

Vermont Fire Service Council Minutes of the October 5, 2015 meeting held at the Vermont Fire Academy in Pittsford.

Roll Call:

<u>Organization Representatives / or Sub</u>	<u>Ex-Officio Members</u>
Vt. Career Chief Assn.	Aaron Collette - Proxy
Dept. of Education	Alexander Northern
Vt. Fire Chiefs Assn.	Wendall Mansfield
Dept. of Forest, Park & Rec.	Lars Lund - Absent
Vt. Professional FF	Christopher Corbin
Dept. of Health	Christopher Bell
Vt. State FF Assn.	Al Barber
Dept. of Labor	Absent
VT Domestic Insurance Rep.	Jeffrey Pryce - Absent
Div. of Fire Safety	Mike Desroches – Director of Public Safety
General Public	John Marcus

Visitors: James Litevich
Michael Skaza
Terry Farr

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

Report from the Division: Mike Desroches (Director):

- Discussion of retirements, the Division will lose Eileen McGee and Daniel Zimmer and two electrical inspectors.
- The Director has no authority as of now to fill positions.
- Budget is level funded this year.
- USAR was authorized to fill 90 temporary positions under the Division of Fire Safety
- November 6th is the Fire Safety calendar celebration at the House Chambers.
- Todd Cosgrove was hired as the new Haz Mat Crew Chief.
- Governance Committee for the Pittsford Complex has met twice.
- Discussion on what the Division of Fire Safety including the Haz Mat team and Fire Academy do for rehab.

Report of the Chief of Training: James Litevich

- Discussion of the packet that was distributed at the start of the meeting.
- The Vermont Fire Academy is up for reaccreditation. Only 85% of the reaccreditation paperwork is complete. Since accreditation expires in December and the ProBoard needs three to four months to review it they would not have enough time to review it before it lapsed, so we had to request an extension.
- Seven test banks were just released so Vermont Fire Academy Instructors have been coming to the Fire Academy to review and validate questions.
- 225 students started Firefighter I, II and the combined program. As of October 2, 2015 student enrollment was 184. 304 students started last year and 163 made it through certification for various reasons.
- Five National Fire Academy programs coming up between now and August.
- Fire Inspector I application process is open. This is the first pilot.
- Discussion of RICT program and the building of the props for the course.
- Discussion of the Vermont Fire Academy's financial ability to purchase the RICT materials for the course. Estimation for the props is about \$37,000.
- The RICT program has a five person working group. Timeline for the course delivery is proving to be a big challenge.
- The RICT student and instructor manual and PowerPoint are being worked on.
- Discussion of the Vermont Fire Academy looking at Solar Energy training for Firefighters.
- Discussion of the Vermont Fire Academy holding the next Fire Officer course in Hartford.
- Discussion that the Vermont Fire Academy is in the process of updating the Fire Instructor I course and holding a course prior to the delivery of the Fire Officer course in Hartford.
- Corbin suggests that the Vermont Fire Academy schedule the Fire Officer course and Fire Instructor course on an annual basis and not wait for the request to be submitted.
- USAR is transitioning to a "team" concept like the Haz Mat team.
- Paramedic program is up and running at Vermont Technical College.

Committee Reports

Curriculum Committee –

- Subject Matter Experts have taken over for the curriculum committee, so each curriculum will have different committee.
- Discussion on if a formal SME group should be established and brought to the Council prior to working on the curriculum. It is decided that since the committee works with full time Vermont Fire Academy it is not necessary.

Statute & Policy Review Committee –

- Established today.

Unfinished business:

- None

New Business:

- Council needs to establish recertification requirements for Fire Inspector.
- Vermont Fire Academy is proposing a three year recertification time period. 60 hours of continuing education over a three year period.
- Section 5.6 in Council rules need to be changed in order for the Vermont Fire Training Council to have the authority to recertify programs other than Firefighter I and II. Suggest the change to be broad so that a rule change does not have to be done every time a certification program is added.
- Discussion of what the Vermont Fire Academy would like to see as required for certification.
- Discussion of how to make a rule change.
- Discussion of recognizing NFPA Inspector certification through the reciprocity process therefore they would meet the pre-requisites for the Fire Inspector II course.
- The Vermont Fire Academy will be developing a Fire Inspector II program in the future.
- Discussion that the Vermont Fire Academy Fire Inspector program is tailored to Vermont Inspectors while still meeting the Standard.
- Discussion of creating a Rules Committee to work on the rule change that is being requested by the Vermont Fire Academy.

Wendall makes a motion to accept Skaza's proposal for Fire Inspector recertification requirements as a draft, Seconded by Barber. Motion carries. (attached).

Motion made by Barber to establish a committee to review the entire rules document and include adding the Fire Inspector to a program the Council is able to recertify, Marcus seconds. Motion carries.

- Discussion that the rules should be broader and apply to any program.
- Discussion on how many people and who appoints committee members.
- Corbin suggests that a three person committee be formed to update and review the Council rules.
- Collette is the proxy for the Vermont Career Chiefs.
- Ruggles, Marcus and Corbin will be the committee and they will update and review the rules and bring to the Council in January.
- Discussion of the revised/updated Flashover program.
- Instructor guide is still being finished and a little research is ongoing.
- Discussion that the LP program has been finished and a Pilot has not been scheduled.
- South Burlington would like to Pilot the program.
- Discussion about the Technical School programs and VTC program.
- Technical School programs and VTC program will now be allowed two attempts at the written but they must retest within 60 days of notification of failing.
- Those programs will now have to complete ten practical stations and they will be allowed two attempts at the failed skill, however students will be retested on the skill that they fail as well as one additional random skill station that they will have two attempts at.
- Discussion of the testing process.
- Discussion that the Vermont Fire Academy will be implementing the same practical testing for Vermont Fire Academy sanctioned courses. However, a decision must be made on whether students who fail a practical station on their second attempt will have to take the entire Firefighter I or II course again, or just that module.
- Kim Richardson, is a current technical school program teacher and wants to discuss the technical school programs.
- Discussion that the Department of Education should be monitoring these school programs not the Vermont Fire Academy.
- Richardson discusses that he does not like the age requirement. However, the date is going to be changed to the 18 by the Live Fire date.

Department of Education: Alex Northern

- No Report

Department of Health: Christopher Bell

- No Report

Career Chief's report: Aaron Collette (proxy)

- No Report

Vermont State Firefighters Assn.: Al Barber

- No Report

Vermont Chief's: Wendall Mansfield

- No Report

Dept. of Forest, Park & Rec.: Absent

- No Report

Professional Firefighters: Christopher Corbin

- No report

Insurance: Absent

- No report

General Public: John Marcus

- No report

Other Business:

- None

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

Next meeting scheduled for **Monday, January 11th at the Division of Fire Safety in Berlin** at 10 am.