

Vermont Fire Service Training Council
Minutes of the June 27, 2018 Meeting

The meeting was held at the Vermont Fire Academy in Pittsford on June 27, 2018 and called to order by Chairperson Corbin at 10:01 a.m.

ROLL CALL:

Organization Representatives

Vermont Career Chiefs Association	Absent
Secretary of Education	Rob Evan & Alexander Northern
Vermont Fire Chiefs Association	Wendall Mansfield (late)
Commissioner of the Department of Forest, Parks & Recreation	Lars Lund
Professional Firefighters of Vermont	Christopher Corbin - Chairperson
Commissioner of the Department of Health	Lindsey Simpson
Vermont State Firefighters Association	F. Tom Estey
Commissioner of the Department of Labor	Les Burns (proxy) – call in
Vermont Domestic Insurance	Jeffrey 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, William Jones, Terry Farr, Ben Whalen, and Mrs. Mansfield

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Marcus and seconded by Estey to accept the previous meeting minutes of March 28, 2018. Motion passes.

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

The Director of the Division has testified in the legislature to the 1.8 million dollars asking for the renovations of the East Cottage.

Mike Cannon will be a full-time USAR program manager. This is a full-time position that will be federally funded.

An agreement for the Division of Fire Safety to lease a building in Milton is being finalized. The space will be used to store a Haz Mat vehicle as well as storage for USAR equipment.

The agreement between the State of Vermont and Colchester is being finalized that would allow the state USAR team to take-over all of Colchester Tech's assets which is worth about \$700,000, these will also be stored in Milton.

The budget closes this Friday and it will be very close. The revenue for construction has been down in the last couple of months.

There is an electrical Inspector position open in Williston and a Regional Manager position open in Rutland.

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Fire Safety is going to try to secure general fund money to allow the USAR team to continue to run.

The request for proposals for the East Cottage is going out this Fall and the hope is to start construction in the Spring.

FireSafe802 is underway and it will be modeled after the Red Cross program.

Report from the Chief of Training: Peter Lynch

The Chief of Training thanks Alex Northern for his time served on the Council. Alex will be taking the Chief's position at the Norwich Fire Department. Robert Evans has been named by the Secretary of Education as her designee to replace Alex Northern.

Robert Evans worked for Vermont State Police for 23 years and he worked in special operations in the last four years of his career. He now works for Margolis and Healy as a consultant and specializes in campus safety, security, and emergency preparedness for higher education and K-12.

The Hartford FF I/II combined program finishes this weekend.

The VFA certified 46 Firefighters II in January and 95 Firefighter I's this Spring, and we expect 21 Firefighter I/II this weekend. 80 less students registered this year (about 25%) which is less than last year but the VFA only finished with 15 students less than last year. The Vermont Fire Academy staff has discussed why that might be and came up with some ideas.

Two Fire Instructor I programs were held, and 25 students became certified. Some are taking the bridge course with EMS and some have applied to become VFA instructors.

A Fire Officer I/II program was held and 16 students from nine different departments attended. Both students and instructors liked the program being held on the Pittsford campus. Next year the program will be held in the North, most likely Williston. However, after the east cottage is finished the hope is that the Fire Officer program will be held at the VFA and not be moved around.

A Firefighter I Challenge was held with 14 out of the 20 candidates certifying. It was long day. There was also a Firefighter II Challenge held and all six candidates that attempted certified.

The new burn building has been great so far. Since the new burn building opened in April, 175 students have gone through the building, that includes Firefighter programs and local department requests. There are 8 requests to use the burn building in the future at this time. The building was used in the Fire Officer program. The concrete pad has been finished and is in the final stages of cured.

The full-time curriculum developer position was cut from the budget so the VFA created the specialist position to help with the curriculum development. The position also allows the VFA to hire instructors who specialize in certain subjects to teach courses.

The Assistant Site Coordinator position was created to hire more people to perform site work such as equipment maintenance or to drive trailers.

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Three new instructors were hired; one from Burlington, Derby Line, and Winooski.

Temporary Instructor Evaluations will be starting in October and Bill and Terry will be doing about two a month.

The LP Gas course is getting closer to completion, the hope is to bring it back to the Council in October. The course has five sections and a practical day however it is not expected to be long.

The RIC course working group has three part-time instructors and Michael Skaza is working on it now. The instructors took the Train-the-Trainer and were members of the original working group. They have an aggressive schedule and are a third of the way done and plan to finish the next two-thirds in September.

The Entry Level coursework is underway and the hope is to have it completed by December of 2018. Once it is complete a Train-the-Trainer will be held and departments will be invited to send members to come and take the T-t-T and then bring the training back to their departments. The VFA will provide instructor materials but the VFA will not be tracking, teaching, or providing anything for the course delivery in the field after the T-t-T.

The Director says that this course is a good way for the VFA to reengage people that currently don't subscribe to the firefighter I program. The hope is this course will spark their interest in training and give them some knowledge.

Rob Evans has to leave the call and gives an update on the training focus for the summertime for School Executive Leadership teams and individual school crisis planning teams. Four ICS-402 courses are planned and a three-hour crisis communications class. Governor's School Conference will be held in November. Expecting to get four million dollars of capital money to offer grant program to public schools with a focus on locking mechanism and mass notification systems.

The Governor has an initiative to go to every county and have cabinet meetings and then break away from those meetings and each Secretary or Commissioner conducts meetings with their constituents. The first one was held at Vermont Fire Academy in Rutland County, and 15 departments were represented. The next one is in Caledonia County at the St. Johnsbury Town Hall from 10 am to noon. All Caledonia folks are invited to attend and to talk about the good and the bad. The Director will be there, a member of the EMS office, a member from Emergency Management will be there. All Counties will be visited.

Report from the Council Chair:

Chris Corbin thanks Alex Northern for his service and congratulates him on his new position as the Fire Chief in Norwich.

Statute and Rule Revision:

The Academy took their final look at the Rules and there were some minor changes so it is time to move forward to LCAR. The Director wants Chris Corbin to send the final documents to him and he will take care of getting it submitted.

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Unfinished Business:

The Vermont Fire Academy was able to hold a Challenge and certify more instructors to PADO. The first Pilot will be held here at the VFA and wrap up in late September/early October. The Academy will then make any adjustments and plan a second pilot.

The Council approved a one-time PADO Challenge Exam and there were two instructors who failed to attend the one-time challenge so the Chief of Training asked the Training Council if they would allow the two instructors who missed the one-time Challenge to finish. The Council agrees that this is just an extension of the one-time so Challenge so will not need to go vote and the two instructors may finish the Challenge if they wish to.

New Business:

A map is distributed of the locations VFA recommended locations for Firefighter I, II, and I/II for 2018 which was based on the 17 requests that the VFA received by the June 15 deadline. A list of all locations that submitted requests is distributed.

The locations that the VFA staff recommends are:

Bennington FFI/II, Pittsford(VFA) FF I, Middlebury FF I, Williston FF I/II, Lyndonville FF I, Williamstown FF I/II, Proctorsville FF I, Newfane FF I are the program locations that the VFA would like the Council to endorse. The VFA will keep Glovers FF II request and if one of the other eight counties back out we will award them a Firefighter II program starting in January.

The VFA is going to look at condensing the schedule of two programs this year. This does not reduce the number of hours in a program but instead the program will meet more frequently to shorten the number of months the program lasts. The reasons for trying to condense the program schedule was because the VFA heard a lot of feedback from students wanting the program to be delivered at a faster pace to shorter the program timeline. The second reason is to grow the VFA training calendar so that the busiest times of year are not in the Spring.

Discussion on not offering Firefighter II programs this year. The Chief of Training says that the VFA only received two requests for Firefighter II. One was late and the second is the program that is on the waiting list if a program gets cancelled.

Northern makes the motion to accept the program locations for the 2018 year and seconded by Lund, motion passes unanimously.

Standard Operating Guideline Discussion:

1. Instructor Qualifications (Approval)– this formalizes what we have been doing. Requires Fire Instructor I certification, or have some instructor credential that can be recognized, and it allows for “grandfathered” instructors. Instructors must hold credential or certificate that qualifies them to teach the subject they wish to teach. Some courses and programs require an apprentice process or a train-the-trainer. Instructor qualification has to happen annually and receive satisfactory performance evaluations.

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Motion to endorse the Instructor Endorsement SOG made by Northern and seconded by Marcus. Motion passed.

2. FYI SOG. Questions / Comments – There were no comments on the FYI SOG's

The VFA is seeking Pro Board certification for Rope Operations. Similar to PADO the VFA has qualified instructors for Rope Operations however they don't have any Pro Board Certified Instructors. The Chief of Training asks that the Council approve the VFA to run a one-time Pro-Board Challenge exam for Rope Operations to gain more certified instructors.

Motion for the Academy to complete a Challenge Exam in Rope Operations for VFA instructors to become ProBoard certified to the Rope Operations level. Motion made by Northern, seconded by Estey. Motion carries.

Coalition Report: (Absent)

No Report

Vermont Career Chiefs: (Absent)

No Report

Vermont State Firefighters Association: (Estey)

The Cadet Academy has been cancelled.

The VSFA convention will be held on July 20, 21 & 22 in St. Albans.

Vermont Fire Chiefs: (Mansfield) –

No report

Professional Firefighters of Vermont: (Corbin) –

The PFFV would like to see Cancer prevention and behavioral health information taught in Firefighter I programs. The PFFV is willing to put it altogether. This would have no effect on the overall hours of the program. This will be added to the next agenda and Corbin will bring more information regarding this then. It is discussed that some information is already in the program.

Agency of Natural Resources: (Lund) –

Incident Response notebooks are being put together and will be handed out to all Firefighter I students. These books will have information about Wildland incidents as well other information about EMS, patient treatment, and etc.

Department of Education: (Northern)

The pairing/blending of the Paramedicine program and the Fire Service program is still underway.

The Director of the Fire Service Program position at VTC has been advertised.

There are 15 students registered for the fall semester.

Funding for Vermont State Colleges is very low and will be a problem for the next Director of

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the VTC program as well since they are unable to compete with other fire science programs in New England.

Department of Health: (Simpson)

Updated EMS Protocols have been released and all agencies must implement them by August. The Protocol update training is the same every level whether you are a Paramedic or an EMR. Live Update Training on the Protocols are available and being schedule around the state. The EMS website contains more information on the new protocols and training.

An EMS IC course has been scheduled in Londonderry in August. This is the bridge course between Fire Instructor and EMS Instructor Coordinator.

EMS conference is coming up and there will be a lecture on Human Trafficking, presentation on mass-shooting, resuscitation high performance CPR, and lots of topics on termination of resuscitation.

Department of Labor: (Burns)

No Report

Vermont Domestic Insurance: (Pryce)

General Public: (Marcus)

University of Vermont is hosting an Emergency Horse Handling class at UVM, it is free and it talks about how to deal with a horse if you respond to an emergency situation as a firefighter or first responder.

The Vermont Fire Academy would like to suggest to the Training Council that they only meet three times a year in October, February and June. June is critical because that is when program locations are decided. October is important because a vote on officers and the rules say they must meet at least twice a year, so the February meeting is back-up. The Chief of Training also suggests that it be on Tuesday or Thursday.

It is decided that Council meetings will be held the second Thursday of October, February, and June going forward.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 11th at 10:00 am at the Division of Fire Safety Central Office in Berlin.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Lund and seconded by Estey. Motion passed.