

VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD
Administration, Policy and Finance Committee
Friday December 2, 2022
Loudoun County Fire Training Center
Meeting Room
9:00 a.m.

A regular meeting of the Administration, Policy and Finance Committee was held at the Loudoun County Fire Training Center at 9:00 a.m. Board Vice Chair and Committee Chair Abbey Johnston conducted the meeting and invited everyone to stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum was present.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Abbey Johnston
Ben Reedy
Bettie Reeves-Nobles
Scott Garber
Donald Hart

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Keith Johnson
Jerome Williams

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Walt Bailey
Ernest Little

GUESTS PRESENT

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT

Theresa Hunter Spencer Willett
Michael Parris Brad Creasy

CHANGES IN THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were given

CONSENT AGENDA

REPORT FROM VDFP ADMINISTRATION

- A. VFSB Budget Review – Interim Assistant Chief of Administration and Grants Manager Theresa Hunter spoke on the Budget Review which was given out to everyone. There is currently \$580,000 for any new projects.
- B. ATL Disbursement Status – Theresa Hunter mentioned \$15,000,000 was issued as of the last payment cycle in September 2022. The next payment cycle is December 23, 2022.

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- C. Update on Open Projects – Theresa Hunter gave an update on open projects. Currently, there are five open burn building projects, one renovation, and two repairs.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Committee Chair Abbey Johnston gave a summary of the Legislative Stakeholders Summit and mentioned that the packet was just a draft. The final copy will be finished by the end of today to be able to submit to the General Assembly. The final copy will be sent to the Full Board.

Board Chair Keith Johnson wanted to let everyone know that it is an undertaking of the Virginia Fire Services Council which is made up of various stakeholders. Each stakeholder brings forth legislative priorities for the upcoming session at their meetings. The leadership from the various organizations then approve the final document that is going to be presented. It consists of talking points and will also be emailed out to all the legislators ahead of time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. **Topic:** Charlotte County Fire & EMS Study Update

Motion: Scott Garber, seconded by Keith Johnson to approve the Charlotte County Fire & EMS Study and send to the Full Board for final approval.

Topic Discussion: Committee Chair Abbey Johnston will present the study to the Board of Supervisors on December 12, 2022. The committee consisted of Abbey Johnston, Dr. James Calvert, Dennis Linaberg, Ken Brown, and Will Merritt. Both Keith Johnson and Abbey Johnston thanked those that participate in the studies and mentioned that it's good to see firsthand what some of these localities go through and their needs.

Vote: The Committee voted unanimously to send to the Full Board for final approval.

Motion Action: To send to the Full Board for final approval on Friday, December 2, 2022.

- B. **Topic:** Sussex County Fire & EMS Study Update

Topic Discussion: Committee Chair Abbey Johnston mentioned the study is scheduled for mid-January 2023. The Committee consists of Walt Bailey, Bettie Reeves-Nobles, Claudia Cotton, Ernie Little, and Ken Brown from VDFP.

- C. Pulaski County Fire & EMS Study Update

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Topic Discussion: Committee Chair Abbey Johnston mentioned the study is scheduled for December 11-13, 2022. The Committee consists of Ben Reedy, Ernie Little, Chris Vernovai, Ken Brown, Dennis Price, and one more member is needed who has experience doing Fire and EMS studies at the request of Walt Bailey. Keith Johnson volunteered to participate if available and no one else is able.

D. **Topic:** Town of Lebanon Fire & EMS Study Update

Topic Discussion: Committee Chair Abbey Johnston discussed that due to a changeover in leadership the study has been slow to get scheduled but that a conference call the week prior to Christmas is scheduled to decide how to move forward. There are currently no committee members assigned to that study and it is slated to be done virtually.

NEW BUSINESS

A. **Topic:** Regional Fire Training Grants

Motion: Bettie Reeves-Nobles, Seconded by Donald Hart, to approve both the Town of Bedford's Training Tower Footing Review and Rockingham County's Flashover Simulator Review applications.

Topic Discussion: Committee Chair Abbey Johnston turned the floor over to Bettie Reeves-Nobles and Scott Garber who reviewed the applications.

Bettie Reeves-Nobles said they had met the day prior to go over the applications thoroughly and recommended the approval of the Town of Bedford for their Training Tower Footing Review and Rockingham County for their Flashover Simulator Review.

Vote: The Committee voted unanimously to send to the Full Board for final approval.

Motion Action: To send to the Full Board for final approval on Friday, December 2, 2022.

B. **Topic:** VFIRS Applications

Motion: Donald Hart, seconded by Scott Garber to approve the total grant amounts as indicated by VDFP.

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Topic Discussion: Theresa Hunter has reviewed the applications and recommends they move forward.

Vote: The committee voted unanimously to send to the Full Board for final approval.

Motion Action: To send to the Full Board for final approval on Friday, December 2, 2022.

C. Topic: Dedicated Funding Stream for Virginia's Fire Service.

Motion: Keith Johnson, Seconded by Scott Garber to support Abbey Johnston, along with Devon Cabot with Two Capitols, to craft a letter with the Chair's approval and signature to the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security from the VFSB. This would talk about a dedicated funding stream for Virginia's Fire Service.

Topic Discussion: Committee Chair Abbey Johnston brought up that one of the committee's responsibilities is to provide information and recommendations to the Board and the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security concerning legislative matters that affect the fire service.

Board Chair Keith Johnson added that this is something that the fire service needs. He mentioned Chris Eudailey with the Virginia Fire Chiefs has been passionate about this for some time now.

Vote: The committee voted unanimously to send to the Full Board for final approval.

Motion Action: To send to the Full Board for final approval on Friday, December 2, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee had a motion to adjourn by Bettie Reeves-Nobles, Seconded by Keith Johnson.

Vote: The Committee voted unanimously.

Motion Action: Committee adjourned.

Clerk of the Committee
Spencer Willett

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