

Vermont Fire Service Training Council

Minutes of the June 15th, 2010 meeting
Vermont Fire Academy
Pittsford.

Roll Call:

Organization Representatives / or Sub

Vt. Career Chief Assn.
Dept. of Education
Vt. Fire Chiefs Assn.
Dept. of Forest, Park & Rec.
Vt. Professional FF
Dept. of Health
Vt. State FF Assn.
Dept. of Labor
VT Domestic Insurance Rep.
Dept. of Public Safety
Div. of Fire Safety
General Public

Ex-Officio Members

Troy Ruggles, Chief of St. Johnsbury
Absent
Wendall Mansfield, Stowe Fire Director
Lars Lund
Aaron Collette, Chair Burlington FF
Absent
Tom Estey - representative
Robert McLeod
Gary Ouellette,
Lt. Stephen Poirot, VSP
John Wood, Director of the Division of Fire Safety
Lenny Zenonos

Visitors:

Neil Fulton, Curriculum Committee Chair
Div. of Fire Safety, Terry Farr, Training Coordinator, VFA
Div. of Fire Safety Jim Litevich, Chief, VFA
Div. of Fire Safety Dan Zimmer, Sr. Training Coordinator, VFA

Introduction and brief history of the new member Lenny Zenonos.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Discussion that this is the first official meeting since 2009 and to move ahead with business.

Report of the Director of the Division of Fire Safety: John Wood

- Discussion of VTC site. Director Wood, Jim Litevich and Michael Skaza met with VTC folks the previous week and discussed the car and dumpster prop and transportation around the site.
- Storage building is almost complete.
- Only live burn counts against the 35, so the VTC program can use it on a regular basis as can outside departments, as long as they go through us.
- VTC would like a Firefighter II program.
- Still limited for 30 one way trips per day, but did not really discuss this at the meeting.
- Pat Mancini will be the acting VTC president, and is very supportive of program.
- Theatrical smoke is not counted as live fire.
- Budget is projected to end ahead of last year, and we were able to support more programs and support Regional Fire Schools with more classes. Also, instructor travel pay was put back in place.
- Still need to move forward with some purchases which include replacing the totaled vehicle.
- Discussion of ribbon cutting and how it went.
- Discussion of positions being posted for the Fire Safety Division.

Report of the Chief of Training: Jim Litevich

- Briefing on the Pro Board review, which we passed so VFA is accredited for another 5 years.
- Last FF I program has finished up until next year.
- Review of course numbers, 10 FF I's with passing grade of about 96%, now approximately 2700 FF I, 3 FF II's and about 600 certified FF II's.
- Number of hours done last year 53000 includes, HMA to Fire Officer. Stand Alone modules about 5000. 3200 hours of Technical Rescue
- Officer I starts in Brattleboro soon.
- Driving Simulator is almost ready, Art Howard is going to be working on it this summer, a laptop needed to be purchased to be used specifically for the course.
- 13 Flashover done this year.
- In-state weekend was a success.
- Discussion of this years NFA program plan, offer one a month.
- Technical Rescue review.2005 memo was pointed out that says that if the state training council approves technical rescue courses then it is eligible for Homeland Security funding.
- Still trying to finish up the new Administrative Building.
- Ribbon Cutting ceremony planned for VTC in September.
- Director Wood and Chief Litevich met with the Director of Building and General Services and the decision has been made to push forward with turning the east cottage at the Police Academy into dormitory for use of the Vermont Fire Academy.

Committee Reports

Curriculum Committee – Neil Fulton

- Technical Rescue program has been reviewed by committee and is ready to go, would like to provide ProBoard certificate for completion.
- VFA will have to apply for an extension of accreditation. Staff has been reviewing the programs and is trying to determine if they can be certified. Chief Litevich would like have the courses approved by Training Council and then pursue the ProBoard. Locke, Cannon and O'Neil have approved the courses for use.
- Discussion that the Spec. rescue courses are not compliant with NFPA standards. This is why we turned to New York's programs because they are current with the standard. Program Coordinator Dan Gedney is giving credit to NY but is redoing them to fit to Vermont.
- More discussion of the standard and what certificate will be giving out at the end of the successful completion of the course. Discussion on if past programs will receive the same certification as the new ones or if those who have already taken it will have to challenge or retake it.
- VFA is planning on if this if approved. NY will come over and run a Train the Trainer for our Tech Rescue instructors.
- Discussion on how many instructors have reviewed this program and looked at it from the "presenter/instructor" view.
- Ruggles asked the question if Council can approve it as a pilot and still qualify for Homeland Security. Answer – yes.
- ***Motion by Ruggles to approve the 7 Tech. Rescue courses as pilots but the Council will have to meet again to fully approve it in the Fall, after feedback from instructors has been brought in front of the Council. In addition, so long as the program does not change any person taking that class (pilot) before ProBoard certification would get reciprocity for that certification. Seconded by Estey or Mansfield. Motion carries unanimously. ...112.***
- New Hampshire has offered to deliver an Aerial Operations Train the Trainer for VT instructors, NFPA compliant and ProBoard certified.
- Discussion of the offer. New Hampshire program is up to date. New Hampshire would hand this program off to Vermont. Is this an IFSTA program? Norwich is holding the class, so the question to the Council can we send an instructor and the curriculum committee could then review it and then come to the Council with their recommendations.
- Discussion on sending Leinoff to the class and let him give feedback to curriculum committee.
- Ruggles makes a motion for the Council to pursue/develop/adopt an aerial program for the State of Vermont, whether it is NH or not.
- Collette makes a motion that the Council has the curriculum committee review the curriculum from NH for the Aerial class and that if it meets the IFSTA standard that it be brought back to the Council for approval via conference call, amended to that, so that it would be NFPA standard.
- Discussion on how many instructors to send.
- Discussion to send some instructors to the Norwich class and then have curriculum committee review it and then Council can take action on it after it has been reviewed and attended.
- ***Wood makes a motion that the Council adopts the NH Aerial class for use in Vermont. Seconded by Este. Motion carries unanimously.***
- Discussion of the last "working" meeting and that they tabled the approval of Firefighter I, II and combined courses.

Curriculum Committee Report – cont'd

- *Collette makes a motion to adopt the FF I and II combined curriculum. Seconded by Mansfield.*
- Discussion that any previous Haz Mat Operations certification meets the HMO requirement for the current FF I and FF II standard.
- **Motion carries unanimously.**
- Discussion of the hours that are on paper for the combined Firefighter I and II hours.
- Discussion of what the difference is between Fire Fighter I and II.

Statue & Policy Review Committee – Neil Fulton

- No report

Unfinished business:

- Need to elect a Chair and Vice Chair
- *Mansfield nominates Collette as Chair, and Lund seconds. Motion passes unanimously.*
- *Motion to elect Chief Ruggles as Vice Chair, by Collette, Estey seconds. Motion passes unanimously.*

New Business:

- Handout of previous Fire Fighter I and II courses and their locations and another that has the current FY11 Fire Fighter I and II requests.
- Discussion of the current requests. Williston has received a grant and will pay for the Fire Fighter II course but will open it up to the county.
- Discussion of the budget and if there are any constraints and that all requests are listed. Can take up to 15 programs.
- 98 FF I instructors and 38 FF II instructors which could be an issue more than money when it comes program delivery.
- Discussion of if we can support all the FF II's requested, Skaza said we could if the schedule was well organized. Litevich sees using local department equipment as a potential liability. Director Wood says that department equipment can be used for practical's if we don't have the equipment available but we should try to use ours first.
- Discussion of what courses should be approved.
- Ruggles suggests that the Concord class become a combined FF I and II. He is willing to Lead it. Ruggles will contact the Chiefs about approving it.
- Discussion about the need for more Fire Fighter II instructors and trying to get more.
- Discussion about the need for more Fire Fighter II courses presented a year.
- *Motion by Estey that Fire Fighter I's be held in: Middlebury, Bennington, Essex, Concord, Sheldon, Newport City, here at the Academy, Northfield and in Windsor County, but the one in Concord be a I and I if they request it. And that the Fire Fighter II's be in: Middlebury, Bennington, Stowe, the Academy, Barre City, Windsor County and the one in Williston that is being paid for. Ruggles seconds it.*
- Discussion on what if more classes come in. Some believe the deadline is the deadline; Director Wood disagrees and thinks that if more come in then they should be reviewed and may be honored.
- Director Wood says that if one comes in, he will evaluate if we can put on another course in addition to the ones that the Council has already approved.
- Discussion of the on line course and how they will be using the schedules from the pre approved courses for practical objectives.
- Discussion of Dan's acronyms.
- VFA hosted EVDT and Emergency Vehicle Trailer Towing.
- Discussion of the Training Council moving towards adopting a Rapid Intervention Training course, so as to meet a standard.
- Ruggles asks the question can we/do we have the funds to develop our own?
- The thought is to adopt one that already exists.

Vermont Career Chiefs: Troy Ruggles

- No Report

Vermont State Firefighters Assn.: Tom Estey

- Cadet Academy starts on the July 11th and the convention is after that.

Vermont Chief's: Wendall Mansfield

- No Report

Dept. of Forest, Park & Rec.: Lars Lund

- Will take care of instructor assignments for the courses.
- All Wildland instructors will be updated.
- Like to hold practical in September/October and utilize Saturday and Sunday.

Professional Firefighter's of Vermont – Aaron Collette

- Legislative Day will be at the Academy this year.
- CPAT has only had good reviews and the coordination was well received.

Insurance Report:

- No Report

Any other business, as it relates to the Council:

- None

Motion to adjourn, Zenonos, seconded by Estey.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, September 20th at the Division of Fire Safety, Berlin, 9 am.