

## **MERIDEN & PLAINFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **Chief's Report**

After 43 years as a Plainfield volunteer firefighter, 7 years as Chief of the Plainfield Department and 5 years as Chief of both the Plainfield and Meriden Departments, Frank Currier retired on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Frank also served as Forest Fire Warden for the Town of Plainfield for 7 years. A retirement party for Frank was held at the Plainfield Station in June where many people were able to thank Frank for all of his service to the Town of Plainfield and wish him well in his retirement. Frank and his wife Dolly have purchased a home in North Carolina where they now reside.

On the warrant for the annual Town meeting this year is an article regarding the future organization of both the Plainfield and Meriden Volunteer Fire Departments. The article, if passed, will establish the Town of Plainfield Fire Department. No longer will the two departments be independent non-profits. The need for this came about as a result of the switch in insurance coverage from PLT to Primex. It was discovered that in order to be eligible to participate in the public risk pool for insurance, we need to be the municipal fire department. An agreement signed by both Chiefs and the Selectmen many years ago was thought to have achieved this already but in the opinion of the Primex legal team, it did not. The two volunteer fire departments are actually just incorporated non-profits and not a municipal fire department.

A committee made up of members of both departments has met regularly for the past year and a half and has asked that this article be placed on the warrant. The committee met with the Selectboard and consulted with Town Counsel regarding the planned change in organizational structure and believe that the passage of the article is the best option for the Town and both Fire Departments. If passed, the change will take effect one year from the date of passage.

All of the assets of both departments (vehicles and real estate) will be given to the Town of Plainfield. The Fire Chief will then be appointed by the Selectmen and the Chief will recommend officers and firefighters to be appointed by the selectmen. The passage of this article is recommended by both fire departments and the Board of Selectboard.

The Meriden Station took delivery in late August of our new Engine 3 from Dingee Machine in Cornish, NH. The new engine is a 2018 Spartan Custom Chassis with a 1250 gpm pump and a 1500 gallon water tank. The Engine also has been outfitted with a new portable pump and hydraulic ladder and folding tank racks. The truck was funded through a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$328,000. The total cost to put the new Engine 3 in service was \$372,000. The difference was made up by the fundraising efforts of the department over the last twenty years and the generous donations made to the department over the same time. We are extremely fortunate to have received this grant, and the new Engine should be in service to the Town for many years to come.

Both the Meriden and Plainfield Departments continue to hold joint trainings twice a month throughout the year. Trainings that took place this past year include a live burn conducted at an abandoned house on Stage Road and a 16 hour driver safety course. Staffing of both Departments continues to be a challenge. New firefighters are always needed. Contact any member of either Department for more information.

Please remember that smoke detectors save lives, and only working and properly maintained smoke detectors save lives. It is recommended that smoke detectors have their batteries changed annually, be tested monthly, and replaced every ten years. Carbon Monoxide (CO) detectors are also an essential part of maintaining a safe home. Manufacturers now make combination smoke and CO detectors that have lifetime batteries available. If you or someone you know does not currently have smoke and CO detectors in their home, please call me directly (469-3342) or any member of either fire department and we will furnish and install detectors in their home free of charge.

It has been quite a few years since Plainfield completed the 911 house numbering project. Many house numbers are no longer visible, especially at night. Please help your first responders find you in an emergency. Make sure that your house number is visible at the end of your driveway, even in the worst of weather (rainy, snowy).

Many thanks to all of the firefighters and their families for their continued support throughout the year and thanks to all who either donated their time to help with one of the many department fundraisers, or who gave financial support to the department in the form of a monetary donation.

<b>2017 Fire Dept Run Summary</b>	<b>PVFD</b>	<b>MVFD</b>
Motor Vehicle Accidents	13	22
Chimney Fires	4	4
Structure Fires	4	7
Wildland Fires	3	2
Alarm Activations	6	26
CO Alarms	5	4
Power Line Problems	5	12
Road Hazards	3	3
Weather Events	2	0
Medical Assist	2	2
River Rescue	1	1
Mutual Aid Lebanon	2	7
Mutual Aid Hartford	1	1
 Total Runs 2017	 51	 90

Respectfully Submitted,

*William S. Taylor* Chief, Plainfield and Meriden Fire Depts.

**MERIDEN VOL FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**2017**

**2018**

<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>VARIANCE</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>
FEDERAL GRANT	\$328,572	\$328,572	\$0	
TOWN APPROPRIATION	\$44,500	\$44,500	\$0	\$44,500
CORNISH FAIR TICKETS	\$3,250	\$3,430	\$180	\$3,250
SPRING DINNER – 2017	\$3,500	\$2,640	-\$860	\$0
SPRING DINNER - 2018	\$0	-\$175	-\$175	\$3,500
DONATIONS	\$8,000	\$26,889	\$18,889	\$4,000
DONATIONS - KUA BRIGADE	\$500	\$1,260	\$760	\$500
BRIGADE ACCOUNT INTEREST	\$1	\$1	\$0	\$1
FOREST FIRE PAYMENTS	\$500	\$0	-\$500	\$500
MISC	\$0	\$6,982	\$6,982	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$388,823</b>	<b>\$414,099</b>	<b>\$25,276</b>	<b>\$56,251</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>VARIANCE</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>
TELEPHONE & INTERNET	\$1,600	\$1,581	\$19	\$1,700
ELECTRICITY	\$1,000	\$945	\$55	\$1,000
SEWER	\$240	\$192	\$48	\$264
HEATING OIL	\$1,600	\$946	\$654	\$1,100
INSURANCE	\$7,000	\$6,551	\$449	\$8,200
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	\$13,975	\$4,148	\$9,827	\$13,400
COMPUTER EXPENSES	\$250	\$0	\$250	\$250
OFFICE SUPPLIES + PUBLICATIONS	\$600	\$1,119	-\$519	\$1,000
GAS, DIESEL	\$1,600	\$615	\$985	\$1,250
DUES / PERMITS / FEES	\$1,700	\$450	\$1,250	\$750
TRAINING	\$5,000	\$3,867	\$1,133	\$5,000
FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT	\$394,872	\$394,051	\$821	\$18,600
STATION MAINTENANCE	\$1,500	\$2,130	-\$630	\$2,000
UNIFORMS	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000
VACCINATIONS/PHYSICALS	\$100	\$0	\$100	\$100
ANNUAL REPORT FEE	\$100	\$75	\$25	\$100
CONTRACTED SERVICES	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$0	\$4,500
STATION EQUIPMENT	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000
FIREFIGHTER MILEAGE	\$2,000	\$1,990	\$10	\$2,000
KUA BRIGADE	\$501	\$0	\$501	\$501
HAZMAT ASSOCIATION	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
MISC	\$500	\$747	-\$247	\$750
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$441,638</b>	<b>\$424,908</b>	<b>\$16,730</b>	<b>\$65,465</b>
TRANSFER TO (FROM) BRIGADE FUNDS	\$0	\$1,261	-\$1,261	\$0
TRANSFER TO (FROM) CAPITAL RESERVE	-\$52,815	-\$12,071	-\$40,744	-\$9,214
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$388,823</b>	<b>\$414,098</b>	<b>-\$25,275</b>	<b>\$56,251</b>

**MERIDEN VOL FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**Selected line items**

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>		<b>2018</b>
<b><u>EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE</u></b>	<b><u>BUDGET</u></b>	<b><u>ACTUAL</u></b>	<b><u>VARIANCE</u></b>	<b><u>BUDGET</u></b>
CHIEF'S VEHICLE	\$725	\$721	\$4	\$0
ENGINE #1	\$2,500	\$0	\$2,500	\$0
ENGINE #2	\$3,500	\$82	\$3,418	\$3,500
ENGINE #3	\$0	\$63	-\$63	\$2,000
LADDER TRUCK	\$3,000	\$1,652	\$1,348	\$3,000
UTILITY TRUCK	\$250	\$0	\$250	\$1,000
THERMAL CAMERA	\$100	\$0	\$100	\$100
LADDER TEST	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000
SMALL POWER EQUIPMENT	\$150	\$81	\$69	\$150
HYDROTESTS	\$400	\$0	\$400	\$400
RADIO & PAGERS	\$1,000	\$765	\$235	\$500
AIR PACK	\$750	\$0	\$750	\$750
STATION EXHAUST SYSTEM	\$200	\$0	\$200	\$200
FIRE EXTINGUISHERS	\$100	\$32	\$68	\$100
GENERATOR	\$100	\$31	\$69	\$100
FORESTRY	\$100	\$36	\$64	\$100
MISC	\$100	\$685	-\$585	\$500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,975</b>	<b>\$4,148</b>	<b>\$9,827</b>	<b>\$13,400</b>
<b><u>FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT</u></b>				
SHARED COMPRESSOR				
UPGRADE	\$3,300	\$3,470	-\$170	\$0
FIREFIGHTER GEAR	\$3,400	\$652	\$2,748	\$4,000
NEW/USED LADDER	\$5,000	\$1,112	\$3,888	\$0
NEW ENGINE 1	\$378,572	\$387,694	-\$9,122	\$0
HOSE WASHER	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
FOAM/COLDFIRE SUPPRESSANT	\$100	\$0	\$100	\$100
GLOVES	\$200	\$0	\$200	\$200
THERMAL CAMERA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
BOOTS	\$800	\$0	\$800	\$800
PAGERS/ACTIVE 911	\$1,500	\$762	\$738	\$1,500
RADIO AND ANTENNA	\$0	\$121	-\$121	\$0
HOSE	\$500	\$0	\$500	\$500
FORESTRY EQUIPMENT	\$500	\$0	\$500	\$500
SMALL & MISCELLANEOUS				
TOOLS	\$500	\$240	\$260	\$500
MISC	\$500	\$0	\$500	\$500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$394,872</b>	<b>\$394,051</b>	<b>\$821</b>	<b>\$18,600</b>

Note: The balance in the Capital Reserve account at year end was \$227,555. During the year, we transferred \$12,071 from the Capital Reserve Acct to the Operating Account.

*Ken Goodrow*-Treasurer MVFD

**PLAINFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT  
OPERATING EXPENSES & BUDGET**

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>	<b><u>2018</u></b>
Accounting	\$300	\$195	\$300
New Equipment	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000
New Fire Clothing	\$4,000	\$400	\$4,000
Travel Reimbursement	\$2,000	\$1,540	\$2,000
Equipment Repairs	\$6,000	\$10,000	\$6,000
Supplies	\$3,000	\$2,500	\$3,500
Electricity	\$1,600	\$1,550	\$1,600
Telephone	\$2,000	\$1,714	\$2,500
Heat/Cooking	\$2,500	\$2,427	\$3,500
Gas	\$700	\$650	\$700
Water	\$350	\$384	\$400
Insurance	\$6,000	\$6,200	\$6,500
Schools & Training	\$500	\$341	\$500
Fees/Dues	\$150	\$400	\$400
New Tanker Loan	\$15,996	\$15,996	\$15,996
Haz-mat Team	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Postage	\$100	\$110	\$125
Radio Frequency	\$1,000	\$271	\$500
Chief's stipend	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$4,500
Inspections	\$0	\$249	\$300
Diesel	\$0	\$650	\$1,000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$53,996</b>	<b>\$52,563</b>	<b>\$57,521</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Grants (Title 4)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fund Raising	\$6,500	\$5,000	\$5,000
Town Appropriation	\$50,000	\$55,000	\$55,000
Town Training Funds	\$0	\$341	\$400
Interest /Other	\$0	\$0	\$0
Donations	\$2,500	\$4,851	\$1,500
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$64,000</b>	<b>\$65,192</b>	<b>\$61,900</b>
	Receipts	\$65,192	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Expenses	\$52,563	
	Balance	\$12,629	
 <i>Jean Temple</i> Treasurer			



**Chief Frank Currier's Retirement Celebration**

**Photo: S Halleran**



**Meriden Fire's new ladder truck at a chimney fire call**

**Photo: MVFD**