ladder truck. It is not even in production yet but was supposed to be here a few days ago. Now being told March 2027 and there is a lot of other stuff they cannot guarantee that Chief Edwards is going back and forth with them about. Meeting was held with questions the chiefs want answers to. There are no answers yet. Will follow up on Wednesday. One question is if the ladder truck is a year out what does that do with the engines?

Rescue 17 out and will be approximately \$10,000 to fix that truck. Chief has no choice but to fix it. Once the chief has concrete answers, email will be sent to truck committee and officers.

- b) Running Rules- Will be a talking point at officers meeting. Come with feedback so it can be voted on in March.

7) New Business:

- a) KMF Grant- Katherine Matthies Grant - Standpipe Cart made by Affordable Drill Towers. Will be submitting for this mobile prop and EV tools. Please provide any input to Chief Edwards.

Quinn Levey/Dave VanWart made a motion to move forward with the Standpipe Cart and EV tools. Vote: 4/0

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- b) Adopt a Hydrant Program- First Selectwoman asked about a hydrant program. It would be a good PR thing. Chiefs need to sit down and figure out what the reward will be. Maybe for next winter they can come up with some ideas. Seymour's budget cannot afford gift cards. First Selectwoman is trying to figure out a work around.
- c) Fire Ground Operations All officers and chiefs will get an email regarding fireground operations SOG. If it is passed it will be an issue for the older guys because it is going to divisions. Please read it in the next few weeks so it can be brought to a vote in March. Right now it will be decided among the group before it is sent out to membership.
- d) Haas Alert System has been purchased. GPS box that sends out a signal that apparatus is coming. Drivers do not have to do anything. Only activated when emergency lights are turned on. Bought 6, will get 6 more in July.

8) Training:

- a) Super Sunday – Super Sunday will be March 8, April 19 Super Sunday make up. Will have a third date if needed. Will be reaching out to the instructors to teach again.

Reached out to Bilko Door Company for a training prop. They donated a new one.

Man and machine class, Snowblower entrapment, Victim on a fence. Cutting bay in the future. Will need some instructors for the drills.

RIT 2/11. Will review data from previous fires in Ansonia.

Action plan being done at Citizens.

Connex box is in. Chief met with wetlands and zoning enforcement. Admits that he was wrong when he thought that they needed permits. It will take a little of the parking lot but will not affect the concerts.

Training is getting expensive so if everything can be done in-house outside of live burn, the department can save a lot of money.

Wood was donated. Once it gets warm it can be moved.

9) Repairs and Maintenance. -Maintenance budget is currently down to \$2000 with about \$15,000 of work outstanding. Chief met with finance and First Selectwoman and was told the bills would get paid. Major things will be taken care of, just be patient as he now has to jump through hoops. Discussion was had on the equipment lists from Citizens Engine and Great Hill. Waiting for parts on a lot of the issues.

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Firetech will be installed on all the iPads. Had to create bogus emails for the program.

Need a whole new system for the Knox box systems. It is very expensive to buy new boxes. It is on the capital plan every budget.

Question regarding pagers playing dual tones. They need to be reset. No pagers available to hand out.

10) Committees-

11) Fire Police Commander Report

12) Junior's Report- **Report**

1. 13 members
2. 4 of the 13 are "Riders"
3. 3 in "Rider" training.
4. 1 Member turned her gear in as she is 18 and has joined the Army.
5. Members helped with storm stand by and hydrant details.
6. Some Juniors didn't get the FireTek email.

13) Quartermaster Report – New helmets are in for Fire One. Everyone that needs equipment should be good.

14) Company Events for February:

15) Executive Session- none needed

16) Captain's Comments - No comments

17) Chief's Comments-

Quinn Levey- Nice job at the fires, especially Deerfield. Big loss to that family. Really nice to be in and out in an hour and half. Quinn Levey read resignation letter from his position as FD2 effective today. See attached letter.

Chris Edwards- Thank you to Quinn Levey for all the years of service on the board. He will truly be missed. Wish him nothing from the best.

Thank you to everyone in January. Over 70 calls including 4 structure fires. Department continues to be very busy, if it stays this busy it could be over 900 calls this year. Deerfield Drive

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went well. Will review critique in a few weeks. February 11 and 12 will be out of state for training. Will be available by phone and email. All abatements are done but cannot be given out until commissioners approve them. Everyone got the max points for training this and drills this year. Did not give 100% abatements for everyone under the 30 calls. If someone has an issue they can appeal to the commissioners. See ADM 3.

On a personal note, there is a lot of misinformation going around about the ordinances. Spoke with Commissioner Wetowicz and the president of Citizens and Great Hill. The ordinances are not to hurt the company; they are to align the Seymour Fire Department. Happy to explain to anyone that has questions why they did what they did. He has been asking since the beginning of 2025 for the commissioners to do this. There are text messages to prove it never got done. He took it upon himself to write it. He put the ordinance changes in. The main reason is that he is trying to run this department on two sets of bylaws. Fifteen years ago it worked perfectly fine because there were people. Today the department is hurting for people. Some of the miscommunication is that if a town employee comes in, he is handed the keys to the firehouse, and he doesn't have to train. If someone really thinks that they don't know the chief at all. They have to go through the same policies and procedures that a regular member does. What they don't have to do is company functions. The three year rule is a personal jab because of what happened to him last year. It is not written for him – he doesn't have much longer. It is written for the guy coming next. If you talk to any past chief of the department they will say that one year is not enough time. Turnover sometimes isn't good. It needs to be at the same level as the commissioners, who get three years. They don't have term limits – there is a commissioner who has been in place for as long as he has been in the department. If a chief messes up there will be ways to remove them. In the ten years he has been on the board there haven't been that many people who are qualified. By giving three year terms it gives more people time to come in. It is not 1985, there are a lot of requirements now behind the scenes. He does not have one town employee that is even interested right now.

This is an outlet in case somebody wants to help the department. If a guy in public works lives in Woodbury but has a CDL, train him to department standard to drive. If he is here Monday through Friday 7-3 or 6-2, why would he turn that down? It is not meant for someone who lives in Waterbury but works at MPI. That's not what this is for. It is for town employees already covered

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under town insurance. They will drill on Monday and Wednesday. They have to meet all the criteria to stay active. It is not a free for all to bring people in. Out of 105 members, only 4 members have reached out, but he has heard 350 rumors.

The chiefs get beat up every other day about the use of their cars by one political party. He was asked by higher ups outside of the department to write an ordinance on the cars. Now someone wants to turn them into the IRS because they're being used for personal use. What they don't know is that he's already sat with the finance director, the CPA and the lawyer and as first responders you are exempt from that rule. He did his homework before writing this. Please let them know he is not a moron. The four chief and four out of five commissioners have approved this.

If anyone has any questions on how or why he did it, he is in his office all day, call him and he will explain it to them on paper. He understands that change is hard. He cannot call 105 people and explain everything he does. Everyone should be able to see that their profession is dying very fast. He is trying to keep it alive by making some changes and certain people don't see that. It is up to the Ordinance committee. He spoke to the president of great hill and gave him his side of things. Please let membership know his phone is on, come to his office and he can talk about it. Need to change to stay with the times or they will be on the outside looking in at a career company. Nobody wants that. He can't run a department on two separate sets of bylaws. He is not looking to change bylaws, he is looking to adapt to them.

John Oczkowski- Good knockdown of the fire. Saved a lot of the houses belongings. Standby crews, thank you for stepping up.

Dave VanWart- Good job on all the recent calls both Ansonia and Naugatuck. Try to stay warm especially this upcoming weekend. Be careful on the snow around fire scenes.

18) Chief's Requisitions:

19) Adjournment

Dave VanWart/Quinn Levey made a motion to adjourn at 7:55pm Vote: 4/0

Respectfully Submitted,

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To the Officers, Chiefs, Commisioners and Members of the Department,

After much thought and reflection, I am writing to formally resign from my position as Deputy Fire Chief, effective today February 2nd, 2026.

This decision was not an easy one. I am deeply grateful for the years I have spent serving alongside such dedicated volunteers. The friendships, experiences, and pride I feel in this department will always stay with me. It has truly been an honor to serve this community and work with people who give so much of themselves for others.

Changes in my personal life now require my full attention, and I believe it is the right time for me to step aside so the department can continue to move forward with strong, focused leadership.

To the officers and chiefs who remain: lead with integrity and purpose. Be firm, fair, and consistent. Make decisions based on what is best for the town, the department, and the personnel as a whole. In a volunteer organization, leadership is a responsibility—not a position for personal gain. When decisions are made with the right intentions, trust and respect will follow.

I have complete confidence in the department's future and in those who will continue to lead it. Thank you for the opportunity to serve, for the trust you placed in me, and for the memories I will always carry.

I will still be active in my volunteer status as a firefighter and I will always be here for support, guidance and reflection.

Stay safe, take care of one another, and continue to serve with pride.

Respectfully,

Quinn Levey
Deputy Fire Chief

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Quinn Levey", is written over a faint dotted line. The signature is fluid and cursive, extending across the width of the line.