



Town of Seymour

**BOARD OF FIRE CHIEFS**

1 FIRST STREET, SEYMOUR, CONNECTICUT 06483

COPY RECEIVED  
DATE: 6/15/26  
TIME: 8:00 AM  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Meeting Minutes  
June 1, 2026  
Great Hill Hose

Attendees: Chris Edwards, John Oczkowski, 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 May 2026. Vote: 3/0

5) Correspondence: Letter from past chief Gene Atkis requesting to join the 65/25 retirement program.

6) Unfinished Business:

- a) Training Center Update: it is moving full steam ahead but not completed yet. Both houses are up to speed on what needs to be done. Committee will be meeting next week to get a game plan to go forward, and a lot of help will be needed. Sponsor list is pretty in depth. A lot of big companies have stepped up. Everything you see outside is roughly \$20,000 inclusive of the cash donation, materials, cost of containers, Quick Pick, etc. This will be an ongoing project once completed. If there is room and all goes well maybe they could build onto it. The committee has ideas. There will be a few cars outside on the pad for stabilization, airbag work, etc. Cars will be cut up in the fall and removed in the winter. Per Ron Burgess, an email will be sent out for help.  
Containers need to be welded and painted. Outside of live fire there is nothing the training containers can't be used for. There will be rooms and non-working bathrooms.

7) New Business:

- a) Dave VanWart/John Oczkowski made a motion to add the Gene Atkis retirement letter to the agenda. Vote:3/0  
Dave VanWart/John Oczkowski made a motion to accept Gene Atkis' retirement letter.  
Vote:3/0  
Congratulations Gene for all your hard work.

Telephone: 203-888-1909



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- b) New Junior SOG proposal – Discussion was had regarding the SOG proposal  
Junior SOG 1: Discussion was had regarding 313 Roosevelt Drive and special exceptions.

Chief Edwards inquired why juniors are being withheld from rollovers and extrications and should they be allowed to go to that? Or should riders who have turned 16 be allowed to go to that? There have been instances where there was a junior on the truck during an accident. If it's really bad then it would be the IC or junior officer to tell them to go sit in the truck.

Discussion was had regarding the conflict of indicating that juniors cannot go to hazmat calls but that they can go to CO2 calls.

Discussion was had regarding juniors packing hose on the top of the truck.

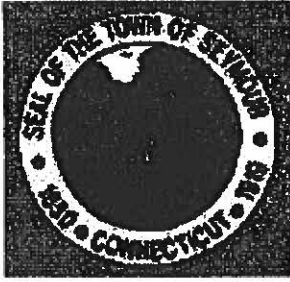
Discussion was had regarding only riders responding to accidents and extrications and no Route 8.

John Oczkowski/ Dave VanWart made a motion to accept Juniors SOG 1 with the proper changes discussed. Vote:3/0

Junior SOG 2: Special exceptions will be changed for the rollovers and extrications to R status. Other changes will be juniors between 16-18 years of age who meet all of the required criteria will be allowed to ride the apparatus to calls. Riders will be able to respond 24 hours a day on non-school nights only. School nights have a curfew of 9:00pm. Discussion was had regarding obtaining permission slips from parents saying that they can come out at certain hours of the night.

Discussion was had regarding insurance liability on a 16 year old out at 2:00 in the morning and whether a parents signature on a hold harmless would suffice.

There would be no hanging around after calls and if the parents notice an issue they need to step up. Discussion was had regarding junior members hanging around after calls and drills after 10:00pm. Drills will conclude by 9:00pm and juniors need to be picked up by 10:00pm or at the discretion of the IC. Chief Edwards will add a section in Junior 1 about drills.



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Dave VanWart/ John Oczkowski made a motion to accept Juniors SOG 2 with the proper changes discussed. Vote:3/0

The SOGs will be updated with these changes and sent to the commissioners.

8) Training: Leadership class on 6/30/26 and 7/8/26 both on drill nights. Each class will be between 3-3.5 hours. To get credit you will need to go to both classes. Will be based on Seymour policies and buildings.

There are still openings for the incident safety class in December. Only two members have signed up. Class will be held at the Seymour Fire Department.

Two juniors will be attending the junior's class at the academy.

Seymour Fire Department will be hosting a 2Q class, date TBD.

Chief Edwards attended a fire marshals conference recently featuring a retired captain out of Las Vegas who is now a solar battery guru. Chief Edwards learned more with him in 4 hours than any other class. This speaker is now booked for September; firm dates will be sent out, tentatively 9/26/26, per the middle school auditorium availability. It will be open to the entire valley and is working on a sponsor to pay for him as he was \$5,000.00 for one day. If there is no sponsor, other towns who attend will be charged.

The Academy 2027 calendar requests are out if there is any training of interest. There will be a building class in the fall.

There are 7 students in Fire 1, all passed state practical's yesterday.

Discussion was had regarding Great Hills live burn at Daddios. No one showed up to sign the burn permit. Please let captain know that he needs a 1403 plan for live fires, and he needs a dedicated safety officer. In that plan he needs to do all his water supply. This is for every live burn. There may be a template somewhere but he needs to get it to Chief Edwards before the drill tomorrow. If he does not have a safety officer please let him know and he will be the safety officer if he has to.

Please let officers know winch control from 12 was moved.

Chief Oczkowski sat with Scott Andrews on UTV training, PowerPoint is almost done. Will be run out of Great Hill, course will be set up out back. Working on a site to get out into the woods.

9) Repairs and Maintenance – unless something is broken and causing the truck to go out of service, they will wait until July 1.



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(discussion was had regarding an intermittent issue but was out of microphone range. Will be put on DOT list)

10) Committees- n/a

11) Fire Police Commander Report n/a

12) Junior's Report- emailed report attached Dave VanWart/ John Oczkowski made a motion to accept the juniors report Vote:3/0

Chief Edwards asked the officers in attendance what their thoughts were on rotating the juniors through company drills so they can get to know them and work with them. Possibly every other month. It will be worked out between the captains.

Discussion was had regarding the location of the rider forms signed from new juniors.

13) Quartermaster Report – Chief Edwards was at the state practical as an instructor and he noticed a Derby kid who attended Citizens ball and is dating one of the department members wearing a SFD probationary shields on his Derby helmet and it was blacked out with a Sharpie. When asked, the individual claimed it was on the helmet when it was given to him and appeared to get nervous. There is no way to prove where he got it, but there is a problem. Now, whoever takes the FD4 spot will take over as quartermaster. With a chief and two house captains hopefully things can be tracked better. The Derby kid also had on a nice pair of gloves that resemble department gloves, but theres no way to prove it. The shields are \$100 and the probation shields were supposed to be returned and handed down. The kid was from Storm. Now the deadbolt will be installed and chiefs and captains will have the key, plus the key code so that they can track who is FOBing in and out. Junior Officers requested access to their stuff that is stored in the closet.

Inventory is hard to come by, takes a long time to come in, and the prices are outrageous.

14) Company Events for June

Beacon Falls parade – no coverage needed

Flag requested on 67 for the Special Olympics torch run

Dave VanWart/ John Oczkowski made a motion to move Captain's Comments and Chief Comments ahead of Executive Session Vote:3/0

15) Captain's Comments – Andrew Three new members anticipated. Two more applications for next month.



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Dan Cooper- Question on the MVA form and question on if its possible to coordinate with the police so that they can obtain the info from them instead of asking the driver twice. Chief Edwards stated that he typically gets the information off the car and from the driver if they are there instead of bothering the cop. State cops are in the habit of giving the information. Discussion was had on why its should be done this way, such as having the information on the report for insurance companies, reimbursement for resources used on non-residents. Most importantly, NERIS wants it all now.

A request for clipboards for the trucks was made. Request was made for a copy of the live burn plan template.

#### 16) Chief's Comments-

Chris Edwards- No comment

John Oczkowski- Fatal extrication went pretty well. If anybody has any issues just let us know.

Dave VanWart- No comment

#### 17) Executive Session

Dave VanWart/ John Oczkowski made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:56pm Vote:3/0

Dave VanWart/ John Oczkowski made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:22pm noting no votes or motions were taken Vote:3/0

#### 18) Chief's Requisitions:

19) Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 8:22pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Chernesky

SEYMOUR FIRE  
JUNIORS REPORT



DEPARTMENT

June 2026

- 12 Juniors
- 1 New Jr (need to speak with)
- 5 Riders
- Events pending: None
- 2 Signed up for the CFA. Both the advance class.
- Officer positions currently:
- Captain Gavin Lombardi
- Lt. Matt Demske
- Lt. Steven Fainer
- Trey Burgess has graduated from the program headed to start his probation with C2.