

## **VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD**

**June 5, 2010**

A regular meeting of the Virginia Fire Services Board was held at the Richmond Fire Headquarters in Richmond, VA at 9:00 am. Mr. Michael Reilly served as Chair.

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

*Michael Reilly – Full VFSB Chair – Virginia Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators*

*Richard E. Burch Jr. – Committee Chair – Virginia Fire Services Council*

Ed Altizer – Virginia State Fire Marshal

Elaine Gall – Virginia Fire Prevention Association

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

Felix Sarfo-Kantanka, Jr. – General Public

Robert Scott – Insurance Industry Representative

Brian Mullins – Virginia Board of Housing & Community Development

Tom Moffett – Virginia Professional Firefighters Association

Ken Jones – Virginia Fire Chiefs Association

Bill Kyger – Association of Counties

Joe Wilson – Industry (SARA Title III & OSHA)

### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Kenneth J. Brown - Vice Chair & Burn Building Subcommittee Chair – Virginia State Firefighter's Association

Carl Garrison – Virginia State Forester

Kaye Brown – Virginia Municipal League

### **AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT**

Billy Shelton

Dave Jolly

Russ Chandler

Brook Pittinger

Christine Lopilato

Amanda Wood

Erin Rice

### **GUESTS PRESENT**

Neil Turner

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

The Chair asked if there were any additions and/or corrections to the minutes from the April 2010 meeting. With no changes to the minutes the April 9, 2010 meeting minutes were approved.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE**

### **ROLL CALL**

## CHANGES IN THE AGENDA

### Unfinished Business:

- A. No Unfinished Business

### New Business:

- A. Chair Nominations
- B. BHCD Response letter to SFMO Fee Increase
- C. Presentations
- D. Interstate Mutual Aid Video

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

## COMMENTS FROM THE VFSB CHAIR

Mike Reilly expressed his appreciation to the members of the Board for all of their hard work and dedication over his last year as the Board chair. Mike urged to the Board to continue their hard work, as it makes a huge impact across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

## COMMENTS FROM THE VDFP LIAISON VDFP Executive Director

The following report was provided by Billy Shelton:

- ATL for FY 09 is 100 % disbursed. Fourth consecutive year, congratulations.
- ATL for FY 10 is 89% disbursed
- New 90/10% distribution formula for FY 11 ATL
- Pro-Board Registrations for last quarter were 1,885.
- VFIRS Report through 05-20-10
  - Fires - **6,932** (4.3%); EMS - **105,675** (66.1%); Other Calls - **47,300** (29.6%)
  - Total Incidents - **159,907** (160K)
  - Aid Given (Mutual/Automatic) - **8,506**; Fire Exposures - **101**
  - Grand Total - **168,514** (169K)
  - Total Fire Dollar Loss - **\$75,924,304** (\$76 Million)
  - Civilian Fire-Related Casualties - **172** (Injuries - 148, Deaths - 24)
  - Fire Service Casualties (All Incident Types) - **120** (Injuries - 119, Deaths - 1)
  - Top Three Causes with Residential Structure Fire Causes - **Heating** (25.9%), Cooking (25.5%), Unknown (28.3%).
    - Please note that our web site carries the most current statistics.
- Three (3) mobile fire trainers have been awarded and delivery is expected within eight (8) months with arrivals in September, October, and December 2010 planned.

- Three more new fire training facilities are expected in the near future (Fauquier, Montgomery, and Franklin). Shenandoah is the only renovation project pending.
- The new Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighter simulator purchased through the Department of Aviation with Federal Stimulus Funds is progressing very well. Delivery is anticipated in September 2010.
- FY 11 Budget will be a challenge for all state agencies, but Governor Mc Donnell is very positive on the outlook for the future.
- Training and Operations Branch and Training and Technical Services Branch have reported **NO** backlog in certificate issuance. Our goal is to have all certificates in and out the door in < 10days.
- Virginia State Firefighters Assn. will formally recognize the Fire Officer IV graduates for the last year at their annual conference in August 2010.

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

The following motions were made at the Committee Meeting:

#### **Topic: 5 Year Training Plan**

**Motion:** To accept and adopt the 5 year training plan as presented with the following timeline added: comments deadline by January 30<sup>th</sup> each year; discussion at the February VFSB meeting and final approval at the April VFSB meeting.

**Discussion:**

It was noted that the 5 Year Training Plan is a living document that will be reviewed and revised at a minimum of at least once annually.

It was noted that the committee needs to develop deadlines for submitting comments and revisions so that a mechanism to provide feedback and is established and manageable.

**Vote:** unanimous

**Action:** motion carries.

#### **Topic: No Show Policy**

**Motion:** To accept the No Show Policy as presented with a July 1, 2010 effective date.

**Discussion:**

The following comments were made regarding the **No Show Policy** that was developed as part of the 5 Year Training Plan.

- It was noted that the policy could be made more severe/stricter regarding students that do not show for the course and fail to cancel their registration prior to the class.
- It was also noted that starting with a 'looser' policy and making it more severe as the policy is implemented would allow the Board and Agency greater latitude.

**Vote:** unanimous

**Action:** motion carries.

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

There were no motions made at the Committee Meeting. The following items were discussed.

- Prince William County Battalion Chief Jenny Collins, Chair of the EMS Advisory Board, reported that the EMS Board members will begin attending Fire Board meetings on a regular basis to continue the partnership between the Boards. Also, the EMS Strategic Plan is out for comments and would encourage Board members to review the draft plan and offer comments or recommendations.
- Chief Russ Chandler provided the VDFP liaison report. His written report is available in the Fire Prevention & Control Committee minutes.
- State Fire Marshal Altizer with Chief Mike Reilly and Mr. Brian Mullins provided reports on both the ICC Code development hearings in Dallas, Texas for the 2012 national model codes which will be proposed for Virginia in the future and the Commonwealth's current code cycle for adoption of the 2009 building and fire codes proposed to be effective in the fall (late October). State Fire Marshal Altizer and Chief Reilly attended the International Code Council (ICC) Final Action Hearings in Dallas May 16-22, 2010. Marshal Altizer represented the Fire Board and was involved with many changes proposed for the 2010 ICC set of codes. Working with other fire service representatives from Virginia and other states very valuable changes were made for the protection of citizens and firefighters in the Commonwealth as well as the nation's citizens and first responders was passed. Virginia had approximately 10% of the voters present for the Fire Code proposals and at times 15% or more for the other fire protection and fire safety issues in the Building Code. With many close votes, including 2 ties and several more within 10 votes, our presence was significant in passing the proposals some of which are being considered in Virginia at this time and others will be considered during Virginia's next cycle. The successful changes not included in the Virginia Codes this cycle will likely be incorporated in the 2012 editions of

Virginia's building and fire codes. Highlighted changes for the proposed 2010 ICC family of codes include:

- Membrane protection for lightweight construction
  - **R501.3 Fire protection of floors.** Floor assemblies, not required elsewhere in this code to be fire resistance rated, shall be provided with a ½ inch gypsum wallboard membrane, 5/8 inch wood structural panel membrane, or equivalent on the underside of the floor framing member.  
**Exceptions:**
    1. Floor assemblies located directly over a space protected by an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section P2904, NFPA13D, or other approved equivalent sprinkler system.
    2. Floor assemblies located directly over a crawl space not intended for storage or fuel-fired appliances.
    3. Portions of floor assemblies can be unprotected when complying with the following:
      - 3.1 The aggregate area of the unprotected portions shall not exceed 80 square feet per story
      - 3.2 Fire blocking in accordance with Section R302.11.1 shall be installed along the perimeter of the unprotected portion to separate the unprotected portion from the remainder of the floor assembly.
    4. Wood floor assemblies using dimension lumber or structural composite lumber equal to or greater than 2-inch by 10-inch nominal dimension, or other approved floor assemblies demonstrating equivalent fire performance.
- CO detectors were continued for all residential and institutional uses
- Self closing devices on doors between garages and living spaces will be required because the garage requires a fire separation. Self closing doors are important to maintain that separation.
- Landscaped roof safety provisions were passed to help with firefighting operations and ultimately structural safety. As an example, vegetation watering provisions were added which would limit water quantities and thus weight to the structure.
- Provisions for standardized keys for emergency elevator operations were provided that would allow key or lock boxes for existing situations. The purpose is to give better access and control to fire departments in an emergency.
- Photovoltaic safety provisions were passed relating to access, shutoffs and other safety provisions such as venting.
- Provisions for assisted living facilities as defined in Virginia that continue to require sprinklers in all facilities classified as residential or institutional uses including one and two family dwellings used for that purpose. This was an ICC Code Technology Committee proposal after several years of study. This proposal does not permit any resident not capable of self perseverance in a facility unless classified as an I-2 that includes facilities such nursing homes or other licensed facilities. Current Virginia requirements are far below the protection required by current code and will fall farther behind based on the 2012 code when it is considered. Both national model set of model codes now contain provisions that far exceed Virginia's provisions for resident safety. The provisions in both national model codes were passed after much study and support by hundreds of experts over many years.
- Basements. Where any portion of a *basement* is located more than 75 feet (22 860 mm) from openings required by Section 903.2.11.1, or where walls, partitions or other obstructions are installed that restrict the application of water from hose streams, the *basement* shall be equipped throughout with an *approved automatic sprinkler system*.
- The threshold for Sprinkler protection in buildings for the Storage and Sale of upholstered furniture were reduced based on the size of the area for that use. The

requirements could be based on the size of the area used for upholstered furniture rather than total size in some cases.

- Board of Housing and Community Development Codes committee will meet on June 7 at the Virginia Housing Center on Cox Road in Glen Allen to consider several proposed changes for the 2009 set of codes. Included will be discussions for sprinklers in 1 and 2 family dwellings and townhouses sprinkler protection for licensed facilities for the care of citizens in Virginia with additional provisions for sprinklers in all new facilities housing residents not capable of self preservation. See notes above regarding this subject under the ICC Dallas meeting report.
- The BHCD full Board will meet on July 26 to discuss all proposals and adopt the proposed 2009 regulations expected to become effective in mid to late October.

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

Chair Reilly discussed the Lifetime Achievement in the Fire Services Award and sought comments from the Board about the criteria for the Award.

The following motions were made at the Committee Meeting:

### **Topic: Training Mini-Grant funding**

**Motion:** To move the \$91,813 to fund the training mini-grant program.

**Discussion:**

It was noted that the funding for the Training Mini-grant program is from the Board's interest earnings. As a result of the interest earnings being swept from the Board, there will be no additional funding source for the Training Mini-grants program once the current funds are expended.

**Vote:** unanimous

**Action:** motion carries.

### **Topic: Enhanced Training Facilities**

**Motion:** To create a reserve allotment for the remaining funds, \$396,008, in the Burn Building grant fund to support renovations/repairs to bring existing burn buildings identified in the VDFP Burn Building Audit Report up to minimum standards to deliver Fire Fighter I & II training.

**Discussion:**

At the January 2010 subcommittee meeting, Ken Brown requested that the subcommittee develop the concept of an enhanced training facility so that the Board can do the most good with the funds the Board has available. It was

noted that an enhanced training facility would be the expansion on an existing facility and not the construction of a new facility.

The Agency provided the subcommittee with a report that documents the training capabilities of the training facilities within the Commonwealth of Virginia (Enclosure 5 in the BBSC Minutes).

It was noted that in July, the subcommittee will have to develop their budget plan; examine the burn building grant program; and also determine what the subcommittee should do to address the deficiencies detailed in the Burn Building Audit Report (Enclosure 5 in the BBSC Minutes).

It was noted that the subcommittee should consider allocating the reserve burn building grant funds, as of June 30, to address the deficiencies in the audit report.

Brian Mullins inquired about whether local governments could contract with TSG to address items identified in the Burn Building Audit Report. VDFP staff commented that it was not in proper procurement practice for TSG to contract both with the Commonwealth of Virginia and a local government. Mullins suggested the VFSB to discuss in the future about the ability for localities to discuss their deficiencies. Chief Reilly stated that VDFP staff has worked with each locality to address the problems identified in the Burn Building Audit.

Richard Burch voiced his concerns about paying TSG to develop forcible entry training elements when neighboring jurisdictions could pool together resources to limit expenses both to VDFP and localities.

**Vote:** unanimous

**Action:** motion carries.

**Topic: Montgomery County Time Extension**

**Motion:** Approve an extension to Montgomery County for an additional 180 days to construct a burn building. This is a no cost time extension.

**Discussion:**

Montgomery County is requesting a time extension for the completion of their burn building. The County feels confident they will be able to complete their burn building if a time extension is granted.

Several of the subcommittee members expressed their concern with granting Montgomery County a no-cost time extension since the County has had the grant award since December 2005 and they are concerned with their ability to fulfill the grant requirements. An extension was granted in December 2009 and several members of the subcommittee understood this would be the final extension granted.

It was noted that Montgomery County will work with their general contractor to ensure they can meet the building requirements to ensure the building can be built within the time frame if an extension is granted by the Full Board.

It was noted that the pre-bid conference for the building was June 8<sup>th</sup> and it was recommended that the County, if possible, move the bid meeting date to June 3<sup>rd</sup> so that the meeting occurs before the Board meeting on June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

Some members felt it was critical for the Board to follow the guidelines established for Burn Building construction and deny the localities request. The suggestion was made to send Montgomery County's request back to the Burn Building Subcommittee for continued discussion about potential resolutions to construction issues, including utilizing the new mobile burn units to train Montgomery County firefighters. Other members felt denying the localities request will be a change to VFSB policy regarding the use of mobile burn trailer.

Craig Meadows, Montgomery County, addressed the Board and reiterated their commitment to meet established deadlines. Montgomery County stressed at the pre-bid conference that any potential delays would be not acceptable. Montgomery County will be submitting their plans to the Burn Building Subcommittee leadership and notify of any problems that arise with the availability of stopping the project.

**Vote:** 7-5 (**No:** Jones, Mullins, Moffett, Sarfo-Kantanka Jr and Scott)

**Action:** motion carries.

**Topic: Request for Fire & EMS Study – County of Spotsylvania**

**Motion:** To approve the request for a Fire & EMS Study for the County of Spotsylvania, pending the formal approval of the Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors.

**Discussion:**

The County of Spotsylvania has requested the Board conduct a Fire & EMS Study.

The Board Chair has appointed Mike Armstrong as the Study Chair and Thomas Moffett as the Vice Chair. Felix Sarfo-Kantanka, Jr. and William Kyger volunteered to serve on the committee as well.

The VDFP Liaison will be Erin Rice.

Brook Pittinger will contact OEMS to determine their representative(s).

**Vote:** unanimous

**Action:** motion carries. .

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **Topic: Chair Nominations**

**Motion:** To accept the chair nominations for the VFSB.

**Discussion:**

VFSB Chair: Rick Burch

Vice Chair: Brian Mullins

Education & Training Chair: Mike Armstrong

Fire Prevention & Control Chair: Ed Altizer

Administration, Policy & Finance Chair: Brian Mullins

**Vote:** unanimous

**Action:** motion carries.

##### **Topic: BHCD Response letter to SFMO Fee Increase – Enclosure 1**

**Motion:** NA.

**Discussion:** The Agency received a response letter to their request to BHCD to increase the SFMO fees. According to the BHCD letter, they do not feel increasing the SFMO fees at this time is warranted.

**Vote:** NA

**Action:** NA

**Topic: Presentations**

**Motion:** NA.

**Discussion:**

Ken Jones was honored for his service on the VFSB and was presented a plaque by the VFSB.

**Vote:** NA

**Action:** NA

**Topic: Mutual Aid Training Video**

**Motion:** NA.

**Discussion:**

Rick Burch showed the VFSB a training video on the importance of mutual aid.

**Vote:** NA

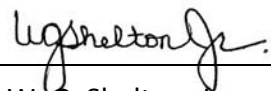
**Action:** NA

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 11:00 am

Clerk of the Committee  
Brook M. Pittinger

**REVIEWED BY:**



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W. G. Shelton, Jr.  
Executive Director

June 9, 2010

Date

Enclosures:

1. BHCD Letter to the VFSB regarding SFMO Fee Increases