

## **VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD**

### **Burn Building Subcommittee**

**Thursday, January 20, 2011**

A meeting of the Virginia Fire Services Board Burn Building Subcommittee was held at the Virginia Department of Fire Programs Head Quarters in Glen Allen, VA at 10:00 am. Mr. Ken Brown served as Chair.

#### **SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

*Kenneth J. Brown - Burn Building Subcommittee Chair – Virginia State Firefighter’s Association*

Brian Mullins – Virginia Board of Housing & Community Development

Mike Armstrong – VA Chapter of the International Society of Fire Service Instructors

Ed Altizer – Virginia State Fire Marshal (Alternate)

Ed Smith – Virginia Fire Chiefs Association

#### **SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

Bill Kyger – Association of Counties

Felix Sarfo-Kantanka, Jr. – General Public

Robert Scott – Insurance Industry Representative

#### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

#### **AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT**

Christine Lopilato

Brook Pittinger

Don Hansen

Angela Thompson

Matthew Smith

#### **GUESTS PRESENT**

Rhudy Keith – Town of Richlands

Matt Greggs – Hanover County

Ryan Richardson – Town of Richlands

Charles Carneal – Hanover County

Christopher Allin – City of Hopewell

Mike Matthews – The Structures Group (TSG)

#### **CHANGES IN THE AGENDA**

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. TSG Response – Fire Retardant Treated Plywood versus Non-Treated Lumber in Burn Buildings

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Burn Building Grant Application – Town of Richlands
- B. Burn Building Grant Repair Applications
  - 1. Hanover County

- 2. City of Hopewell
- C. A&E RFP Update
- D. 2011 Meeting Schedule

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments made.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR**

Ken Brown thanked everyone for their attendance and asked that the subcommittee to start thinking about reviewing existing Burn Buildings to increase the number of burn rooms and capacity.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **Topic: TSG Response – Fire Retardant Treated Plywood versus Non-Treated Lumber in Burn Buildings**

**Motion 1:** To send Gloucester a letter indicating the use of wood for the maze does not meet standards. The Building may not be used for VDFP certified Live-Fire training.

**Motion 2:** To revise specifications for prototype burn building construction to prohibit all wood construction including Fire Retardant Treated (FRT) except for FRT Roof Sheathing, in Prototype II, Class B Buildings.

**Motion 3:** To revisit the previous motion on the letter to Gloucester (reference Motion 1).

**Motion 4:** To send Gloucester the letter from The Structures Group (TSG) dated September 15, 2010 on FRT plywood in accordance with the current Burn Building Policy.

#### **Discussion:**

The Subcommittee discussed with staff and TSG the use of non-treated lumber versus fire retardant treated (FRT) plywood in burn buildings. TSG provided research findings on the subject, as tasked in last Burn Building Subcommittee meeting. The use of non-treated lumber creates an unintended fuel source in the burn building, which could pose a hazard to those using it.

TSG recommended that non-treated lumber/timber/plywood could be removed and replaced with metal studs or FRT timber studs and FRT plywood sheathing. The use of

“intumescent paint” coatings could produce similar fire barriers as the use of FRT timber or plywood; however, it has to be reapplied; and there is no research on the gases released from it when it is exposed to heat and/or flame. Alternatively, all non-treated lumber/timber/plywood could be removed from the burn building and be replaced with cold formed metal framing and corrugated metal decking.

**Vote 1:** unanimous

**Vote 2:** unanimous

**Vote 3:** unanimous

**Vote 4:** 4 Yays, 1 Nay

**Action 1:** Superseded by Motion 3 and 4.

**Action 2:** To present to the Committee of Administration, Policy and Finance.

**Action 3:** Reconsider Motion 1.

**Action 4:** To present to the Committee of Administration, Policy and Finance

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Topic: Burn Building Grant Application – Town of Richlands, Enclosure 1**

**Motion:** To table action on the Burn Building Grant applications until the next meeting.

#### **Discussion:**

In previous Burn Building Subcommittee meetings, members and staff discussed allowing Burn Building Grant Applications from the July grant application period to be carried over to the January grant application period for further consideration. It was determined that this is acceptable because the same Burn Building Grant Policy is in effect and it reduces application and filing workload of the locality.

- Town of Richlands – new Burn Building Grant application
  - a. Rhudy Keith and Ryan Richardson, presented on the Town of Richlands Burn Building Grant Application to the Subcommittee, **see Enclosure 1.**
- Town of Chilhowie – Burn Building Grant application carried over from July 2010.
- Accomack County – Burn Building Grant application carried over from July 2010.

The Subcommittee discussed the three applications and requested additional documentation from the Town of Richlands.

**Vote:** Unanimous

**Action:** Tabled until the next Burn Building Subcommittee meeting.

**Topic: Burn Building Grant Repair Applications**

**Motion :** To approve grant funding for Hanover County as requested within the grant application.

**Discussion:**

- Hanover County – repair
  - a. The repair request is for on-site forcible entry simulator.
- City of Hopewell – renovation
  - a. The renovation request is to repair the temperature monitoring system, window shutters, and heat tiles. The request did not identify funding for the items identified as deficient in meeting the minimum training standards for FFI and FFII (sprinkler simulator, a forcible entry simulator, pitched roof, and a vertical ventilation simulator).
  - b. The subcommittee informed the City that its request did not meet the intent of the solicitation to bring its burn building up to the minimum training standards for FFI and FFII. However, the City’s application could be considered for funding as a general repair project to be evaluated by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs.
  - c. The City was encouraged to have its annual inspection performed to better determine whether the existing structure should be considered for additional investment from the Burn Building Grant Program.

The subcommittee requested that staff send notification to the remaining jurisdictions whose burn buildings do not comply with the minimum training standards of FFI and FFII, conveying that training will no longer be certified at their facilities until the noted deficiency issues are addressed.

**Vote:** unanimous

**Action:** To present to the Committee on Administration, Policy and Finance

**Topic: Enhancements to Existing Burn Buildings**

**Motion:** N/A

**Discussion:**

The subcommittee discussed the need to consider future enhancements to existing burn buildings in the Commonwealth of Virginia to increase their training ability. There are numerous burn buildings that have small 10' x 10' rooms. These rooms cannot effectively facilitate fire attack team training with an active fire. The Subcommittee Chair asked that members start thinking about what can be done to enhance those facilities and will discuss it again at future meetings.

**Vote:** NA

**Action:** N/A

**Topic: Architecture and Engineering (A&E) Request for Proposal (RFP) Update**

**Motion:** N/A

**Discussion:**

The A&E RFP closed on January 18, 2011. A Review Panel comprised of Christine Lopilato, Angela Thompson, Laura Bishop, Don Hansen, Brian Mullins and a VCCO certified staff member from the Department of General Services – Division of Purchases and Supply (DGS-DPS) will review the proposals and complete the RFP process.

**Vote:** N/A

**Action:** N/A

**Topic: 2011 Meeting Schedule**

**Motion:** N/A

**Discussion:**

The Burn Building Subcommittee adjusted its 2011 meeting schedule. All meetings will begin at 10 am at the VDFP Headquarters in Glen Allen.

Previously Scheduled

Wednesday, March 2  
Wednesday, May 4  
Thursday, July 14  
Thursday, September 8  
Thursday, November 3

Adjusted Schedule

Thursday, March 3  
Thursday, May 5  
Thursday, July 7  
Thursday, September 1  
No Change

**Vote:** N/A

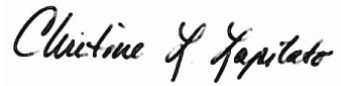
**Action:** N/A

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 2:32 pm

Clerk of the Committee  
Matthew C. Smith

**REVIEWED BY:**



Christine Lopilato  
Director of Finance

January 20, 2011

Date

Enclosures:

1. Town of Richlands Burn Building Presentation