

Minutes of the June 4th 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.	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	Christopher Bell
Vt. State FF Assn.	Al Barber
Dept. of Labor	Absent
VT Domestic Insurance Rep.	Gary Ouellette
Div. of Fire Safety	Mike Desroches – Director of Public Safety
General Public	John Marcus
Committee Chair	Neil Fulton

Visitors: James Litevich
Michael Skaza

Motion to approve the January minutes as is, motion was seconded. Passes unanimously.

Report from the Division: Mike Desroches (Director):

- New Haz Mat Command vehicle.
- \$500,000 recession cuts.
- Budget for us and Public Safety as a whole next year will be tough. May have to look at different ways of doing things.
- There was an idea to let the CST team respond to Haz Mat incidents.
- Working through the governance committee steps for the Fire Academy. Governance committee members are being decided.
- Cadet Academy was moved to Pittsford. It will alternate being held at VTC and VFA. Division will be paying for rooms at the Academy for the Cadet Academy.
- Discussion of the reorganization of the Fire Investigation team.
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Report of the Chief of Training: James Litevich

- Council member terms are ending in August or have ended. Barber, Marcus and Ruggles need to be renewed.
- Discussion of FY15 program results and FY14. Discussion of why people drop from the program.
- Fire Academy does not let students take modules any more.
- Difficult to make up a practical if you miss it so it may be a factor to dropping out.
- Corbin is questions Chris Bell what the EMS certification rate is. EMR is probably close to Firefighter I, and then goes up from there. 70% pass rate for the National Registry exam.
- EMS classes are paid for while Firefighter I has no fee.
- Discussion of how many current certified Firefighters there are.
- Discussion of instructor pool and if they are able to keep up with the workload.
- Discussion of Aerial requests.
- Discussion of Fire Inspector Course moving forward to pilot soon.
- Fire Officer and Fire Instructor programs need to be redone since there is a new book.
- Flammable Gas program has been redone and is ready to go.
- Collette and Petit are working on the Flashover program.
- Discussion of the NFA on Campus weekend coming up in August.
- RICT program is being modularized as well as props need to be built.
- Corbin has been working on trying to modularize it with Zimmer. However, he thinks there need to be working group to discuss options and issues that might come with demographics.
- Discussion of whether the RICT program needs to be longer than 48 hours.
- Corbin is going to put together a working group for the RICT program.
- Discussion of the test bank review.
- USAR program has Confined Space and Trench class coming up in July.
- Discussion of governance committee
- Discussion of the Fire Act grant and the burn building for Pittsford.
- Discussion of the staffing at the Fire Academy. Homeland security position went to Emergency Management. Certification Technician position is gone.
- Discussion of the staffing at the Fire Academy.
- Discussion of Technical Schools and what our role is and concerns about what the quality of students are coming out of the program. Meeting will be June 25th.

- Discussion of the Rubble Pile.
- Discussion of the Firefighter I and II course requests. Ruggles requests the Fire Academy make recommendations to the Council via email.
- Ruggles suggested that the Fire Academy hold to the 15 student minimum and maybe merge if numbers dwindle below 15.
- Discussion of whether combining courses for Live Fire is too much?
- Discussion of whether the Fire Academy is being allocated too much Haz Mat money through the grant. Now that Firefighter I requires Operations it seems that less Operations courses are being requested.
- Corbin comments that a Combined Course is important because a lot of people who want to enter the Fire Service as a Career want to take a combined program.
- Discussion of bumping the student minimum up to accommodate drop out rate.

Committee Reports

Curriculum Committee – Neil Fulton

- No report

Statute & Policy Review Committee – Fulton

- No Report

Unfinished business:

- None

New Business:

- State Police have offered to hold a two-hour clandestine lab Awareness course for Fire Departments and put it in the Firefighter I program.

Department of Education: Alex Northern

- VTC graduation was held on the VTC campus.
- Ten graduates for this year.
- Seventeen students accepted into VTC Fire Science program for next year. Ten of them have accepted.
- VTC is now requiring students pass the National Registry test in order to graduate.
- The Fire Inspector course was eliminated from the VTC course load.
- Discussion of whether the Paramedic course will be held at VTC.

Department of Health – Christopher Bell

- Jay Peak will be location of the EMS and EM conference.

Career Chief's report – Troy Ruggles

- No Report

Vermont State Firefighters Assn.: Al Barber

- No report

Vermont Chief's: Wendall Mansfield

- No Report

Dept. of Forest, Park & Rec. – Lund

- Discussion of the Burn Ban

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Professional Firefighters- Christopher Corbin

- No report

Insurance: Gary Ouellette

- No report

General Public – John Marcus

- No report

Other Business:

- None

General Public – John Marcus

- No report

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

Next meeting scheduled for **Thursday, September 10th at the Vermont Fire Academy in Pittsford** at 10 am.

Rescheduled for October 5th 2015