

Minutes of the February 22, 2016 meeting held at the Division of Fire Safety Central office in Berlin.

Roll Call:

<u>Organization Representatives / or Sub</u>	<u>Ex-Officio Members</u>
Vt. Career Chief Assn.	Troy Ruggles
Dept. of Education	Alexander Northern
Vt. Fire Chiefs Assn.	Skip Bothfeld
Dept. of Forest Park & Rec.	Lars Lund
Vt. Professional FF	Christopher Corbin
Dept. of Health	Christopher Bell
Vt. State FF Assn.	Al Barber
Dept. of Labor	Dan Whipple
VT Domestic Insurance Rep.	Jeff Pyice
Div. of Fire Safety	Mike Desrochers – Director of Public Safety
General Public	John Marcus

Visitors: James Litevich
Michael Skaza
Terry Farr
Aaron Collette

Motion to approve the October minutes as is, Motion by Barber second by Northern. Passes unanimously.

Report from the Division: Mike Desroches (Director):

- Testified against the Secretary of State taking over the licensing funding for the Division
- Has been working on the Division fee bill 1) Raising construction fees 2) Trying to fund VFA staffing through special funds 3) additional fees on Tier 2 reporting
- Legislative governance committee now runs the facility where the Vermont Fire Academy is located. Rich Gauthier is the Chair, Desrochers is the Vice Chair and they are still trying to fill the other seats
- Speculation that the East Cottage may be renovated back to dorms

Report of the Chief of Training: James Litevich

- Discussion of the handouts
- Reaccreditation is underway
- Fire Inspector I and II has been accredited
- CPAT 48 applicants and 26 completed. Discussion that the user group will be meeting in March
- Discussion of the FY2016 course numbers and the decrease in student numbers and deliveries
- Discussion of the NFA courses held and going to be held
- Discussion of the Fire Inspector Pilot
- Discussion of the RICT program and that the Engineer is working on plans
- Discussion of the Fire Academy staffing being at 5 people. Skaza has moved into Zimmer's position as the Lead Program Coordinator and interviews are underway for the Site Coordinator and the Administrative Assistant position.

Reports

Curriculum –

- Discussion on RICT program. Corbin is working through the instructor manual and PowerPoint. Due to VFA staffing the development has been slowed down.
- Equipment is currently being purchased for the RICT training.
- Discussion of the updated Flashover which is now called Modern Fire Behavior – Flashover Recognition. Three pilots have been conducted and well received.
- The Modern Fire Behavior Instructor guide will be a transcribed delivery of the lecture
- Fire Instructor has been updated to the new edition. One Pilot has been conducted and the second Pilot is underway
- Fire Officer I and II is being revised and the first Pilot will be announced shortly
- Discussion of the Flammable Gas program almost being ready to Pilot

Statute & Policy Review Committee –

- Christopher Corbin, on behalf of the Statute and Policy Review Committee, proposed revisions of the Council Rules. Please see attached.
- Discussion of the Council rules to broaden what certification levels the Council can recertify to, how long certifications last, and requirements for recertification.
- Discussion of how people regain certification if they have expired.

Unfinished business:

- Discussion of setting an annual schedule for the delivery of the upper level courses (Fire Inspector, Fire Officer, Fire Instructor)
- Discussion of delivery schedule for Fire Instructor program, Academy is seeing better results with a spread out schedule since students have the time to prepare
- Discussion of what the Fire Service wants and why the Council is not aware of their needs
- Ruggles asks Council members go back to their organizations and find out what it is they would like for training. He also asks Dan Whipple if VOSHA can come back with the minimum training they would require.
- Agrees to discuss a draft delivery schedule for Fire Instructor and Fire Officer course in FY2017

New Business:

- No new business

Coalition: Skip Bothfeld

- Discussion of the Blue Light bill
- Discussion of the Marijuana bill

Career Chief's report – Troy Ruggles

- Annual conference scheduled for May 13 at Lake Morrey
- Change in the landscape of the organization, Chief Weston and Chief Lasker retired and a new Chief in Rutland City

Vermont State Firefighters Assn.: Al Barber

- No report

Vermont Chief's: Skip Bothfeld

- Contacted constituents about what they want to do going forward since there are only three people running the organization

Professional Firefighters- Christopher Corbin

- No report

Dept. of Forest, Park & Rec. – Lund

- Going to be updating the Wildland course that is a required component of Firefighter I curriculum
- Gear grant was issued by his department
- Trying to accumulate a list of department radio frequencies
- Statue revision regarding Warden legislation

General Public – John Marcus

- No report

Insurance: Jeff Pryce

- No report

Department of Education: Alex Northern

- Added another Internship outlet for students at VTC in St. Johnsbury
- Two new faculty members have been added to the Fire Service program one for Haz Mat and one for Hydraulics and Water Course
- Working on a Scholarship program for the School

Department of Health – Christopher Bell

- No Report

Other Business:

- Elections
Ruggles makes a motion to nominate Chris Corbin as the new Chair of the Council, seconded by Marcus, motion passes unanimously.
Ruggles makes a motion nominating John Marcus as the Vice Chair, seconded by Barber, motion passes.
- Council makes a request that the VSFA and Vermont Career Chiefs council representatives speak to their members about what they want for training. Ruggles also asks the VOSHA representative to send us any information and guidance he may have on training hours and requirements.

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

Next meeting scheduled for **Monday, June 13 at the Vermont Fire Academy in Pittsford** at 10 am.