

Minutes of the June 4, 2012 meeting held at the Vermont Fire Academy Pittsford

**Roll Call:**

<u>Organization Representatives / or Sub</u>	<u>Ex-Officio Members</u>
Vt. Career Chief Assn.	Absent
Dept. of Education	Alexander Northern
Vt. Fire Chiefs Assn.	Wendall Mansfield
Dept. of Forest, Park & Rec.	Lars Lund
Vt. Professional FF	Aaron Collette, Chair Burlington FF
Dept. of Health	Bill Irwin
Vt. State FF Assn.	Al Barber
Dept. of Labor	Absent
VT Domestic Insurance Rep.	Gary Ouellette
Div. of Fire Safety	Director Mike O'Neil
General Public	Absent
Committee Chair	Neil Fulton

Visitors: Neil Fulton  
Michael Skaza  
Terry Farr  
Dan Zimmer  
William Jones

Discussion of the minutes and asked if there is a motion to approve them. Error in the abbreviation of the IAFF. Amend the minutes to also reflect the spelling error in the word Statute in the labeling of the header for Statute and Review Committee. **Collette makes motion to reflect those changes, motion passes unanimously.**

Report from the Division: Mike O'Neil (Director):

- Just wrapped up a legislature session and there are a few things to note:
  - Summer study on USAR group will be done by VSP
  - Summer study on residential sprinklers and the impact on the insurance company paying for it.
- Division is in the process of updating the fire code.
- Fulton comments on the appropriation of \$150,000 to VFA for EMS training. He asks if the Health department will be handling it.
- O'Neil discusses the fact that the thought process behind the appropriation was that like fire service training, EMS training should not be on the burden of the individual or the department to pay for.

**Report of the Chief of Training: Dan Zimmer**

- Dan discusses the wrap of the FY12 classes. The numbers seem to be down, but some courses still had a big turnout.
- VFA is working to add more programs online, including the NFPA electrical vehicle training course. CVPS is funding an online electrical safety course.
- Discussion of VTC to plan and build a digester system at the farm; the storage container will be very close to the burn building. If the container is put in this spot it will limit any future plans for the site.
- USAR programs are moving forward. Water Rescue Technician classes have been scheduled.
- IAFF Fire Ground Survival course Train the Trainer is moving forward it's been tentatively scheduled for the first week of August.
- Discussion of the online program and how many students signed up compared to how many finished.
- Fulton wonders if the IAFF course will fill the void of a RIT program.
- Discussion of the numbers for the end of the year and if there was any indication that we are stretched too thin and therefore taking away from delivery.
- Farr says that there seems to be an increase in retakes for HMO.
- Discussion of the increase in vocational schools hosting FF I programs which also taxes VFA workload.
- Fulton asks if there is a way to look at the tests and identify where students are struggling the most.
- Discussion of the online students vs. "traditional" students and if they are prepared and do as well.
- Collette asks if the Council can receive comparison averages for online and "traditional" students so as to see if cognitively they are close.
- Discussion of the drop out rate and how some programs started at 15 and are ending with 8 or 12 which is difficult.

**Committee Reports**

**Curriculum Committee** – Neil Fulton

- Discussion of the Aerial program and where it stands. Skaza says that the PowerPoint is nearing completion and he hopes to turn it over to the curriculum committee very soon.
- Jones and Bartlett plans to roll out the RIT program next year, Fulton has not seen it yet and he is on the review committee so he is not sure if that will be happening.

- Jones and Bartlett are in the process of updating the Firefighter programs.
- Fulton asks what the status of the LP/Natural gas program is. Zimmer says that he hasn't heard anything on that lately and would ask Chief Litevich.

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

- Collette asks Neil if he would be willing to review the IAFF Fire Ground class if Collette can get the curriculum.
- Collette says that Cengage Learning will be publishing a new text called Rapid Intervention Company Operations or R.I.C.O. 2nd edition but not sure the publication date. It will probably not come out as a “canned” program.
- Collette asks if we may be able to begin Aerial delivery in the early fall. Skaza and Farr think that it will be possible.

**Unfinished business:**

- Skaza asks if there is any news on the legal clarification of the minor students. O'Neil says that he has not heard anything.

**New Business:**

- Discussion of the delivery requests for the Firefighter I and II programs for FY13.
- Discussion of online programs and how they are monitored and how many students should still be limited.
- Discussion of the cost of running an online program and how much work it is to monitor it.
- Discussion of why the VFA proposed the locations that they did.
- **Motion by Barber and seconded by Ouellette to accept the VFA host departments. Motion passes unanimously.**
- Ouellette asks if the VFA can provide concrete results on the online training for the next meeting. Also, if there is a way for the VFA to provide them with additional information in regards to the administrative work that surrounds the online program.
- O'Neil asks if we can ask other Academy's who utilize online programs how they do the administration work involved in the online course delivery.
- Lund asks for clarification on the online program deliveries.
- Zimmer asks that we not go beyond the 60 students.
- **Motion by Barber to allow up to 60 students to enroll in online programs, to level of certification to be determined by the VFA, second by O'Neil motion carries unanimously.**
- Discussion of the Fire Officer program. Farr says that South Burlington went well. Barre City was a learning curve.
- Discussion on the Fire Officer course becoming an online course. Collette thinks that it would be too tedious to provide rapid, clear and accurate answers to students via email.
- Discussion on how the variety of departments sending students to the Fire Officer program enhances the learning.
- Discussion of PADO deliveries.

**Career chief's report – absent**

No report

**Vermont State Firefighters Assn.: Al Barber**

- Convention is being planned

**Vermont Chief's: Wendall Barber**

No Report

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

- Secured funding for Fire Warden training.
- Lund will start working on getting the Wildland instructors scheduled.

**Professional Firefighters- Aaron Collette**

- Planning the convention, going to be changing its schedule.
- Next meeting the end of June in South Burlington.
- Working with the Fire Academy to secure the delivery of the IAFF Fire Ground Survival course.

**Department of Health – Bill Irwin**

- Department of Health has hired Michael Leydon as EMS Director. They have also hired more people to round out the staff.
- Department of Health is working on a major exercise to take place at the VFA in September, could be up to 200 people so they may need to get the Police Academy involved to accommodate the extra people.

**Insurance: Gary Ouellette**

No report

**Department of Education: Alex Northern**

- Discussion of spring semester at VTC and how it was dysfunctional when he arrived. He conducted mid semester evaluations.

- Northern has tightened it up academically. More writing assignments have been added to the course work ensuring that students have read the text book.
- Discussion of how many students finished vs. how many didn't and the changes he is planning to move the program forward.
- Hired 3 new instructors for the next year.
- VTC will be working the technical schools in the area (Bradford and Randolph).

**Note Worthy News:** On June 9, Barber will be recognized for all his years of selfless volunteering. He will receive the Governor's Award for Outstanding Community Service at a ceremony at the State House.

**Other Business:**

- Representative for the General Public is ill and will probably not be able to fulfill his duties. Collette will speak to him about it and if a new person needs to be appointed he will let the Council know.
- Discussion of Regional Schools that we support and how there may be two more added. Bennington and the Berlin area are thinking about hosting one in the fall.
- Discussion of the finishing numbers for the online courses.

**General Public** – Absent

-No report

**Motion to adjourn by Collette and second by Barber, motion passes unanimously.**

Next meeting scheduled for **Monday, September 17, 2012 at the VTC in Randolph** at 9 am.

- Lunch will be provided along with a tour following lunch