

Minutes of the January 28, 2013 meeting held at the Division of Fire Safety Central office in Berlin.

Roll Call:

<u>Organization Representatives / or Sub</u>	<u>Ex-Officio Members</u>
Vt. Career Chief Assn.	Absent
Dept. of Education	Alexander Northern
Vt. Fire Chiefs Assn.	Wendall Mansfield
Dept. of Forest, Park & Rec.	Absent
Vt. Professional FF	Aaron Collette
Dept. of Health	Christopher Bell
Vt. State FF Assn.	Al Barber
Dept. of Labor	Absent
VT Domestic Insurance Rep.	Gary Ouellette
Div. of Fire Safety	Mike O'Neil – Director of Public Safety
Div. of Fire Safety	Keith Flynn – Commissioner of Public Safety
General Public	John Marcus
Committee Chair	Neil Fulton
Visitors:	James Litevich
	Terry Farr
	Dan Zimmer
	Todd Sears
	Gene Perkins

Minutes accepted with the following amendments: Neil Fulton was at the September 28, 2012 Council meeting. Curriculum Committee needs to look at the Curriculum development process. Motion by Mansfield and seconded by Ouellette.

Report from the Division: Mike O'Neil (Director):

- Budget season and looks like we will stay level funded.
- Fire Reports need to be done.
- Mention of the Brazilian nightclub fire.
- 2000 Fire Code has been adopted. Available online.
- A discussion of the safety requirements for chimneys and venting of heating appliance February 20th at VTC.

Report of the Chief of Training: James Litevich

- Discussion of the FY2013 programs to date.
- 13 programs including online.
- Discussion of how the online programs/practical's take place.
Introduction of Todd Sears – new Homeland Security / Counter Terrorism Training Coordinator: Navy Veteran; Former Director of Intelligence, Naval Special Warfare Development Group; Operations Officer, Defense Intelligence Agency; Master Instructor and Curriculum Developer Regional Joint Intelligence Training Facility, Molesworth, UK.
- IAFF Fire Ground Survival T-t-T program 12 out of 14 were VFA instructors.
- CPAT had 52 applicants, 31 passed, 6 failed and 15 no shows.
- Discussion of the March NFA classes coming up and how the NFA courses have been a struggle to host due to low enrollment.
- Technical Rescue effort is in full development mode. Looking to do a couple of management team/team manger programs – Rescue Team Manager in February and Task Force Leader in March.
- Working on the lease for the VTC burn building. Suggestions that we increase our usage and expand our calendar.
- Discussion of the status of the digester they want to install next to the burn building.
- Discussion of handout with certification numbers at certain levels. 3354 total certified firefighters out of the approximate 5700 – 5800 firefighters in the state.
- Discussion of the Cascade system going to VTC and when.
- Collette asks Todd Sears who is the credentialing agency on the Homeland Security courses? Sears says that FEMA is and that they have lists of the approved contractors. Litevich says that the contractors that we use are asked to build the courses to NFPA standards.

Committee Reports

Curriculum Committee – Neil Fulton

- Last meeting at VTC there was a discussion that the Council needs to reevaluate the curriculum review process.
- Collette, Litevich and Fulton will be putting something to get ready for the next meeting and that input is welcome.
- Collette says that he feels that there needs to be more accountability in the approval process. The Fire Academy usually tweaks the pilot based on feedback but that the feedback from the pilot programs doesn't always make it back to the Council which he would like to see.
- Ouellette mentions that subject matter experts might help to close the process.
- Bell, Fulton and Litevich are on a working committee for NIMS implementation followed by discussion.

Statute & Policy Review Committee – No Report

Unfinished business:

- Rapid Intervention to be released April 2013 by Jones and Bartlett.
- Discussion of the standard change in 2011 but no curriculum or publisher has produced anything.
- Discussion that the IAFF Survival Fire Ground course is not the same as the RIT training.
- Litevich suggests we need to wait for the publisher to finalize.
- Discussion that other states have just created their own.
- O'Neil points out that the vendors are the obstacle when it comes to a new standard.
- Fire Ground Survival Course Request is in and we will be delivering it.
- Collette: Propane Natural Gas Revision still in the works? Litevich discusses that OMYA and Energy Advantage approached VFA for an introductory course and Chris Herrick will be handling putting that together. However, VFA is going to add a natural gas section to the current VFA Flammable gas course, which is being worked on.
- O'Neil has urged the companies to meet with the Fire Chiefs to answer any questions, which they have done and any follow up questions Chris Herrick has been trying to answer.
- Farr asks if the VFA can approve/schedule other Aerial course requests despite the pilot that is about to begin in Williston.
- Discussion of the Aerial revision and that the Council approved that Chapter 1 and 2 should be included. Farr says that he will ask Skaza to forward the current revision.
- ***Motion by Chief Barber to deliver two Aerial Pilots at the same time, seconded by Northern. Motion passes unanimously.***
- Discussion that the VFA will invite instructors to take the Aerial pilot course in Williston in hopes of training more instructors.

New Business: - Discussion of NFPA 1001 Standard Changes.

- Donning for time no longer required for SCBA or protective clothing.
- Wisconsin keeping time in place, Texas is getting rid of the time but some locals are keeping it, Kansas is going to establish a maximum time for donning rather than a minimum and Nebraska will eliminate the time.
- Discussion of what Vermont wants to do, the history has always been to follow the standard.
- The reasoning for the standard change is because NFPA is more interested in having firefighters don their equipment properly rather than meeting a time.
- Litevich hopes that by the next meeting the Council will be able make a decision on the way forward for Vermont.
- VFA has to adopt a new standard within a year, per ProBoard accreditation requirements.
- Fulton asks the Council if they would be okay with the Curriculum Committee using SME's (Subject Matter Experts) in the development of the revised Firefighter I and II despite the fact that they don't have a process for it. That way in June the revision of the curriculum will be laid out.
- Discussion of how many actual changes.
- Guest Gene Perkins brings up a concern that Regional Fire Schools have pre-requisites.
- Discussion that pre-requisites are usually risk management tools.
- Discussion of the difference between a certificate of Attendance and a Certificate.
- Discussion that the Challenge process is in place so that firefighters can receive certification without having to attend to a live course.
- Commissioner wants to know what the success rate is for the challenge process.
- Collette asked if there are plans to revise the Advanced Fire Behavior – Flashover program. Asks the VFA if they can put it on the agenda.
- Farr and Collette suggest that the videos are old.

- Barber says that the EPA Placards will be changing to an international standard as of 12/2013 and that they will be requiring all responders be trained by 1/2014.
- Discussion that the Fire Academy is going to be adopting a Fire Inspector course.

Department of Education: Alex Northern

- Cadet Academy will be moving to VTC.
- Took possession of a Fire Engine, a 1991 Beck.
- Discussion of the student numbers at VTC and Northern is recruiting.

Department of Health – Christopher Bell

- Now offering the bridge course from Fire Instructor over to EM S instructor two scheduled. March 7th in Stowe and March 26th in Rutland.
- EMS transition courses have started.
- Discussion of EMS districts and creating one protocol.

Career Chief’s report – Absent

Vermont State Firefighters Assn.: Al Barber

- Cadet Academy applications are due
- Working on convention no location yet.

Vermont Chief’s: Wendall Mansfield

- No report

Dept. of Forest, Park & Rec. – Absent, sent report in prior Litevich delivers it.

- Received grant from Public Safety to help deliver Fire Warden Classes this spring.
- Upcoming training calendar for Wildland

Professional Firefighters- Aaron Collette

- No report

Insurance: Gary Ouellette

No report

General Public – John Marcus

-No report

Other Business:

- Discussion of the Coalition by Perkins, draft of the electric vehicle.
- Chairs need to be nominated.
- *Collette is nominated and passes unanimously.*
- *Motion by Mansfield and seconded by Barber to re-elect Ruggles, passes unanimously.*

General Public – John Marcus

-No report

Motion to adjourn passes unanimously.

Next meeting scheduled for : **Monday, June 10th at the Vermont Fire Academy in Pittsford** at 9 am.

Note from Eileen....do we have any updates in e-mails or mailing addresses and are any of the current terms ending? We get notification of these from the Governor's office - Susan M. Spaulding, Director, Appointments to Boards and Commissions.

A list of current VTC neighbors is needed if the dates of burns is required.

We can receive the latest abutters list from the Randolph Development Review Board – Mardee Sanchez is our contact.