

The meeting was held at the Division of Fire Safety Central Office in Berlin on March 28, 2017 and called to order by Chairperson Corbin at 9:00 a.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Organization Representatives**

Vermont Career Chiefs Association	Troy Ruggles - phone
Secretary of Education	Alexander Northern(designee) - phone
Vermont Fire Chiefs Association	Wendall Mansfield
Commissioner of the Department of Forest, Parks & Recreation	Lars Lund(designee)
Professional Firefighters of Vermont	Christopher Corbin, Chairperson
Commissioner of the Department of Health	Absent
Vermont State Firefighters Association	Bill Elwell - proxy
Commissioner of the Department of Labor	Les Burns - proxy
Vermont Domestic Insurance	Jeff Pryce
Division of Fire Safety Director	Michael Desrochers
General Public	John Marcus – Vice Chairperson
Commissioner of Public Safety	Absent

Visitors: Peter Lynch, Michael Skaza, Jessica Pomainville, Terry Farr, William Jones, Joe Benard.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Marcus and seconded by Lund to accept the previous meeting minutes as written. PASSED.

**Report from the Executive Director of the Division of Fire Safety (Michael Desrochers):**

There is a new Commissioner for DPS and the Director is going to invite him to the next Council meeting. Chris Herrick is the new Deputy Director of DPS. Erica Bornemann is the new Director of Emergency Management. Bob Schnell is leaving Emergency Management to be the new Security Director for Vermont.

DPS budget should be out this week and the Director should know if there are some recision cuts or not.

The Executive order that would make VOSHA move to the Department of Public Safety seems to have gone away.

PIVOT training is underway.

Licensing is under committee review and the Blue Light bill has stalled in the Montpelier. Fire Academy was reaccredited in January. 1.5 million dollars that was slated for the East Cottage has been taken away. The hope is to take some of the major money that is paid and move forward with the program.

Homeland Security funding is getting very tight so a new funding would need to be established. Colchester Rescue has offered to give all of their equipment to the team.

Scheduling a meeting with the USAR MOU parties to discuss how to fund the team going

forward.

**Report from the Chief of Training: Peter Lynch**

Announces the updated job descriptions that the Fire Academy is going to be moving forward with.

Three new instructors have been hired: James Wheatley, Doug Brent and Alex Northern.

Joe Beaudry has said that he will be submitting a resignation letter.

Regional Fire schools are coming up. Peter Lynch met with all the Regional Fire Schools and hopes to work with them next year and have a better relationship with the schools. There is a meeting scheduled for June 7<sup>th</sup> at Berlin.

BGS has contracted an engineering firm to relocate the stored piping out of the way of the project. Preliminary site plans have been submitted and once approved it will go out to bid.

The Academy has created timelines for the 12 initiatives they wish to accomplish this year. Strategic Planning. Technical Rescue working group members of state USAR team and VFA instructors identifying the needs for technical rescue training and what the Academy's place is in that realm. Standard Operating Guides are in the process of being developed. Instructor development and classification. An Instructor development day has been announced and is in the planning process. Site projects: Burn building, Classroom 2 is almost done, AFG grant has been submitted for Instructor PPE and rescue tools at the Academy. Course and Program development is underway for a Basic exterior Firefighter course, work has started on the LP Gas program and AADO and PADO will follow, still working with the TIMS working group.

1981 eligible for recertification, 1702 has recertified, 74 warning letters were sent for not having their 24 hours of required training, 48 people have issued decertified letters.

About 201 new certified Firefighters should be added after this year's classes finish.

Basic exterior firefighter course is moving forward. Five meetings are being planned to discuss the options. Meetings will be in May in Swanton, Newport, Berlin, VFA and somewhere in the Bellows Falls area so that all corners of the State are covered.

The Vermont Fire Academy is looking at either a 50 hour or 100 hour course that would give students an understanding of how act safely on a fireground. It would follow the J&B curriculum. The class would not gain certification but instead be entry level.

Ruggles asks if the Chief of Training is going to ask VOSHA for input on the course and the Chief of Training did discuss it with the Dan Whipple.

The development of this new course will not affect keeping up with the other courses that have been shelved nor will it affect the funding for other courses.

**Report for the Council Chair:**

A reminder about 3.1.5 about using proxy representatives and that the request must be submitted to the Chairperson prior the meeting in writing.

**Statue and Rule Revision:**

No comments have been made by any members of the Council to date. The Committee will move forward with their draft.

The Vermont Fire Academy has no authority to recertify Fire Inspectors now, so the changes are time sensitive. The Division will be paying the fees associated with the rule changes.

**Unfinished business:**

Peter Lynch discusses that the SOG form now has an effective date on it. The Vermont Fire Academy will post SOG's on the Vermont Fire Academy website that relate to the Training Council.

**New business:**

ICS100 is offered in Firefighter I and Chapter 5 is offered in Firefighter II. The Training Council requires both ICS100 and 200 for Firefighter I and Firefighter II certification and the NFPA does not require the training. There is question if the students are using ICS properly despite the training. Students can go online and get the training but the question is are they actually learning? Instructors are beginning to question if we should continue what we are doing or change the way that the learning is done. Vermont Fire Academy is not sure what direction to go in despite discussion. A list of different options for ICS100 and ICS200 training.

Peter Lynch asks if the Council wants to open it up to a discussion today or wait for the Academy to make a recommendation at the next meeting.

There are no ICS JPR's for Firefighter I however there are 2 JPR's for Firefighter II and Chapter 5 meets that requirement.

Volunteers will not like adding more hours to the curriculum.

NIMS ICS is very different from how the average volunteer department uses it.

Many volunteer departments rely on the Firefighter I or II programs to get their firefighters ICS training because it is needed for grants and some inoperability within a department.

Students get more out the

When students started being directed to take the test online the program became more watered down and students only focused on the passing the test.

Emergency Management coming into teach who are not Firefighters may not be able to connect with the students and the students may not learn how to use ICS in "the fire world".

The emphasis on the use of ICS at Live Fire training may be too extreme.

Peter Lynch after hearing the Council members feedback asks that the Council give the Fire Academy staff until June to "widdle" down the list options and then bring that back to the Council to help make a final decision.

Lars Lund discusses that in the Wildland course within the Firefighter I program and they use basic ICS at the practical.

There may be a benefit in teaching ICS training earlier in the course and then instructors using ICS in practical sessions so that students get more hands on and realistic ICS training.

Discussion of the three types of approval for SOG's:

Approval required – in order for the SOG to move forward and be approved the Council must have a chance to review and comment on the SOG.

Endorsement – The Fire Academy does not need the Council approval but wants to show the Council before the SOG is approved.

Just for your information – information does not involve the Council however it is good if the Council gets a chance to see the information so that they can explain it to their constituents.

Expiration of Vermont Certification guideline explains how a certification gets terminated or expires.

***Motion by Ruggles to accept the Expiration of Certification SOG, seconded by Burn. Motion passes unanimously.***

Recertification SOG echoes the guidelines that the Training Council set in their own rules. The Fire Academy added the 6 months per year past their expiration date is the required training. This does not validate USARRA.

3B says that certification must be valid at the time that

***Motion by Elwell, seconded by Marcus. Passes unanimously with amendment to write out the date and change Firefighter's to firefighters.***

Eligibility SOG has no change from our current practice just puts it on paper.

No numeric score is given to Firefighter I and Firefighter II psychomotor but there is a numeric in Fire Instructor program. Change 4c to say as required by the course description/syllabus for the program/level that they are trying to achieve.

Successful course completion is what is required to take the Certification exam and the second column is what makes up the certification

Definition of the Career Clusters is read from the internet.

Council asks for a reference to what a Career Cluster is in the SOG.

**Motion to approve the Eligibility to Test with a change to 4c and a reference to what Career Clusters are made by Lund, seconded by Elwell. Motion passes unanimously.**

A request for a recertification extension by Tim Cronan and Steve Leinoff has been made in written format. Both individuals were invited to speak at the Council meeting. Tim has not received 24 hours in training for the past three years. He does have the option to Challenge to obtain certification again. He will continue to hold ProBoard certification no matter what the Council decides. He has not been current since he certified he has already been granted an extension by the previous Chief of Training.

The question is asked if this process is new to the Council. The Chief of Training says that the previous to his hiring the former Chief of Training would handle these decisions on his own but the

current Chief of Training is not comfortable because the Council rules state that it is not his decision.

5.6.1 is referenced. Peter Lynch discusses what the State appeal process says. Chief of Training has the authority to tell him he does not meet the requirements for Vermont certification, therefore the Fire Academy must make the denial.

Cronan would then get to appeal the rule that says he must get 24 hours of training a year to maintain certification.

The Council does not have the authority to give variances. The suggestion is made that in the next Rules revision the Council should build into their authority.

Mike Desrochers suggests that the individual be explained the process and asked to come to the next Training Council meeting.

Chief of Training must send a letter to Cronan denying his extension. Then Cronan has 30 days to apply for an appeal. At the next Council meeting the Chief of Training must inform them of the appeal, if he chooses to appeal.

The Council is trying to make sure that they are handling this situation correctly procedurally.

The Council chair sets a meeting for right after the June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Council meeting at the Fire Academy to listen to any appeals that are brought to the Academy and Council between now and then.

The Academy is trying to follow the recertification rules set forth by the Council which was not done in the past.

Live Fire Eligibility, Program and Course minimums/maximums, Staffing levels are all SOG's coming in front of the Council for endorsement.

***Motion to endorse the Live Fire Eligibility SOG made by Ruggles and seconded by Lund, passes unanimously.***

Minimum for AADO and PADO is only 5 because of the requirement to train on your equipment as well as the hands-on practicals.

The Fire Officer I/II course has been cancelled because the student minimum was not met by the application deadline.

***Motion to endorse the Program and Course minimums/maximums SOG made by Elwell and seconded by Mansfield, passes unanimously with an amendment to change the date.***

Instructor to student ratios come from other organizations, ratios set by NFPA standard and taking in to account safety and funding.

Lead Instructors may make a request to their Coordinator for added instructors if they think that they need the extra help.

***Motion to endorse the Staffing Levels SOG made by Mansfield and seconded by Marcus.***

***Opposed by Corbin but the motion still passes.***

Vehicle use, Apprenticeship process, Classroom, Student Materials Reimbursement SOGs are brought in front of the Council for information only.

The Chief of Training suggests that that the Council should look at a Challenge Process for Fire Instructor I certification.

Corbin wants there to be more stringent prerequisites for eligibility to take a Fire Instructor I Challenge.

The Chief of Training is going to bring back a proposal for the next meeting.

**Coalition Report: (Desrochers)**

At the last meeting they reviewed the upcoming legislative

**Vermont Career Chiefs: (Ruggles)**

May 16 is the upcoming Seminar at Lake Morrey.

**Vermont State Firefighters Association: (Elwell)**

No Report

**Vermont Fire Chiefs: (Mansfield)**

No Report

**Professional Firefighters of Vermont: (Corbin)**

PTFV

A meeting will be held next week about CPAT

**Agency of Natural Resources: (Lund)**

Warden meetings are underway

Upcoming meeting to forecast Wildland season

**Department of Education: (Northern)**

Absent

**Department of Labor: (Burns)**

Reported that the climate in Washington is such that we should not expect any fire service occupational safety rules change in the near future.

**General Public: (Marcus)**

No Report

Next meeting June 27, 2017 at the Vermont Fire Academy in Pittsford. The start time will be 1000. If an appeals meeting is necessary the Council will meet right after the next Council meeting.

***Corbin makes a motion to adjourn, Ruggles seconded it***

