

Rutland County Fire Mutual Aid Association, Inc.

Minutes of April 25, 2019 Annual Meeting

This meeting was held at Pittsford Fire Department and called to order by President Schlachter at 19:00. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for our fallen brothers and sister in the fire service.

Roll Call:

Department members present: Brandon Fire Department, Castleton Fire Department, Chittenden Fire Department, Clarendon Fire Department, Danby Mt. Tabor Fire Department, Hubbardton Fire Department, Killington Fire-Rescue, Pittsford Fire Department, Poultney Fire Department, Rutland City Fire Department, Rutland Town Fire Department, Wallingford Fire Department, West Haven Fire Department, West Rutland Fire Department.

Officers Present: Chief Robert Schlachter ,President; Chief Tom Fucile, Vice President; Michael Skaza, Treasurer; Heather Ducharme, Secretary.

Secretary's Report:

Presented and Passed

Treasure's Report:

Presented and Passed

Mutual Aid Response:

Killington Fire-Rescue had a person sleeping in a parking lot and the water rose overnight, so they called Rutland City Fire Department to come help with their rescue boat.

Department Updates:

Chittenden Fire Department is looking for a new Engine 1.

Rutland City Fire Departments Tower failed testing and is out of services.

Please get any officer changes to State Dispatch and RCFMA

Legislative session is winding down, so we should be notified soon if there will be any changes.

We are still waiting to hear about whether we will be able to put a blue light on a truck or not.

Governor said Level budget across the board.

Fire Academy requested 60,000 for curriculum increase and there is no additional funding for training.

Communications Update:

Angie, who is the frequency coordinator, is looking for a new input frequency for Killington.

There has been lots of radio testing being done and Gordon has gone to Grandpa's Knob and checked everything, which looks good.

State Dispatch has not been sending an ambulance when needing one or toning out for mutual aid. Apparently there has been a lot of turn over. They don't seem to pay well, so employees don't stay. May 4th will be 25 years that we have been using them and the only other option is for us to find another dispatch service and that will not be cheap. Being a dispatcher is not an easy job.

State Dispatch is working on loading our information into the Williston system as well in case Westminster should go down.

Guest Speaker:

Peter Coffey is trying to put together an officer training program with Michael Skaza for the Fire Academy.

Peter is now retired after 6yrs of working as the Deputy Director at Vermont Emergency Management and worked as a High School Educator for 31yrs prior to that.

These classes should have more of a facilitator not an instructor and be interactive. It will be done in sections. This is to help small fire departments of 8-9 members and up. Look over the handout and give feedback to Michael.

These classes will need to have about 12 people in them and it will be helpful to have people teaching that have had several years of service and experience as an officer. This will not be a certification program.

Old Business:

VFA- FF1 14 students did a burn in March.

Instructor 1 had 13 students and 13 students finished

NFA classes on website

Entry level Firefighter had 51 Students. It was train the trainer. You will learn how to deliver the program to fellow fire fighters. Class was on 3/31 positive feedback that we hit it out of the park. They had 131 applications, so they will have another class in June. The June 9th class is full. They held them Throughout the State. On 8/11 Swanton, 9/22 New Port, 10/27 Westminster.

FFI/FFII Deadline for applications is on 6/3

Election:

Nominees for President- Chief Robert Schlachter Passed

Nominees for Vice President- Chief Tom Fucile Passed

Nominees for Secretary- Heather Ducharme Passed

Nominees for Treasurer- Michael Skaza Passed

New Business:

Michael Skaza presented us with an assessment of our funds.

State Dispatch- Assessments

Capital increases

We should increase State dispatch dues to 1000.00 and Mutual Aid dues to 200.00 to cover costs of maintenance of equipment. This was approved by the membership.

Fire School was ok this year but not great. We need to kick it up a notch. We would like to get some national level speakers. We are looking at putting together a Facebook page for Southern Vermont Fire School to get the word out to everyone. We also want to start a Facebook page for the RCFMA.

Inter operation communications with Rutland City Fire use TAC A, cross band will repeat with Rutland City.

Castleton Fire Department is looking to get a FFI/FFII class at Castleton.

Chief Cioffi has resigned as Rutland Town Chief.

Next Meeting is TBD

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and second. This was passed, meeting adjourn 20:31

Respectfully yours,

Heather Ducharme

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Secretary

