

DRAFT

VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD
April 21, 2006

A regular meeting of the Virginia Fire Services Board was held at the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Co. in Chincoteague Island at 9:00am. Mr. Thomas Fuqua served as Chair.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Ed Altizer
Kenneth Brown
Gary Eads
Thomas Fuqua – Acting Chairman
Carl Garrison
Floyd Greene
J. Chris Kollman
Dennis Mitchell
Brian Mullins
Michael Reilly
Richard Steinberg
Susan Williams

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Lora Sharkey – Chair
Floyd Thomas

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT

Teresa Duncan
Buddy Hyde – VDFP Liaison
Nausheen Khan
Christy King
Christine Lopilato

GUESTS PRESENT

Walt Ford – Bristol
Jason Loftus – Accomack County
Charlie Singleton – VSFA

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chair asked if there were any additions and/or corrections to the minutes of the February 2006 meeting. With no changes being made, the February 25, 2006 meeting minutes were approved.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

- A. Appointment of Nominating Committee
- B. Burn Building Committee
- C. Proposed Legislative Change

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jason Loftus, public safety director for Accomack County was introduced. He welcomed all to Accomack and thanked everyone for having the Fire Service Board Meetings in his locality.

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, VDFP

VGA Activity

<p>SB 498 Fire Programs Fund; revising allocations to eligible localities. Authorizes the Virginia Fire Services Board to revise allocations to eligible localities.</p>

<p>Status – This is our Agency/Board legislation addressing the VFSB authority to raise ATL minimums as the Fire Programs Fund experiences natural growth. Senator Phillip Puckett serves as our patron. The bill passed through Senate and House and approved by the Governor, and will be effective July 1, 2006.</p>
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Incident Support in Patrick County

Division 4 Chief Dennis Price and Division 6 Chief Don Hansen worked in the Operations Center of Patrick County during the wildland/urban interface fire in Patrick County on April 14 – 18. Don started rotational shifts with Patrick County E.M. Mike Hudson and they worked in a Unified Command setting with local officials and VDOF. VDOF handled the wildland resources on the mountain and VDFP assisted the command post with identified fire departments in that VDFP division that could assist with firefighting and home protection. The fire consumed 3695 acres on Bull Mountain, destroying 3 homes and 6 additional structures. ESF-4 worked well as VDOF and VDFP worked together through the entire incident.

Training Regional Schools are running high numbers of students this year and funded training classes increased from 320 in 2004 to over 600 in funded classes for 2005. So far this year (02/25/06), we have delivered 715 funded classes at

the mid-point in the fiscal year. At this same point, we have delivered 1129 non-funded and 24 reimbursable classes. So, our overall total classes in Virginia at this point in FY 2006 = 1868.

We are working to gain approval for additional adjunct instructors in hopes of increasing our statewide cadre that is experiencing a shortage of available instructors.

Regional School Update

Fort Pickett Regional Fire School was down on attendance this year with 75 students. Danville Regional School was also down on attendance, but they had a good turnout. The Southampton Regional Fire School during the first weekend in April had approx. 300 students and the Caroline Regional Fire School scheduled for April 22 & 23 has become the largest in the state with over 310 students enrolled.

Safer Grant Program

Virginia has received 4 SAFER grants for FFY-05, which should complete this year's grant awards in this program. Arlington County will receive \$800,000 for hiring additional firefighters. Governor Kaine awarded the state matching portion for the first year in the amount of \$32,000 to Arlington County on March 28th. The other 3 recipients in this federal grant program for the recruitment and retention portion of SAFER were Loudoun County, O.W.L. Fire Department, and Hanover Fire & EMS. The federal guidelines did not provide for a match on the R & R grants, just the hiring grants.

Burn Building Progress

There are 11 new burn building projects currently under construction and 4 repair/renovation projects. Blackstone/Prince Edward burn building was completed and dedication was April 1st. Mecklenburg County has completed most of its work and is targeted for completion in May/June 2006. Other projects are Chesterfield (90% complete), Gloucester, and a few more. VDFP has interviewed for the A & E and has selected a lead firm. The agency is currently in negotiations with this firm. We anticipate that this A & E firm will be on contract within the next 30 days.

VDFP Positions

New Branch Chief of Admin. & Support hired. Full-time vacancies to be filled are the Fire Research Analyst and Communications, Public Affairs and Education Manager. Part-time vacancies to be filled are Division 1 and 3 Administrative Assistants and an Equipment Maintainer.

Virginia FESHE/Professional Development

The new standardized curriculum has been through all VCCS reviews and comments and rolled-out at the 2006 VFCA Expo in our VDFP booth with support

from the VCCS. All community colleges are working on the transition within their school to bring this revised curriculum on-board.

Several working groups have been started under this professional development initiative and they have begun meeting to work on specific areas that will improve this overall process.

- Marketing Working Group – Kelli Turner put out information to pull interest for this group but did not receive enough response to hold the meeting, we still need to start this group because marketing has been selected as a top priority of the other work groups
- Educational Cross-Walking Work Group – Led by Rick Dienst of Tidewater CC and Billy Shelton, this group has completed the education cross-walks of the VCCS classes and VDFP certification classes. They created a table that is easy to follow and lists those equivalency courses.
- Fire Service Professional Development Consortium – Led by Scott Hechler and Ken Jones of the VFCA, this group met on March 30 with around 10 in attendance. They are forming a charter of the group and looking at career development options to connect to college education, etc.
- High School/College Public Safety Connection – Led by Dr. Lee Ross (DOE), Captain Greg Lietz, and Buddy Hyde, this group met on March 30 with 40 in attendance. They are looking at marketing to high schools and even junior high school as a priority and establishing a network of student counselors to help the fire service look more attractive to career seekers.
- These working groups will work parallel to the certificate and associate degree focus group and meet individually during the year and together as on large meeting once or twice a year to ensure their efforts link effectively.

After the Associate program work is on the street, the group plans to start up a bachelor's focus group to start working on marketing and transfer issues between them and the Certificate and Associate focus group.

Executive Director Hyde presented the Virginia higher education initiative at the South Carolina Fire Training Academy on March 29th. SC state agencies and stakeholder groups are planning to accomplish the same thing that VA did with the standardized curriculum.

VAVRS Partnerships

VAVRS, OEMS, and VDFP have signed a new one-year renewal of their Vehicle Rescue program. There is one program that is delivered by each agency. Bookstore MOU between VDFP and OEMS is complete and we will be placing one of OEMS's part-time employees in our bookstore to help Barbara with textbook sales.

Curriculum revisions/development – Fire Officer IV, Instructor III revisions are under development.

Volunteer/Combination Officer's Section Summit

Plans are in the works for the 2006 VCOS Summit on August 26 & 27, 2006 in Charlottesville. Partners will again be Hanover Fire & EMS, Albemarle Fire-Rescue, VDFP, VACO, and VFCA. This year, we have added the OEMS and VML.

Be Fire Safe Virginia Smoke Alarm Installation and Education Project –

application packages will be mailed to fire departments in late March and shall be returned by April 30, 2006.

First 1035 Level I class was held in Richmond in late March. We hope to increase our offerings of 1035 Level I and II this year.

New VDFP Website Format was launched last week.

Virginia Fallen Firefighter Memorial at RIR on June 3rd at 12:00 p.m. We are honoring 3 firefighter deaths this year, 1 LODD & 2 presumption deaths.

Upcoming Events

The April 18 VDFP/VDEM stakeholder's meeting rescheduled – May 10.

Fairfax City Burn Building Dedication – April 22

Caroline School – April 22 & 23

National FF Stand Down Day – June 21

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR, VFSB

Mr. Fuqua communicated that Ms. Sharkey sends her regards and will be back at the June meeting.

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON FIRE EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Topic: Bristol Burn Building

1st Motion: The VFSB will permit the installation of a subjective gas fired system in the funded burn building prop to be built by Bristol. This exemption to Exhibit A is made on the recommendation of the VDFP staff and the knowledge of safe operation of subjective gas system in other Virginia burn buildings.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

Action: Permit installation of a subjective gas fired system

2nd Motion: Allow Bristol to use non-galvanized heavy gauge structural steel members for their burn building.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

Action: Allow of the use of non-galvanized heavy gauge structural steel

3rd Motion: Allow a six month extension for the building of the Bristol burn building.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

Action: Allow a six month extension for the Bristol burn building

Topic: A&E Contract Specifications

Motion: Use information in NFPA 1403 to develop guidelines for the architect review of existing burn buildings. This in no way is to be considered as a NFPA 1403 Compliance Review.

Discussion: The Grants Manager and the Board are now aware of what was being asked from both parties; therefore, the motion will be voted against.

Vote: Motion failed

Action: Motion failed

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Topic: Fire Prevention & Control Document

Enclosure 1. – Draft of Fire Prevention & Control Document

Motion: None

Discussion: The Draft of the Fire Prevention & Control Plan was given to committee members. It was reported that the 2005 statistics had yet to be closed out, and that 2004 data will easily be extracted. The Policy, Planning and Legislative Affairs Manager reported the status on the document and communicated that although the Fire Research Analyst has

resigned, her efforts have been significant in helping to develop a firm base from which to work with.

Vote: None

Action: None

Topic: School Fire Drills

Enclosure – 2. DHCD Regulatory Change Form

Enclosure – 3. Senate Bill 97 – An Act to limit the frequency of school fire drills during Standards of Learning assessments

Motion: Approve the changes noted in Chapter 164 (freq of school fire drills during SOL testing) so it pertains to Ch.9 of Title 27, and bring it to the full board for approval and upon endorsement direct the BHCD representative to the Board bring it to the BHCD meeting on May 19.

Discussion: Discussion ensued regarding the bill, School Fire Drills during Standards of Learning Assessments.

Vote: Motion carried

Action: Motion carried

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION, POLICY & FINANCE

Enclosure 4. – FY2005 and FY2006 Fire Programs Fund Aid to Localities Payments

Enclosure 5. – Aid to Localities FY2006 Allocations

Enclosure 6. – FY2006 Burn Building Grants Budgeted Obligations: Spending Plan and Cash Availability

Enclosure 7. – FY2006 Training Mini Grants Budgeted Obligations and Cash Availability

Topic: Annual Spending Plan

Motion: None

Discussion: Committee Chair announced that the committee on Administration, Policy & Finance will meet at 1:00pm on Thursday June 1st at the Glen Allen office to discuss spending plans.

Vote: None

Action: None

Topic: ATL Minimums

Motion: None

Discussion: It was reported that the ATL Bill was passed and signed and will go into effect on July 1st, 2006. By the June meeting, the SCC transfer amount should be known. Once the minimums are known, the percent increase can be calculated. Discussion ensued regarding ATL.

Vote: None

Action: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Topic: Mid-Atlantic Association of Fire Commissions 2007 Conference

Motion: None

Discussion: It was communicated to the board that on the 15th and 16th of May, staff and board members will travel to Williamsburg in order to continue the logistics for the hosting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Fire Commissions 2007 Conference.

Vote: None

Action: None

It should also be noted that it was decided to begin the June Full Board meeting at 8:30am instead of 9:00am in order to attend the Fallen Firefighters Memorial.

NEW BUSINESS

Topic: Appointment of Nominating Committee

Motion: None

Discussion: The nominating committee was appointed by the Chairman. The committee members are: J. Chris Kollman (Chairman), Richard Steinberg, and Ed Altizer. It was advised to the Board to make contact with the nominating committee by June 7th in order to vote for the positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Vote: None

Action: None

Topic: Committee for Burn Building Issues

Motion: None

Discussion: It was expressed that there is a need for a special committee only for burn building issues. It was felt that the board provides the funds but for the most part, does not receive further updates on the burn building until maintenance is required. It was suggested to have continuous contact with localities concerning burn buildings through a special committee: Mike Reilly (Chairman), Gary Eads and Ken Brown. They will meet at the Glen Allen office on Thursday June 1 at 1:00pm and begin discussion on Exhibit A.

Vote: None

Action: None

Topic: Proposed Legislative Change

Motion: Direct the Administration, Policy & Finance Committee to review Code of Virginia section 46.2-920, paragraph A, line 2, and related sections, to make a recommendation to the Fire Services Board as to whether the section should be amended to require all emergency vehicles except law enforcement vehicles to come to a complete stop prior to proceeding through red lights, stop signs, etc.

Discussion: Discussion ensued about the importance of emergency vehicle response. Several localities have attorneys that do not want their local law more stringent than state law which allows emergency vehicles to go through stop lights. It was mentioned that stopping at red lights is one of the two major issues for public safety. If the board goes forward with this, the agency will need to begin the proposal writing in June.

Other board comments included the view that emergency vehicles stopping at all red lights and stop signs is too stringent of a law because it was felt that there are many places, especially at night, where there is a clear view. Others supported the motion but believe the motion should go to the committee.

Vote: Motion carried

Action: Motion sent to the committee on Administration, Policy & Finance.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 10:13pm

Clerk of the Committee
Nausheen I. Khan

REVIEWED BY:

Aubrey "Buddy" Hyde, Jr., Executive Director,
VDFP

Date

Enclosures:

1. – Draft of Fire Prevention & Control Document
2. – HCD Regulatory Change Form
3. – Senate Bill 97 – An Act to limit the frequency of school fire drills during Standards of Learning assessments
4. FY2005 and FY2006 Fire Programs Fund Aid to Localities Payments
5. – Aid to Localities FY2006 Allocations (for comparison purposes only)
6. – FY2006 Burn Building Grants Budgeted Obligations: Spending Plan and Cash Availability
7. – FY2006 Training Mini Grants Budgeted Obligations and Cash Availability