

Minutes of the January 23, 2012 meeting held at the Vermont Fire Academy Pittsford

Roll Call:

Organization Representatives / or Sub

Ex-Officio Members

Vt. Career Chief Assn.	Absent
Dept. of Education	Absent
Vt. Fire Chiefs Assn.	Absent
Dept. of Forest, Park & Rec.	Absent
Vt. Professional FF	Aaron Collette, Chair Burlington FF
Dept. of Health	Bill Irwin
Vt. State FF Assn.	Al Barber
Dept. of Labor	Absent
VT Domestic Insurance Rep.	Gary Ouellette
Dept. of Public Safety	Commissioner Keith Flynn
Div. of Fire Safety	Director Mike O'Neil
Div. of Fire Safety	Jim Litevich, Chief of Vt. Fire Academy
General Public	Lenny Zenonos (via phone)
Committee Chair	Neil Fulton

Visitors: Neil Fulton
Michael Skaza
Mike Manning

Collette introduces Mike O'Neil as a new member. Discussion of the minutes and asked if there is a motion to approve them. **Motion by Barber, second by Irwin. Minutes accepted as printed.**

Director O'Neil introduces himself and speaks of his open door policy. He has been visiting departments around the state. Discussion of his past membership and how things have changed. He is welcomed by the Council.

Report of the Chief of Training: Jim Litevich

- Jim Litevich discusses the VTC site. Discussion of the capital money spending. VFA expecting the delivery of a ventilation/forcible entry prop.
- Status of the programs and how we are doing more than we have in the past. Discussion of Firefighter I and II online courses.
- Bill Irwin discusses his experience as a current student online Firefighter II student. Materials/online components are easy to follow. The quizzes may be too easy and perhaps may want to look into making them more challenging. Does mention that you do lose the student to student contact.
- The repetition of Firefighter I in Firefighter II is welcoming and good reinforcement for those that have taken Firefighter I years ago.
- Discussion of the Fire Officer classes – Brattleboro, Barre and South Burlington.
- Discussion of Company Officer weekend to be held at the VFA end of March/beginning of April. NFA direct delivery programs will be offered.
- Discussion of low enrollment in NFA direct delivery courses and how the NFA needs to refresh the courses to help and how the 20 student minimum must be into the NFA 45 days in advance.
- N132 Plans review program was scheduled however the NFA cancelled it because it is in review.
- Discussion of the website and that it is helpful to be able to control it in house.
- Jim Litevich met with Regional Fire Schools and discussed using Firefighter I modules in Regional schools so as to work towards Firefighter I certification.
- NFA grant money was finally given, late this year.
- Discussion of technical rescue courses.
- VTC has a new program coordinator for their Fire Science program, Alex Northern from Norwich.
- CPAT had 80 applicants and 50 were successful.
- Homeland Security position has been reposted. The first posting did not have anyone with fire service training background.
- Collette asked if RFP is going on the tech rescue. We are going to New York for Structural Collapse and the rest are all in state deliveries with in state instructors? Jim Litevich says yes and goes further to say that Swift Water will also utilize New York instructors since their programs are approved.

Committee Reports

Curriculum Committee – Neil Fulton

- Report from Terry on Aerial program is reviewed by Neil.
- Discussion of how the New Hampshire second version of Aerial is not up to par.
- Curriculum committee would like to revisit before the next Council meetings.
- Collette comments on how the program from NH is still ProBoard certified.

- Discussion of psychomotor skills and cognitive hours.
- Discussion of the use of an instructor guide and that it helps classes to stay consistent, not vary based on the instructor.
- Discussion of the RIT programs that are being worked on and that there is no set release date.
- Discussion the Flammable Gas Control course being redone with the addition of natural gas by Dan Zimmer.
- Discussion of the combined Firefighter I and II course and how it is going.
- Discussion of the use of e-mail to reach out to students and let people know about learning opportunities.

Statue & Policy Review Committee – Neil Fulton

- Asks the commission and the director if they know of anything going on in Montpelier with regards to the Fire Service.
- Issue of red lights and workers compensation are issues that they know will be tackled by them.
- Discussion of the minors and what they can and can't do in VFA courses. Labor and Industry has not answered the question.
- Discussion of tech schools and how they have immunity from certain VOSHA rules.
- Commissioner Flynn says that we may ask the Attorney General, however we may not like their answer.
- Commissioner Flynn asks how many people we are talking about. Michael Skaza responds saying that there are probably a dozen. We allow them in however they may not transfer from a ladder, power tools, and live fire.
- After turning 18 they must come back and finish those practicals to receive certification.
- Collette says that the instructor group and the academy need the clarification because the public/or chiefs are asking why they can't do these things.
- Commissioner Flynn says that he will ask the AG for some guidance.
- If the AG limits the minor participation it is suggested that the VFA should prepare a curriculum for minors so as to not lose their interest.

Unfinished business:

- Collette was wondering what Ruggles response was to the combined class. Litevich says that he will get in touch with Ruggles about.

New Business:

- Elect a council chair and a vice chair.
- Barber makes a motion to re-elect Ruggles as the vice chair and Collette as the chair, seconded by Ouellette. Motion passes unanimously.

Career chief's report – absent

No report

Vermont State Firefighters Assn.: Al Barber

- Cadet academy work is in progress.
- Work on convention is underway. No location has been determined.

Vermont Chief's: Absent

- No Report

Dept. of Forest, Park & Rec.: Absent

-No Report

Professional Firefighters- Aaron Collette

- Meeting in February
- Going to review their strategic planning and their direction and training needs.

Department of Health – Bill Irwin

- Department of Health is going to be hosting a 5 day conference hosted by New England Radiological health committee, responsible for the New England compact. If there is a radiological emergency in the state the other 5 states are asked to send resources and it's the commissioner of Health in each of the states that have the authority to allow those resources to go that requesting state and assist. Vermont is the host of it this year.
- It will be a full scale incident of some sort.
- They would like to ask the Fire Academy to host this event.
- They ask that the send a letter directly to director of fire safety requesting use of the site.

Homeland Security (Guest) – Mike Manning

- Explains that he does not have a voting say but wants to get a better understanding of the needs/training needs of the fire community. By attending he feels that he can stay abreast of the fire service needs.

General Public – Lenny Zenonos

-No report

Council Chair – Aaron Collette

-Kudos on the VFA website it's excellent and up to date and accurate.

-Discussion of Social Media. Commissioner suggests reaching out to Stephanie Dasaro in regards to it since she is working on the VSP.

-Manning points out that Stephanie will be at VFA next week and that Litevich may want to reach out to her for some help.

Motion to adjourn, motion passes unanimously

Next meeting scheduled for **Monday, April 23, 2012 at the Division of Fire Safety, Berlin** at 9 am.