

Minutes of the October 24th 2014 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> |
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| Vt. Career Chief Assn. | Troy Ruggles |
| Dept. of Education | Alexander Northern |
| Vt. Fire Chiefs Assn. | Wendall Mansfield |
| Dept. of Forest, Park & Rec. | Lars Lund |
| Vt. Professional FF | Christopher Corbin |
| Dept. of Health | Absent |
| Vt. State FF Assn. | Al Barber |
| Dept. of Labor | Absent |
| VT Domestic Insurance Rep. | Jeff Price |
| Div. of Fire Safety | Mike Desrochers – Director of Fire Safety |
| General Public | Absent |
| Committee Chair | Absent |

Visitors: James Litevich
Terry Farr
Dan Zimmer

Motion to accept the minutes. Motion passes unanimously.

Report from the Division: Mike Desroches (Director):

- Working on FY16 budget. Special Fund account is doing very well.
- Division is very busy with plan reviews. Having a hard time keeping up.
- Bill Brown is the new Regional Manager of the Williston office.
- Still having difficulty filling full time positions in the Division.
- Fire Safety Calendar judging contest is on October 30th all are invited to attend and participate in the judging. Winners will be selected on November 7th.
- Will be accepting new Haz Mat vehicle soon.
- Division will not be enforcing Energy Efficiency.
- Desrochers is willing to share the legislative calendar. Desrochers can also send out the legislative report to everyone so that they know what is being discussed.
- Cannot spend Capital money on the Pittsford campus unless there is a 10-year plan and one voice coming from the campus. Therefore, the Fire Academy and Vermont State Police has been working with Criminal Justice to develop one. BGS spent \$50,000 dollars to have an organizational assessment done on the Pittsford campus. There is a steering committee working on this. Mike Desrochers is on it as well as Director of Law Enforcement, Criminal Justice, Director of Corrections. Troy Ruggles will also be a voice for the Fire Academy on the steering committee. The study will be submitted to the Legislature mid December and is the first step of trying to upgrade the Fire Academy and Pittsford Campus.
- Discussion of what would make it better; dorm space, making the cafeteria larger, etc.
- Desrochers met with a social media company and put money in the budget for the Division to run some social media messages.
- Discussion of the unfilled positions at the Academy. Desrochers says that the Homeland Security position is pretty much gone. 5% budget reduction exercise is currently underway. State Police is down troopers and the Commissioner is adamant that he will not cut another one. Desrochers is working on getting a temporary position to fill the certification technician. Eventually the position should be able to be filled with a full time position.
- The positions being filled are not about money but about position numbers and Public Safety is only allowed so many positions.
- Discussion of reducing workload. Discussion whether we should announce that we might have to cut back.
- Currently the Fire Academy cannot grow anymore. New projects or programs cannot be started. The Aerial, RIC and Inspector programs are on our plate everything else is on the back burner

Report of the Chief of Training: James Litevich

- Discussion of the handouts.
- The test banks were just updated because the standard has changed. SME need meet again and review the questions in the test bank.
- CPAT is next week with about 70 applicants. There have been many last minute candidates signing up, however with the IAFF restrictions candidates need the opportunity to attend orientation. Corbin will be contacting the IAFF to follow up on that stipulation.
- Discussion of the Aerial Pilot.
- Fire Act Grant was awarded to the Vermont Fire Academy. New cascade compressor unit for VTC, Forcible Entry mobile prop that will do multiple things, new SCBA's with spare cylinder as well as new instructor gear.

- For next year's Fire Act grant the Fire Academy will be applying for a new Live Fire Building for Pittsford.
- Fire Inspector course in underway. Jones and Bartlett is the core.
- New inspectors will be required to take this course instead of the NFPA course that they used before.
- Will be compliant with the standard and accreditation so students may be able to challenge the NFPA exam, but that is up to the NFPA.
- The program is coming along but with everything else going on at Fire Academy, it is being worked on as time allows.
- Discussion of current programs. 9 Firefighter I and 2 Firefighter II's. 21% have dropped since the start.
- Discussion of why students have been dropping. Fire Academy is tracking this information.
- Discussion on retention of students. Started with 285 students, now at 222 students.
- Review of new NFA course offerings and what the Vermont Fire Academy will be hosting.
- August 22 and 23 will be the Vermont/New Hampshire/Alabama weekend in Emmitsburg.
- NFPA 1072 will replace NFPA 472. It will change Haz Mat Operations. Will not come out until 2017.
- Discussion of the Council facilitating a building subcommittee of a few members of the Vermont Service Training Council to assist with the Pittsford campus development. They will work with the Vermont Criminal Justice Council members to speak as one voice.
- Will move forward with selecting members for this committee once the organizational study has been submitted.
- Discussion of USAR and technical rescue courses that is ongoing. Dan Gedney has been managing the Rope Technician, Heavy Machinery, and Vehicle Extrication courses. Swift water classes have been held.
- Used VTC site 5 times in the fall.

Curriculum

- Discussion of Flashover, Forcible Entry and LP Gas programs, and when they will be updated. Academy is working on certification programs first.
- Academy needs to integrate Natural Gas and Solar Panels into programs as well. However, there is not enough information out there or companies willing to provide information.
- Discussion whether part time employees can assist with rewriting the non-certification courses.
- Discussion of the practical based RIC Train the Trainer. Also the redundancy of Emergency Driver Training program within the Pumping Apparatus Driver Training Program as well as the Aerial Program. The Academy removed the EVO portion of the PADO course to reduce redundancy.
- Discussion that the Highway Safety will be redone in 2016 to meet the new national standard.
- Discussion of Aerial program.
- Motion is made to accept the program. Corbin would like to table the motion to review the evaluations because he feels changes may need to be made.
- Council request copies of the reviews are sent to them so that they may review and digest them.
- Corbin suggests having the instructors who took the Train the Trainer or who teach it because he feels that there were issues with the Williston pilot.
- Issues regarding practical time may be needed, each delivery needs to be somewhat specific to their department and aerial, and more trucks are needed to keep the practical days going need review.
- Motion is tabled to the next meeting.
- Corbin requests that the Academy send an email to instructors requesting reviews of the course as well as sending the Council copies of the evaluations.
- The two Pilots and the instructor reviews will be enough to make a decision at the next meeting.
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Statute & Policy Review

- None

Unfinished business:

- Discussion of the Fire Academy fit testing students.
- Discussion of who is responsible to make sure that the firefighters are fit tested.
- Discussion of students/chiefs signing off that students have been fit tested prior to entering an LDH environment.
- Discussion of the physical demands involved in taking the RIC training and how the Fire Academy is going to deal with it.
- Discussion of the pre-requisites of RIC course. Firefighter I will be at least the minimum however there may need to be additional requirements.
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New Business:

- Opening meeting law does apply to the Council. All Council meetings need to be posted which the Fire Academy will do through their website.
- Preparation and postings of agendas of every regular or special meeting need to be posted 48 hours prior to being held, which the Fire Academy will do.
- Conducting the meetings in an open format where anyone is welcome to attend and allow public input.
- Taking minutes and responding in a timely manner when there is an alleged violation of the law.
- It is legal to participate and vote using electronic means... telephone, Skype, web meetings.

- If more than a quorum or members attend via electronic means, there are some additional requirements.
- Question of who represents the Coalition of Fire and Rescue. There is no official member on the Council.

Haz Mat Team Report – Chris Herrick

- Haz Mat team has been working with Fletcher Allen with Ebola treatment and patient transport. Herrick requested to go off the minutes
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Department of Education: Alex Northern

- 13 students starting the program this year.
- Corbin would like to revisit the relationship between the Fire Academy and the VTC programs.
- Discussion of the Cadet Academy and where it will be held in 2015.
- State Police is looking at Camp Johnson or Norwich to hold the pre-basic class so that the Cadet Academy can come back to the Academy in Pittsford.
- Discussion of the politics surrounding the Cadet Academy.

Department of Health – Absent

Career Chief’s report – Troy Ruggles

- No Report

Vermont State Firefighters Assn.: Absent

- No report

Vermont Chief’s: Wendall Mansfield

- Is trying to step down from his position on the Council but no one is stepping up to take his position.

Dept. of Forest, Park & Rec. – Lund

- Almost done with the Firefighter I Wildland stand-alone courses.
- Speaks about his experience as taking the Firefighter I course.
- The current Wildland course test may be redone to align with the Firefighter I course quizzes.
- Expecting delivery of some Fire Response Delivery vehicles. Received a grant from Emergency Management. Need to contact individual fire departments for permission to use their radio frequencies.
- Looking to make changes on town forest fire warden legislation. Discussion of some of those changes.
- National Forest has hired Kevin Bonus as the new Fire Management Officer. Kevin was formerly the Fire Management Officer in Arizona.

Professional Firefighters – Christopher Corbin

- Thanks the Fire Academy for the support and work on the CPAT program.

Insurance – Jeff Price

- Brief summary of his work.

General Public – John Marcus

- No report

Other Business:

- None

General Public – John Marcus

-No report

Mansfield makes a motion to adjourn, seconded by Corbin. Motion to adjourn passes unanimously.

Next meeting scheduled for **Thursday, January 22nd at the Vermont Fire Academy in Pittsford** at 10 am.