

**VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD**  
**February 23, 2007**

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

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Thomas Fuqua – Chair  
Kenneth J. Brown  
Gary W. Eads  
Ken Jones  
Tom Moffett  
Richard E. Burch, Jr.  
Ed Altizer  
Dennis Mitchell  
Michael Reilly  
William B. Kyger, Jr.  
Brian Mullins  
J. Chris Kollman  
Carl Garrison

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

General Public Rep-Vacant  
Susan Williams

**AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT**

Teresa Duncan  
Brook Pittinger  
Billy Shelton  
Dave Jolly  
Russ Chandler  
Angela Alston

**GUESTS PRESENT**

Chief Bruce Crow  
Steven Sites  
Frank Edwards  
Chris Eudailey  
Done Brown  
Willie Howlett  
Charlie Singleton  
Georgette Hurley  
Garrey Currey  
Rick Edinger  
Jonathan Hanson

Mark W. Light  
James Gray Jr.  
James Dawson  
Sheryl Bailey  
Joseph F. Farly  
Ron Hargrave  
Tom Jordan  
Gerald Pruden  
Gary Brown  
Vernon W. Hodge  
Bill Smith  
Bradley L. Jones  
M. Anthony Barrero  
David Thomas  
Charlie King  
Gary Huffman

Mr. Tommy Fuqua, Chairman, emphasized the importance of public & non-fire service organizations attending the Board meetings.

Chief Willie Howlett welcomed the VFSB & VDFP staff and thanked the VFSB for holding their board meeting in conjunction with the Mid-Atlantic Expo and Symposium.

Tommy Fuqua recognized Mark Light, IAFC Executive Director.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Chair asked if there were any additions and/or corrections to the minutes of the December 2006 meeting. With no changes to the minutes, the December 14, 2006 meeting minutes were approved.

**Motion:** To approve December 2006 meeting minutes

**Discussion:** No discussion

**Vote:** Motion carried

**Action:** Minutes Approved

#### **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

##### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

##### **A. DRY HYDRANTS**

##### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **A. Chesterfield Fire and EMS**

- B. Presentation from VRA**
- C. Funds transferred from State fire marshal office**
- D. Start time of meetings**
  - Burch/contact numbers**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**A. Department of Forestry:**

John Miller, DOF, provided a presentation on the dry hydrant grant program.

Applications for additional dry hydrants are going out with a due date of May 11, 2007.

John Miller spoke about the GIS and its advantages to the fire service.

Tommy Fuqua commended the Department of Forestry on the fact there was only 1.08 acres per 1000 acres lost, which shows a remarkable job being done by that department as well as our fire departments in the Commonwealth.

**COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR, VFSB**

Tommy Fuqua commented that the Board is going through the evaluation of approximately 30 applications for burn buildings. The Structure Group, Inc., VDFP's Architect, is conducting site inspections and has discovered some problems. The Board only receives a million dollars a year for funding; therefore the Board needs to evaluate the programs they approve.

Mr. Fuqua commented that since 1979 it has been the wish of the Virginia Fire services to relocate the State Fire Marshal's office under VDFP. The Governor's press conference for this bill will be on March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00am at the State Police Training Facility. The fire service can be a strong faction when it bands together to seek benefits for the Commonwealth's Fire Service such as the transfer of the State Fire Marshal Office to VDFP from Department of Housing & Community Development.

Mr. Fuqua recognized the appointment of Billy Kyger as the VACO Board Representative.

***COMMENTS FROM THE VDFP LIAISON(S)***

Billy Shelton recognized Angela Alston as the VFSB's new board clerk, and he also welcomed Mr. Billy Kyger to the board.

## **VIRGINIA FULL FIRE SERVICES BOARD REPORT BY THE VDFP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

The following information was provided by Billy Shelton.

- ATL Distribution for FY 06 is 98.7% (Still have 4 months to go)
- ATL Distribution for FY 07 is 75%/ \$12 million (Highest dispersed figures ever recorded). 33 of 39 cities, 141 of 190 towns, and 69 of 95 counties have been dispersed.
- Higher Education Initiatives are still on-going with VCCS and High School Programs
- Detailed statistics for CY 2006 have been provided.
  - Total calls 500,507
  - Loss \$ 275.2 million direct fire loss
  - 756 injuries
  - 82 civilian fire deaths and one firefighter death
- Pro-Board Certifications still stand at 30,041
- Recruiting for 50 new Adjuncts. Test were conducted on February 7 & 8, 2007
- Fire and EMS Studies are in completed in Pittsylvania and Caroline Counties. Orange County is a work in progress.
- The 2006 Needs Assessment has been completed and mailed to our stakeholders. There are a limited number still available from Brook Pittinger. The top three finds were apparatus, staffing for both career and volunteers, and equipment.
- FSTRS is ready for the conversion to first name last name and last four SSN. New forms have been ordered for the conversion.
- On-line Bookstore is fully acceptable for credit cards as of January 1, 2007. Sales have increased by 40%. ( Gary Brown was recognized for his efforts wit book store)
- The Governor's Awards have been finalized and are ready for presentation on Saturday morning February 24, 2007.
- Larry McAndrews and Russ Chandler have provided you with the training data for the last two months.
  - 1758 Total for FY 07
  - 477 Funded
  - 1145 Non-funded
  - 19 Reimbursable
- Prompt pay for the Program and Administration has been 100% for the last three consecutive months.

Billy Shelton commented that the Governor's office has announced a new political appointee to VDFP, Olufunke Owolabi. Olufunke will be a program analyst; her background is in public education and public information.

- Transfer of State Fire Marshal's Office to VDFP will take effect FY09

- \$ 24 million one-time ATL budget amendment was not forwarded for action by the Virginia General Assembly (Patron-Del. Moran)

#### **REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON FIRE EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

##### **Topic: Gloucester County Burn Building**

**Motion:** Accept Gloucester County's original application and request for funding of their burn building, \$430,000, with the condition that the project be completed by December 2007

**Questions/Comments:** Gary Eads commented that he has a problem with the message the Board may be sending out by approving a grant for a county that originally defaulted on their original grant.

Mr. Eads voted against this motion in the meeting.

**Vote:** Majority

**Action:** Motion carried

##### **Topic: VA Beach Burn Building**

**Motion:** Virginia Beach be considered for reimbursement and repairs made to their burn building in the amount of \$47,046, when the final A&E report is completed by The Structures Group.

**Discussion:** None

**Questions/Comments:** None

**Vote:** Unanimous

**Action:** Motion carried

##### **Topic: Farm Machinery and equipment curriculum**

**Motion:** Move to approve the farm machinery program as presented

**Discussion:** None

**Questions/Comments:** Michael Reilly wanted to commend the staff on a job well done. He felt the document was inclusive, informative and well done. He continued to comment that it will be a great service to the fire services.

**Vote:** Unanimous

**Action:** Motion carried

**Topic: Instructor I Program**

**Motion:** To approve Fire Instructor 1.

**Discussion:** None

**Questions/Comments:** Tom Moffett commented that he has a problem with the implied methods of instruction this program relays.

**Vote:** Unanimous

**Action:** Motion carried

**Topic: Move Burn Buildings requests for renovations and repairs from Training and Education to Finance, Policy and Admin Committee.**

**Motion:** To move all burn building requests for renovations, repairs and new construction to the Finance committee for evaluation and recommendation.

**Discussion:** The Finance committee reviewed and agrees with motion.

**Questions/Comments:** Tommy Fuqua commented that the current structure requires that Burn Building requests go through a two step process which will be cut down. This motion allows a one step process which will allow the Training committee to put stronger focus on training issues.

**Vote:** Unanimous

**Action:** Motion carried

**REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL**

**Topic: Carbon Monoxide Detectors**

**Motion:** To recommend funding \$50,000 from the interest money to partner with VDFP to establish a carbon monoxide detector program.

**Discussion:** None

**Questions/Comments:** None

**Vote:** Unanimous

**Action:** Motion carried

**Topic: Policy for Governor's excellence in the fire service awards**

**Motion:** To amend the bylaws that state employees are included in the Governor's awards program.

**Discussion:** None

**Questions/Comments:** Mike Reilly commented that he was very disappointed that out of 760 fire dept. there were zero submittals for the fire prevention award category.

**Vote:** Unanimous

**Action:** Motion Carried

**Topic: New Code Committee Members**

**Motion:** To add Dave Thomas of Fairfax County, Dave Diamantes of Northern Valley and Robbie Dawson of Chesterfield to the Code Committee.

**Discussion:** None

**Questions/Comments:** None

**Vote:** Unanimous

**Action:** Motion carried

**REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION, POLICY & FINANCE**

Dennis Mitchell commented on the accuracy of the financial documents provided by Christine Lopilato (VDFFP). The committee reviewed motions and would like to announce the Finance committee will have a workshop on Wednesday prior to the next board meeting, at 8:00 am to 12:00 pm, this work session will focus on developing an outline to prioritize burn building.

Recesses began at 10:10

Recesses ended at 10:40

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. PRESENTATION BY CHESTERFIELD COUNTY FIRE-EMS DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION BY CHIEF EDWARDS**

The Chesterfield County Fire-EMS Presentation covered the projects the VFSB grant money helped.

Chief Edwards said Chesterfield County is planning to do an open house in June. He also commented on his disappointment at the Board's implied view of Chesterfield County which was conveyed at the last board meeting.

Tommy Fuqua apologized for any statements from the previous Board meeting that may have offended Chief Edwards.

Billy Shelton also expressed the same sentiment and reassured Chief Edwards that there was nothing done or said in an intentional bad light on the part of the Board or VDFP on the subject of Chesterfield's Burn Building.

#### **B. PRESENTATION BY VRA (VIRGINIA RESOURCES AUTHORITY) Enclosure #1 – printed layout of slide show**

Dr. Bailey conducted a presentation on what functions VRA could provide for Virginia's Fire Service Community.

#### **C. FUNDS TRANSFERRED TO SFMO & VDEM**

The SFMO & VDEM transfers were supposed to be a one time biennium transfer. VFSB/VDFP is not going to go back and ask for those funds, but effective FY 08 no additional funds will be transferred. VDFP/VFSB will notify both agencies that the transfer will no longer occur.

Billy Shelton commented that the Department of Planning & Budget said VDFP does not have the statutory authority to disburse money to other state agencies; and that the VDEM & SFMO one-time biennium amendment has expired.

Tommy Fuqua commented that with not transferring the funds it will put \$250,000 back into the Board's budget.

Bill Kyger said he feels it is his job to make sure that funding go to the localities and feels they need to look into retrieving wrongly transferred funds.

**Topic: SFMO & VDEM transfer**

**Motion:** That the VFSB endorses the recommendation of Planning & Budget to no longer transfer funds to VDEM and SFMO.

**Discussion:** None

**Questions/Comments:** None

**Vote:** Unanimous

**Note:** Ed Altizer abstained from vote

**Action:** Motion carried

**D. Start times**

Dennis Mitchell announced that with the agreement to transfer the burn building requests to the Finance committee, he believes there is a need to readjust the committee start times.

April Start Times:

- Training & Education 9:00-11:00am
- Lunch 11:30am to 12:30pm lunch
- Fire Prevention & Control Committee 12:30pm-1:30pm
- Admin. & Finance Committee 1:30-4:00

Ed Altizer commented that the Code committee may have a longer meeting than usual.

There will be no executive committee meeting at the April 2007 Board.

**COMMENTS**

Tommy Fuqua announced there are thumb drives at the back for all Board members.

Tommy also stated that Carl Garrison has offered the DOF facility as the April Board location and Jim Garner will be cooking dinner for the board Thursday. If you plan to attend please provide your name to Angie Alston.

Tommy Fuqua commented that the Fire-EMS studies have been completed for different communities and some of the problems that occurred. He asked Richard Burch to chair a committee to research how these studies are put together and whether the Board needs a standard of how its done and if so how to enforce it.

Ken Jones made presentation featuring a grand act committed in honor of Carl Brishire.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 11:23 am

Clerk of the Committee  
Angela Alston

**REVIEWED BY:**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
3/06/07  
Date

**Enclosures:**

**1 VRA– printed layout of presentation**