

VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD
April 18, 2008

A regular meeting of the Virginia Fire Services Board was held at the Virginia Department of Fire Programs Head Quarters Office in Glen Allen, VA at 9:00 am. Mr. Thomas Fuqua served as Chair.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Kenneth Brown
Gary Eads
Kenneth L. Jones
J. Chris Kollman
Thomas H. Moffett
Dennis Mitchell
Brian Mullins
Michael Reilly
Carl Garrison
Barbara Hamm

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Thomas Fuqua – Chair
Richard E. Burch Jr
William B. Kyger Jr.
Ed Altizer
Insurance Industry Board member – position vacant

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT

Billy Shelton	Christine Lopilato
Teresa Duncan	Brook Pittinger
Dave Jolly	Russ Chandler
Amanda Wood	Larry McAndrews

GUESTS PRESENT

Glen Dean	Adam Thiel
Mike Berg	John Norton
Wayne Bryant	Dawn Smith
Ed Rhodes	Ron Reynolds

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chair asked if there were any additions and/or corrections to the minutes from the February 2008 meeting. With no changes to the minutes the February 22, 2008 meeting minutes were approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

ROLL CALL

CHANGES IN THE AGENDA

Unfinished Business:

- A. Update from the Fire-EMS Subcommittee

New Business:

- A. Selection of Nomination Committee

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

COMMENTS FROM THE VDFP LIAISON VDFP Executive Director

The following report was provided by Billy Shelton:

- ATL for FY 07 is 99.5% disbursed (Grayson Co., Belle Haven, Glade Springs, Melfa, Occoquan, and Norton are subject to forfeiture)
- ATL for FY 08 is 92.5% disbursed
- Pro-Board National Registration stands at 46,946
- VFIRS transitions to Version 5.0 on January 2009; there are 13 jurisdictions that need to convert from 4.0 to 5.0
- State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) transition is progressing well. SFMO Headquarters and Richmond Area Office will be located in Glen Allen.
- VFSB has lost its interest from Fire Programs Fund for 08, 09, & 10; this will impact Mini-Grants, Burn Building Repairs, and VFIRS Grants etc.
- Fire Safe Cigarettes (RICP) passed the VGA and signed by the Governor on March 5, 2008
- Fighting Fires with Facts for 2007 is being finalized; should be out to the jurisdictions by July 1, 2008.
- Be Fire Safe, Virginia has documented five (5) saves with both smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Driver's Improvement Program and the Diversity: Recruitment and Retention Programs will be shipped to over 1200 fire and EMS organizations in May 2008.
- Next Stakeholder's Meeting will be June 26th at the Central Virginia Community College in Bedford starting at 1000.
- 2008 Virginia Fire Prevention and Control Plan has been finalized.
- Virginia's Fallen Firefighter's Memorial is scheduled for June 7th at RIR-Old Dominion Building at noon. Five (5) will be memorialized.
- Amanda Wood, the agency's new Grants and Local Aid Manager was introduced.

COMMENTS FROM THE VFSB CHAIR

Dennis Mitchell welcomed everyone and thanked Goochland County for their hospitality.

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON FIRE EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The following topics were discussed at the Fire Education & Training committee meeting.

The agency will pilot the Crew Leader (formerly known as Master Firefighter) curriculum. The program is designed to fill the gap for those that are filling the officer position, but have not yet completed the officer program.

VDFP, stated that NIMS ICS training received before the issuance of the 5-year training plan will be recognized by VDFP. However, for ICS training received after the issuance of the NIMS 5-year training plan, the training will not be recognized by the agency, as the agency is unable to verify the hours received for the non-VDFP training. The NIMS 5-year training plan states that the ICS-300 training must be no less than 18 hours. The NIMS 5-year training program was released February 25, 2008.

VDEM or EMI Certificates of completion for ICS 300 dated after February 25, 2008, which do not specifically indicate the course consisted of 18 or more hours will not be accepted as documentation for meeting the ICS-300 prerequisite. The NIMS 5-Year training plan clearly stipulates the minimum content delivery time necessary for the student to achieve course completion.

Additionally, if an individual submits documentation of completion of a VDEM or EMI ICS-300 course dated up through February 25, 2008 as prerequisite for ICS-400, VDFP will admit that individual to the applied for VDFP class. This is because there was no criterion to indicated successful completion of the ICS-300 completion prior to the issuance of the February 25, 2008 5-year training plan.

Fire Officer IV CFO/EFO reciprocity was tabled until the June 2008 meeting.

Mike Berg, OEMS, provided an update on the EMS Scope of Practice Document update. The following levels will be recognized: EMR, EMT, Advanced EMT and Paramedic. Additionally, the hours required for each course will also be increased as well. OEMS will provide updates on the changes on their website throughout the process.

EO-36 requires regulatory agencies to revise their regulations every 4 years. OEMS is currently working on their draft proposed regulations that will be presented to the Board of Health during the summer of 2008. The new levels of certification will be included in OEMS's draft proposed regulations. Public hearings will be held for all proposed changes.

During the 2008 VGA session, funding for \$4 for life was amended to \$4.25 for life. The additional \$0.25 has been earmarked for training and is collected in the Rescue Squad Assistance Fund.

Topic: Fire Officer I

Motion: To approve the Fire Officer I curriculum as presented by VDFP.

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

Vote: Unanimous

Action: Motion Carries

Topic: Confined Space Technician

Motion: To approve the Confines Space Technician course as presented by VDFP.

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

Vote: Unanimous

Action: Motion Carries

Topic: Knowledge Center Update

Motion: The Board authorizes Brook Pittinger to write a letter of nomination for the agency's work on the Knowledge Center to be submitted for the National IT Awards on behalf of the VFSB.

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

Vote: Unanimous

Action: Motion carries

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

The following topics were discussed at the Fire Prevention and Control committee:

Mike Reilly stated that the IAA Virginia chapter has an arson award program that provides targeted training materials for specific fire related problems. It is recommended that localities utilize this program when they are in need of additional resources to target a specific fire related problem.

Commonwealth Homeland Security Foundation, in conjunction with ALIS and George Mason University, examines ways to raise private funds to provide educational institutes/universities with grants that will be used by the universities to research and analyze homeland security issues and initiatives.

Mike Reilly recommended having a joint meeting with members of the VFSB and BHCD to continue its working relationship regarding code changes.

The code change documents will become effective May 1, 2008. Copies of the ICC Code changes and Virginia changes are available at the ICC website.

There is an ad-hoc committee meeting regarding fire work issues in/with localities. The committee's establishment was a result of legislation that was introduced and subsequently pulled by Del. Gear. The meetings are hosted by VML and VACO and include localities representatives, fire/fire marshal representatives and fire work industry representatives. As a result of the committee meetings, definitions and retail sale work groups were established to further examine those two issues. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 2008.

Dennis Mitchell stated that the involvement of the fire service in the code development process is strengthening and is truly making a difference.

Carl Garrison stated that there have been 844 fires that have burned over 20,428 acres, which sets a 45 year record for total acreage burned in one year. Drought has played a major factor in the total number of fires seen in Virginia over the past few years. Based on the US Drought Monitoring maps, Virginia will remain in a drought scenario for the upcoming summer and the area most affected by drought will be the central piedmont area.

The week of February 10, 2008 had approximately 16,000 acres burned in the one week.

Carl provided the committee with a hand out that depicted (via pie charts) the Number of Wildfires from 1997 to 2007 and Number of Acres burned from 1997 to 2007.

The Department of Forestry is currently examining the implementation of a messaging system that can be utilized to provide Forestry employees with alerts pertaining to weather and fire conditions. Additionally, the agency is working to overcome several issues pertaining to the STARS radio system.

Virginia has had another community certified as a Fire Wise Community. Virginia now has 21 communities certified in the Fire Wise program and ranks third in the country for communities certified under the Fire Wise program.

The committee has completed the Fire Prevention & Control Document and the document will be posted on VDFP's website. The Document is going to be a living document that is updated continually and as needed.

Topic: ICC Update

Motion: To request funding for up to \$2500 to send one Board member to the ICC Hearings in Minneapolis in September 2008.

Discussion:

There was no discussion held.

Vote: Unanimous

Action: Motion Carries.

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION, POLICY & FINANCE

The following topics were discussed at the Administration, Policy & Finance committee meeting.

The subcommittee developed the Burn Building Evaluation/Scorecard criteria, which was presented to the committee during the Grants and Local Aid Manager's report.

The subcommittee also decided to send a follow-up letter to the localities contained on the TSG Remedial Repair Report, dated December 12, 2007, which will provide the localities that did not apply for repair funding during the first round to reapply for repair funding.

The next Burn Building Subcommittee meeting is on Thursday, May 15, 2008 at 10 am at the VDFP Glen Allen Headquarters in Glen Allen, VA.

Mike Matthews provided an update regarding the usage criteria that they were tasked to review. The following recommendations were presented to the committee:

- Changes in maximum number of live fire training days per year:
 - Unchanged for Class A fuel (still restricted to 120 days per year);
 - Unlimited for Class B fuel
 - For metal buildings that burn Class A fuel, that have HTL, there is currently no pro-type developed to identify the TMS type and usage requirements.

- Changes in Burn Temperatures:
 - Class A:
 - Change to 1200°F sustained/1500°F peak from 1500°F sustained/1800°F peak to
 - Class B:
 - Establish 550°F sustained/700°F peak
- It was noted that the duration of training exercises should be based on the type of equipment/PPE worn.

The following localities made presentations regarding their request for new burn buildings:

- Shenandoah County;
- Accomack County;
- Alexandria; and
- Wise County.
- Buckingham County requested a no cost time extension.

The Burn Building Subcommittee will review all requests at the May 15th and June 6th meetings. Both meetings will begin at 10 am at the VDFP Glen Allen Head Quarters office.

Topic: Development of Guidelines for Projects

Motion: Accept the TSG summary of remedial repairs inspection report for the burn buildings, dated December 12, 2007. This report is based on visual inspections and best estimates at such time.

Discussion:

There was no discussion held on this topic.

Vote: Unanimous

Action: Motion Carries.

Topic: Burn Building Prototypes Developed by TSG

Motion: To accept TSG architectural drawings, dated 2-1-08, for burn building props for: Prototype 1 Class A fuel; Prototype 1 Class B fuel; and Prototype 2 Class B fuel, to accept staff's recommended/updated changes made by TSG as of 4/17/08.

Discussion:

There was no discussion held.

Vote: Unanimous

Action: Motion Carries.

Topic: Development of Prototype 2 Class A Drawings

Motion: to authorize TSG to develop the Prototype 2 Class A drawings at a cost of \$8750.

Discussion:

There was no discussion held.

Vote: Unanimous

Action: Motion Carries.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Topic: Update from the Fire-EMS Subcommittee

Motion: NA

Discussion:

The next Fire & EMS Subcommittee meeting will be on Monday, April 28, 2008. The subcommittee meeting will begin at 11 am and will be held at the VDFP Glen Allen Headquarters office.

The subcommittee has completed the development of the initial request letter and questionnaire. The subcommittee is in the process of developing the module questionnaires.

Vote: NA

Action: NA

NEW BUSINESS

Topic: Selection of the Nominating Committee

Motion: NA

Discussion:

Bill Kyger will be the chair of nominating committee and Ken Jones and Gary Eads will serve on the nominating committee.

Any Board member wishing to be included in the nomination process should contact one of the aforementioned nominating committee members.

Vote: NA

Action: NA

Ken Brown asked if there was a particular time when ATL minimums could be examined.

VDFP staff stated that the Board is able to re-examine the ATL minimums at any time, but VDFP staff encouraged the Board to wait for the FY09 SCC transfer before beginning to reexamine the ATL minimums.

Brian Mullins asked the Board to examine the current issue facing the fire services when dealing with hybrid-electric cars.

Dave Jolly, VDFP, informed the Board that the agency's HTR program is reviewing the extrication issues presented when dealing with hybrid-electric cars. The agency will update its curriculum as needed to address these issues.

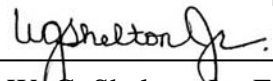
The Board's Training & Education Committee agreed to monitor this issue and provide updates as needed.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 10:02 am

Clerk of the Committee
Brook M. Pittinger

REVIEWED BY:



W. G. Shelton, Jr., Executive Director, VDFP

April 18, 2008
Date

Enclosures:

There were no enclosures.