

Minutes of the January 10, <sup>2011</sup> meeting held at the Vermont Fire Academy in 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  
Div. of Fire Safety  
General Public  
Committee Chair

**Ex-Officio Members**

Troy Ruggles, Chief of St. Johnsbury  
Absent  
Wendall Mansfield  
Lars Lund - late  
Aaron Collette, Chair Burlington FF  
Absent  
Tom Estey  
Absent  
Gary Ouellette  
Steve Poirot  
John Wood, Director of Fire Safety  
Jim Litevich, Chief of Vt. Fire Academy  
Absent  
Neil Fulton

Visitors:

Neil Fulton  
Terry Farr  
Dan Zimmer  
Todd Cosgrove  
Michael Skaza  
Keith Flynn, Commissioner of Public Safety

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**Approved Minutes, motion by Mansfield, Estey seconds it, passes.**

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

- Working on 2012 budget, 2011 looks good so far
- Welcomes the Commissioner

**Report of the Chief of Training: Jim Litevich**

- VTC building is closed for the season, 5 scheduled burns for the spring.
- Also working on car and dumpster prop for VTC.
- Up 15 to 20% in student enrollment this year compared to last.
- About to start an additional two Firefighter II programs.
- 12 out of 17 completed Fire Officer I in Brattleboro, starting to schedule FO II for them in early fall.
- The staff is currently reviewing policies and procedures that will govern the operation. Discussion of the policy review.
- Successful NFA programs this year compared to the prior years. Discussion of the course call VFA will be submitting to the NFA for 2012.
- Welcome back Todd Cosgrove.
- Discussion of where the swift water program is.
- Discussion of Online course status and whether we can host a Firefighter II online also.
- 18 approved FF I and FF II classes, update on the status of the ongoing courses and those cancelled.
- Discussion of the combination FFI/II course.
- Discussion of the change in the NIMS 100 and 200 curriculum.
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**Committee Reports**

**Curriculum Committee – Neil Fulton**

- Discussion of Aerial Course and comparison to PADO class.
- Pre requisite for Aerial FF I and Valid Drivers License
- Discussion of removing Firefighter I as a prerequisite of EVDT.
- ***Motion to strike prerequisite of FF I as a requirement of EVDT by Collette, second by Estey. Motion passes***
- Students do not need to take the EVDT from the VFA to get credit, however they do need to provide a copy certificate for the Chief of Training to verify its equivalency to the standard.
- Discussion of also removing Firefighter I from PADO modules but for certification it will be required
- Discussion of difference between EVO and EVDT and how they are not equivalent due to the fact that the EVDT does not have all the skill drills of EVO.

- *Motion by Estey to accept the new PADO course (the one on the paper) without the EVO course being required, however for certification you must have Firefighter I, but EVDT is a prerequisite to take the PADO course. Second by Ruggles. Motion carries.*
- Discussion of the Aerial course curriculum hours, which is based on NH.
- *Motion by Estey to accept the new Aerial course (the one on the paper) for certification you must have Firefighter I, but EVDT is a prerequisite to take the course. Second by Ruggles. Motion carries.*
- Discussion that VFA instructors will be trained by NH, either us attending their training in NH or they are willing to come here and do a large train the trainer.
- Fulton will redo the paperwork for everyone to review again.
- Fulton has phone call in to Jones & Bartlett on the RIT program and will update Council.

**Statue & Policy Review Committee – Neil Fulton**

- No report

**Unfinished business:**

- Discussion of minors and their participation in our courses.
- VOSHA can not make a ruling since it is not an employee/employer relationship.
- However, they do say that students under 16 should not be participating.
- Discussion that students are workers comp is the responsibility of the sponsoring department.
- Collette would like the Vermont DPS lawyers review the child labor law and tell us what we should be allowing students to do within our curriculum and then the Council can make a policy decision.
- John Wood says that it is up to the State of Vermont to decide who can or can't participate, not the Council.
- Discussion that VOSHA letter was too vague and did not list the actual skills minor students can not do.

**New Business:**

- Vote on new Council Chair and Vice Chair.
- *Motion by Estey, second by Ruggles to nominate Collette to Council Chair for another year. Motion Carries.*
- *Motion by Mansfield and second by Estey to nominate Ruggles as Vice Chair, motion carries.*

**Vermont Career Chiefs: Troy Ruggles**

- Wish O'Neil good luck
- Speaker Gordon Graham will be back in October.
- Career Chiefs are trying to get the annual conference going again.

**Vermont State Firefighters Assn.: Tom Estey**

- No Report

**Vermont Chief's: Wendall Mansfield**

- No meeting until October 12, some discussion of VT Chiefs rejoining the Career Chiefs.

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

- Fall loading of Wildland programs in Firefighter I classes is helpful, there are a few spring deliveries scheduled.
- There is money for spring stand alones, Lars asked that we have department/or us contact the regional supervisor.
- Money is needed for fire warden meetings that are coming up this spring. Poirot suggests checking with Homeland Security monies.

**Professional Firefighter's of Vermont – Aaron Collette**

- PFFV trying to address or overcome the layoffs that some Career departments are facing.
- Planning for PFFV annual conference at Stowe.

**Insurance Report:**

- No Report

**Any other business, as it relates to the Council:**

- Discussion the Brattleboro Fire Officer I course and upcoming Fire Officer II.
- Cadet Academy to be held at VFA in Pittsford 7/10 – 17.
- Collette comments on his exposure as a Firefighter II lead. He said that it was eye opening and appreciated the support of Terry Farr. However, he would like to see the Firefighter II Leads sit down and brainstorm improvements that should be made for the next round.

**Motion to adjourn to adjourn. Passed unanimously.**

**Next meeting scheduled for Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Division of Fire Safety in Berlin 9 A.M.**

