

Rutland County Fire Mutual Aid Association, Inc.
Minutes of the April 24, 2008 Meeting

The meeting was held at the Clarendon Fire Department and called to order by President Schlachter at 7:00 p.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance, moment of silence for passed members.

SICK AND DISTRESSED:

None reported.

ROLL CALL:

Department Members Present: Castleton Fire Department, Chittenden Fire Department, Clarendon Fire Department, Danby-Mt. Tabor Fire Department, East Dorset Fire Department, Hubbardton Fire Department, Ira Fire Department, Mt Holly Rescue Squad, Rutland City Fire Department, Rutland Town Fire Department, Shrewsbury Fire Department, Wallingford Fire Department, West Rutland Fire Department

Officers Present: Chief Robert Schlachter, President; Michael Skaza, Secretary/Treasurer

Coordinators Present: None.

Other Guests: Dan Zimmer, Vermont Fire Academy

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2008 and March 20, 2008 meetings. PASSED.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Schlachter reported that he has followed through as directed by the Association with respect to legislative initiatives. This included voicing our stance on taking money away from planned Vermont Fire Academy Projects. We are not opposed to the Dry Hydrant Program or the VTC Burn Building, but do not want to see any money taken from projects at the VFA to support other initiatives. He is watching a bill that offers easier access to patient information when a responder is exposed to a bloodborne pathogen.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

None.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's Report was presented. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted. PASSED.

STATE DISPATCH:

President Schlachter reported that there is still interest in developing a run card system for dispatching. Other projects have taken time away from this discussion.

A reminder was issued to members stating that the VTAC/UTAC frequencies can be used as operational frequencies in addition to our County Fireground Frequencies.

Castleton and Hubbardton Fire Departments are reporting a weaker and scratchy signal off of the Killington Transmitter. President Schlachter will contact our radio maintenance vendor for an evaluation of the problem.

OLD BUSINESS:

The grant funded mechanical work on the support trucks has been completed and we are awaiting the arrival of the generators for each truck to be installed. We are also waiting for the arrival of the new cascade system for Support 2.

NEW BUSINESS:

Recent Mutual Aid Calls were reviewed. A discussion took place regarding the need for firefighters to have better training in tree falling and chainsaw use. In addition, it is imperative that firefighters wear the proper PPE for the job at hand. East Dorset Fire Department reported that they have a 6 wheeler and a 4 wheeler ATV on a trailer if needed for forest fires.

Fran Buck of the Bennington Rural Fire Department appeared before the membership to introduce himself. He is seeking the position of VSFA 2nd Vice-President and would like support at the convention.

A motion was made and seconded to disburse \$6000.00 each to Rutland County and Bennington County from the Fire School Fund. PASSED.

Rutland County will be hosting the VSFA Convention on August 8-10, 2008. Tim Burgess of Bennington will be coordinating the vendors as Craig Robideau has a conflict with his new employment. President Schlachter is working with the Rutland Partnership to coordinate activities with their Friday Night Live Celebration.

Southern Vermont Regional Fire School will be held on September 6 and 7, 2008. As always, help is needed on the committee.

Brandon Fire Department was given permission to place the County Dispatch frequency in their repeater for better coverage in their area. They are using this frequency without the PL as a fireground frequency. Our policy has been not to place a PL on the receive side of mobiles and portables. Other departments are hearing the fireground transmissions on radios and pagers because of this. A motion was made and seconded to have President Schlachter investigate this situation with our radio technician and have him advise us on the implications of such use. Additionally, if this use poses a concern to the reliability of transmissions on the County Dispatch System, then we shall ask Brandon to discontinue this use. PASSED.

Some Chiefs asked if we wanted to make a "Go to Channel 2" message a standard operating procedure for the dispatchers. The consensus was that no such messages should be occurring

anyway since the only transmissions permitted on Channel 1 are those intended for State Dispatch only.

Killington was concerned that additional information received on dispatch was being transmitted over the secondary transmitter rather than the primary. They asked if the dispatchers could be reminded to broadcast dispatch information over both transmitters.

Dan Zimmer addressed the membership regarding the happenings of the Vermont Fire Academy. His information is as follows:

- VFA is seeking input for Firefighter I and II course locations for the upcoming fiscal year. Please send in requests for courses so that they can do a needs assessment.
- Todd Cosgrove has been hired as the new Homeland Security Training Coordinator. Contact him with any NIMS needs.
- Michael Skaza has been hired as the new Site Coordinator.
- VFA is working on the release of a new Driver/Pump Operator Certification Course.

The following events were announced:

April 26, 2008	Danby-Mt Tabor Pork Roast, 5:30 p.m.
May 10, 2008	Wallingford Chicken BBQ, 2-7 p.m.
May 17, 2008	CBRNE Drill with the Civil Support Team, Rutland

The election of officers was held with the following results:

President:	Robert Schlachter
Vice-President:	Tom Fucile
Secretary/Treasurer:	Michael Skaza

Information was distributed regarding the new Federal regulations requiring responders to wear high-visibility apparel when working in traffic. These new regulations become effective in November 2008.

With no other business at hand, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. PASSED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. Skaza

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Secretary/Treasurer