

VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD
February 20, 2009

A regular meeting of the Virginia Fire Services Board was held at the Virginia Beach Convention Center in Virginia Beach, VA at 9:00 am. Mr. Dennis Mitchell served as Chair.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Dennis Mitchell – Chair
Kenneth Brown
Michael Reilly
Ed Altizer
Richard E. Burch Jr.
Thomas H. Moffett
William B. Kyger Jr.
Mike Armstrong
Kenneth L. Jones
Chris Kollman
Brian Mullins

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Robert Scott
Barbara Hamm Lee
Carl Garrison
Industry (SARA Title III & OSHA) – Vacant

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT

Billy Shelton Dave Jolly
Brook Pittinger Christine Lopilato
Amanda Wood

GUESTS PRESENT

James Grey	Charlie Singleton	Ron Hargrave
John Miller	Dickie Harris	Brett Williams
Kurt Kight	Robbie Dawson	Gary Brown
Ben Roy	Jeff Flippo	Scott Brown

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chair asked if there were any additions and/or corrections to the minutes from the November 2008 meeting. With no changes to the minutes the November 14, 2008 meeting minutes were approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

ROLL CALL

CHANGES IN THE AGENDA

Unfinished Business:

- A. Finalization of 2009 VFSB Meeting Dates & Locations
 1. February 20 – 21, 2009 – Virginia Beach
 2. April 16 -17 – Richmond Fire Dept (Richmond)
 3. June 5 – 6, 2009 – Glen Allen
 4. August 14 – 15, 2009 – Hampton
 5. October 8 & 9, 2009 – Richmond Metro Area
 6. December 3 & 4 – Richmond Metro Area

New Business:

- A. Westmoreland Co Fire & EMS Study Follow-up
- B. Strategic Plan

PUBLIC COMMENTS

James Grey, VFCA, welcomed the Board to the 2009 Conference.

COMMENTS FROM THE VFSB CHAIR

Dennis Mitchell thanked the VFCA for inviting the Board to hold their Board meeting in conjunction with the Conference. Dennis also thanked VFCA for their hospitality.

COMMENTS FROM THE VDFP LIAISON VDFP Executive Director

The following report was provided by Billy Shelton:

- ATL for FY 08 is 99.4% disbursed with four (4) months to go (9 agencies pending). Your assistance is appreciated to get these entitlements disbursed.
- ATL for FY 09 is 85.2% disbursed with 16 months to go! Forecast for FY 10 will be 5-8% less due to the economy plus a loss of \$ 1.1 million taken by DPB to manage the shortfall.
- Pro-Board Registrations stand at 66K for the Commonwealth of Virginia. For the third straight year, the Commonwealth has generated more certifications than any other state or entity.
- Roanoke Office housing SFMO, OEMS, VDFP, and VDEM has opened for business.
- VGA may take an additional \$1.1 to \$1.6 million from the ATL for FY 10. We will not know exactly until the Conference Committees meet.
- VFSB/VDFP has lost interest accruals for FY 08, 09, & 10. This amounts to \$ 1.2 million per year and will impact all grants.

- SFMO has been downsized in FY 09 due to budgetary restraints. The final figure was \$110K for FY 09. FY 10 will be slightly larger (\$ 202,742) with one FTE position lost.
- SFMO will merge into VDFP Offices in Orange and Hampton to save money in FY 10 timeframe.
- 2008 Needs Assessment has been distributed to VGA. The survey yielded a 92% response rate. This was a great effort! Thanks for your assistance and submissions.
- A final 2009 legislative report summarizing fire and emergency service legislation will be provided on the VDFP web site.
- Fire and EMS Study is on-going in Westmoreland County with the new template and format.
- On-line programs for HMA, T-T-T for NFPA 1403, and Fire Attack Series. As these programs progress, there will be more on-line programs offered.
- Minimum training standards recommendations have been approved by the three Stakeholder Groups (VFCA, VSFA, & VFPPA).
- Line of Duty Death (LODD) Memorial Service will be held in June 6, 2009 in Richmond with four (4) individuals being recognized.
- Two new Fire Investigation Labs are now in service to serve the Virginia Fire Marshal's Academy; these units will allow us to be even more mobile and not be dependent on acquired structures.
- The new Driving Simulator has been received, managers have been trained, and the unit is being readied for operation.
- Preliminary 2008 VFIRS stats were:
 - 523 K responses (4.9% fires, 62% EMS)
 - 69 fire deaths (16% less than 2007)
 - 573 civilian and fire service injuries
 - Fire loss \$ 409 million

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON FIRE EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Topic: Fire Officer II Curriculum

Motion: To approve the Fire Officer II curriculum.

Discussion:

There was no discussion held on this topic.

Vote: Unanimous

Action: Motion Carries.

Topic: Driver Pump Operator (DPO) Curriculum

Motion: To approve the DPO curriculum.

Discussion:

There was no discussion held on this topic.

Vote: Unanimous

Action: Motion Carries.

Topic: Mayday Awareness Program

Motion: To approve the Mayday Awareness curriculum.

Discussion:

There was no discussion held on this topic.

Vote: Unanimous

Action: Motion Carries.

Topic: Fire Officer Pre-req Discussion

Motion: To table this discussion to the next Board meeting. In the mean time, it is recommended that a Subcommittee be formed to examine this issue.

Discussion:

Dave Jolly, VDFP, provided the Committee with a presentation that covered the prerequisites for the Agency's training programs. The presentation specifically covered the Fire Officer prerequisite requirements. The Agency recommended leaving the current prerequisite requirements as they are currently structured.

Mike Armstrong asked if there are any options that will allow a student to take the Fire Officer course without taking the Fire Instructor I course first.

Dave Jolly stated that it would likely be possible for a student in a fire science college program, as they could challenge the fire officer program.

There were several comments made that encouraged the Fire Instructor I prerequisites to be modified for the Fire Officer I course that would allow for the Fire Officer I course to be taken before the Fire Instructor I so that flexibility is allowed.

Mike Armstrong and Ken Jones were appointed to the Subcommittee. Mike Armstrong will chair the subcommittee.

Vote: Unanimous

Action: Motion Carries.

Topic: Training Standards Presentation

Motion: That the Fire Services Board acknowledges and endorses the recommendations offered by the minimum training standards committee for Fire Fighters, Driver Pump Operator, and Crew leaders. The Board also recognizes these standards are not mandates to local jurisdictions, but are a standard of performance for departments to strive toward achieving. The Board also encourages all localities to consider these standards of performance.

Discussion:

The following discussion was held at the Committee meeting: Nick Caputo, VFCA, provided a presentation based on the results of the committee that met to examine the possible training requirements for Virginia's Fire Service. The committee agreed upon the following training recommendations:

- All Virginia Firefighters – VDFP Firefighter I within 2 years of joining a department;
- It was recommended that MayDay/Firefighter Survival be added to the Firefighter I program;
- Driver Operators – VDFP Firefighter I; EVOC related to the apparatus operated; VDFP Basic Pump Operator; All certifications should be obtained prior to operating an emergency vehicle;
- Fire Officer/Crew Leader – meet requirements for Firefighter and also complete unidentified Fire Officer/Crew Leader/Acting Officer program (TBD); other courses recommended: Fire ground safety and survival; ICS; Building construction Strategy and Tactics; and Should be attained before performing in the Officer function.

Nick Caputo suggested that the Board adopted these recommendations as a minimum level of training recommendations for the state.

It was noted that under Title 27 of the COV the locality is responsible for the adoption of training standards and VDFP and the Board are unable to adopt a training recommendations for the State. It was also noted that the adoption of a recommendation may create a legal requirement for the locality and that request will need to be reviewed by the Office of the Attorney General to determine if a legal requirement is created.

Vote: Unanimous

Action: Motion Carries

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

There are not motions from the Fire Prevention & Control Committee.

The following items were discussed at the Committee Meeting:

On April 8th and 9th there will be a two day code related training seminar held in Winchester. The training will provide 16 hours of training towards either the inspector or investigator in-service requirements.

VFIRS Hardware Grants:

- 18 jurisdictions for \$24,000 disbursed the end of January
- One jurisdiction, Town of Bloxom forfeited the grant award

The next Code Subcommittee Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 26, 2009 at the VDFP Glen Allen office. The meeting begins at 10 am.

Legislative Update:

- The Novelty Lighter Bill was successfully voted out of the Senate Subcommittee in which it was referred to.
- The Carbon Dioxide Bill was referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

Robbie Dawson stated that the Virginia Residential Sprinkler Coalition has been organized and will be meeting to discuss residential sprinkler issues within Virginia.

The Fire Team USA organization will hold a 2 day meeting in Richmond on April 14th and 15th (lodging is free – 2 days). The meeting will focus on policies and working with community leaders.

It was noted that the Agency is working with the Attorney General's Office to develop a letter on Reliable G-3 Sprinklers. The Agency will be sending a letter out to all State Agency's regarding the Reliable G-3 Sprinklers.

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION, POLICY & FINANCE

It was noted that the Agency is expecting a reduction in the Aid-to-Localities funding for FY10.

The Committee Chair also thanked Fauquier County for the demonstration they provided the Board on their mobile burn building.

Topic: Wise County Burn Building Ownership

Motion: To reallocate the \$25,000, +/- 20%, grant given to Wise County to the City of Wise.

Discussion:

There was no discussion held.

Vote: Unanimous

Action: Motion Carries.

Topic: Burn Building Extensions for Newport News, Orange County and Shenandoah County.

Motion: To grant a no cost time extension to Newport News until September 30, 2009; to Shenandoah County until December 31, 2009; and for Orange County to August 31, 2009.

Discussion:

There was no discussion held.

Vote: Unanimous

Action: Motion Carries.

Topic: Burn Building Subcommittee Realignment:

Motion: To make the following changes to the Burn Building Policy:

- Application submissions to be reviewed by the burn building subcommittee prior to recommendation to the Administration, Policy and Finance Committee.
- Positions appointed to the Subcommittee must include a minimum of the following:
 - Housing or General Public member
 - VACO or VML member
 - Insurance Industry member
 - Training Committee chair (as currently appointed)
 - Chair of the Sub-Committee
- Application submissions for renovations and new construction projects shall only be accepted bi-annually with post mark dates of January 1 and July 1. Repair project applications, up to \$10,000, submission will be accepted by the Agency at any time throughout the year.

Discussion:

There was no discussion held on this motion.

Vote: 10 Yays; 1 Nay

Action: Motion Carries.

Topic: Recommendation to Change the Current Burn Building Policy:

Motion: Any structural repairs or renovations must be certified by a Virginia licensed engineer or architect to certify that repairs or renovations were completed in compliance with the engineered plans for projects that are more than \$10,000 or by the recommendation of the Burn Building Subcommittee and provided to VDFP prior to final walk through and final funds disbursement. This provision will become effective for awards made on or after January 1, 2009.

Discussion:

The subcommittee wanted to ensure that the repairs/renovations being completed by the locality and reviewed by the Agency are properly completed.

Vote: Unanimous

Action: Motion Carries.

Topic: Harrisonburg Burn Building Application

Motion: To accept the new Burn Building Application from the City of Harrisonburg and table the request along with the other tabled new Burn Building Applications at this time.

Discussion:

Ian Bennett, Harrisonburg, made a presentation regarding a new Burn Building center for the locality, which would be used by the City of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County.

This topic was tabled and placed with the other new Burn Building requests.

Vote: Unanimous (Tom Moffett and Bill Kyger abstained from the vote)

Action: Motion Carries.

The next Burn Building Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2009 at the VDFP Glen Allen Headquarters Office.

Chief Owens, Fairfax County, informed the Board that in the Federal Stimulus Package there is a partial waiver for localities receiving future SAFER grants awarded in 2009 and 2010. However, included in the Stimulus Package there is a provision that allows Governors to waive the matching requirement for other fiscal years.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Topic: 2009 VFSB Meeting Dates & Locations

Motion: To accept the 2009 VFSB Dates and Locations

Discussion:

The following Board meeting dates for 2009 were scheduled and will be voted on at the February Board meeting.

February 20 – 21, 2009 – Virginia Beach
April 16 & 17, 2009 – Richmond Metro Area (Richmond Fire Dept)
June 5 – 6, 2009 – Glen Allen
August 14 – 15, 2009 – Hampton
October 8 & 9, 2009 – Richmond Metro Area
December 3 & 4 – Richmond Metro Area

Vote: Unanimous

Action: Motion Carries

NEW BUSINESS

Topic: Westmoreland Fire & EMS Study Update

Motion: NA

Discussion:

The committee agreed that a letter would be sent to the County Administrator requesting final comments so that the study can be released.

Vote: NA

Action: NA

Topic: VFSB Strategic Plan

Motion: NA

Discussion:

Dennis Mitchell noted that the Board has completed all the goals captured in their strategic plan.

Dennis requested that the Agency coordinate the workday for the Board. It was recommended that the Board conduct the workday on April 15th from 1pm to 4 pm.

Vote: NA

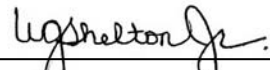
Action: NA

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 10:15 am

Clerk of the Committee
Brook M. Pittinger

REVIEWED BY:



W. G. Shelton, Jr.
Executive Director

February 23, 2009

Date

No Enclosures.