

Rutland County Fire Mutual Aid Association, Inc.
Minutes of the October 21, 2007 Meeting

The meeting was held at the West Rutland Fire Station and was called to order by President Schlachter at 7:10 p.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance, moment of silence for passed members. Chief Skaza offered a welcome on behalf of the West Rutland Fire Department.

SICK AND DISTRESSED:

None reported.

ROLL CALL:

Department Members Present: Brandon Fire Department, Castleton Fire Department, Clarendon Fire Department, Danby-Mt Tabor Fire Department, Fair Haven Fire Department, Hubbardton Fire Department, Killington Fire-Rescue, Poultney Fire Department, Rutland City Fire Department, Rutland Town Fire Department, West Haven Fire Department, West Rutland Fire Department

Officers Present: Chief Robert Schlachter, President; Chief Tom Fucile, Vice-President; Michael Skaza, Secretary/Treasurer

Coordinators Present: Robert Schlachter, Tom Fucile, Michael Skaza, Tim Kerber

Other Guests Present: None

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2007 meeting as written. PASSED.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Schlachter reported that recent changes to Title 20 makes the local Vermont State Police Barracks Captain the Regional Emergency Response Coordinator in the event of a regional emergency. This essentially makes the VSP Captain the point of contact for any state resources. President Schlachter will be inviting Captain Patch to an upcoming meeting to discuss and explain this change. Local officials need to know what the role of the Regional Emergency Response Coordinator is prior to the onset of an emergency.

President Schlachter reported that he has been busy coordinating maintenance and other issues surrounding the State Dispatch system. More on this topic during the State Dispatch report.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

None.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer presented a year to date finance report. He reported that the Association is solvent. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. PASSED.

STATE DISPATCH:

The preventative maintenance is underway on the mountaintop transmitters. So far, it has been found that the Killington antennae is in need of a new mounting bracket before winter. That repair will be scheduled.

President Schlachter stated that we still need to perform a system wide test of our back-up transmitters. This testing will be scheduled and announced in advance to all of the system users.

OLD BUSINESS:

Craig Robideau stated that he still has the old training air cylinders in his garage and would like them removed as soon as possible. The Association has already voted to scrap these steel cylinders.

A review of recent mutual aid calls was done. Fire department response to bomb threats was discussed including the interagency cooperation that is necessary to handle these situations.

President Schlachter was contacted by the Deputy Secretary of Administration, Michael Bertrand, who was inquiring on the issue of the alleged move of some Vermont Fire Academy operations to the VTC Campus in Randolph. It was relayed to President Schlachter that the Governor's Office had received inquiries from local legislators and some fire chiefs regarding this issue. Deputy Secretary Bertrand stated that the Governor's Office had no knowledge of the alleged relocation efforts, yet they were aware of the situation. The Deputy Secretary advised President Schlachter that the new administration building would be built at the Pittsford site. This information was reinforced by Director John Wood of the Division of Fire Safety, who told President Schlachter that the contact made with the Administration was successful in pushing them fund the construction of the building.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Coalition of Fire and Rescue Services will be hosting a Listening Tour to discuss statewide fire service issues at the local level. The Tour will come to Pittsford at the Vermont Fire Academy Classroom 3 on November 6, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. It is important that we have a good turnout at this meeting to relay our stand on these important issues. A work group to develop talking points was formed for this meeting and consists of Chief Finer, Chief Jones, Chief Fucile, and Chief Howard.

Senator Sanders is hosting a Firefighter Town Meeting at Randolph High School on October 27, 2007 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The US Fire Administrator will be present as well as a panel of Vermont Fire Service Representatives.

The Southern Vermont Regional Fire School Steering Committee will meet at the 99 Restaurant on October 22, 2007 at 6:30 pm.

The 2008 VSFA Convention will be hosted by Rutland County Fire Mutual Aid and will be held on August 8th, 9th, and 10th. Our representatives addressed the issue of the financial contribution from VSFA at the last Executive Board Meeting and we have been approved to receive \$7000.00

from the VSFA for hosting the convention. Each Rutland County Department is asked to donate or raise \$300-\$400 through advertisement sales. Departments are needed to coordinate and/or execute the following tasks:

- Sporting Events
- Set up of vendor display area, afternoon/evening of August 8th.
- Parade Line Up
- Registration Staff
- Banquet and Awards
- The Memorial Service will be coordinated by Chief Kilpeck

It was discussed that we need to provide some Haz-Mat Decon Refresher Training for those in the County who are Decon trained. More information will follow on this topic.

The point was raised that there are currently no water rescue resources in the county. President Schlachter asked if we should look into this issue further. The issue was tabled for future discussion.

It was recommended by the President and Treasurer that the 2008 State Dispatch User Fees be set at \$800 for those departments not utilizing the roll-over lines and \$900 for all others. A motion was made and seconded to set the 2008 State Dispatch User Fee at \$800 for those departments not utilizing the roll-over lines and \$900 for all others. PASSED.

It was recommended by the President and Treasurer that the 2008 Mutual Aid Association Dues be set at \$200 per department. A motion was made and seconded to set the 2008 Mutual Aid Association Dues at \$200 per department. PASSED.

It was reported that there is still funding available for communications equipment through VCOMM where departments must upgrade their radios to meet the new programming requirements. There is also grant money available from Emergency Management for generator installations at emergency shelters.

With no other business at hand, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. PASSED. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. Skaza

Michael J. Skaza
Secretary/Treasurer