

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

The meeting was held at the Benson Community House 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: Benson Fire Department, Brandon Fire Department, Castleton Fire Department, Clarendon Fire Department, Danby-Mt Tabor, Fair Haven Fire Department, Hubbardton Fire Department, Mt. Holly Fire Department, Pittsford Fire Department, Poultney Fire Department, Rutland City Fire Department, Rutland Town Fire Department, Shrewsbury Fire Department, Wallingford Fire Department, West Haven Fire Department, West Pawlet Fire Department, West Rutland Fire Department

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

Coordinators Present: Tim Kerber

Other Guests: None

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the December 30, 2007 meeting. PASSED.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Schlachter reported that he has been attending various meetings as usual to represent out organization.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

None.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

STATE DISPATCH:

A meeting will be held on March 20, 2008 at Pittsford Fire Department to discuss issues with the Troop Captain and PSAP Administrator of the Vermont State Police. This meeting will provide information updates, allow for the discussion of issues and concerns, review dispatch and police policies, discuss run card development plans, and to discuss issues surrounding Title 20 and the

role of the VSP Captain as a resource coordinator on an incident scene and issues of scene control.

OLD BUSINESS:

President Schlachter is seeking sub-committee chairpersons for the upcoming VSFA Convention. Help is needed in all areas and County departments are asked to assist in any way possible.

Planning is underway for the 2008 Southern Vermont Regional Fire School, which is slated for September 2008. Committee meetings will be held on March 19, 2008 in Rutland and April 23, 2008 in Manchester. Anyone who is interested in working on the committee should contact President Schlachter.

It was reported that Senator Sanders has secured federal funding for a portion of the construction of a burn building at VTC in Randolph. There has been an apparent recent move to reallocate money that was earmarked for the new building at the Vermont Fire Academy in Pittsford to the construction of the burn building. Representative Flory of Pittsford has stated that the Coalition of Fire and Rescue Services has testified in the last week in support of the development of a satellite facility and burn building in Randolph. Representative Flory has apparently met with Governor Douglas and received assurance that the new building will be built in Pittsford. Many Chiefs expressed a concern that the Coalition was speaking on behalf of the fire service without truly understanding the consensus opinion. There will be a VSFA Executive Board Meeting on March 2, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. at the Vermont Fire and Police Academy. Our members are encouraged to attend and let the VSFA Officers and representatives know what their true feelings are on this matter and how the Coalition is representing us.

Our local legislators have confirmed that there is a Senate Committee considering legislation to construct a satellite fire training facility at VTC. Many Chiefs present felt that money should be spent on program delivery rather than construction of unnecessary facilities that will get little use. Anyone who has a strong position on this issue is urged to contact their State Representative or Senator. A motion was made and seconded to authorize President Schlachter to contact our legislators and senators to express our objection to any money being reallocated from the Pittsford Building Construction Project and if additional funds are being considered, we suggest that they be directed toward the delivery of firefighter training programs. PASSED.

Apparently, changes have been made to Title 20 that makes the VSP Captains the coordinators for resources at a disaster or other emergency. There are questions as to what this means and how it works. The membership asked President Schlachter to invite Captain Patch to the next meeting to discuss this issue and offer explanation.

NEW BUSINESS:

A discussion took place on the need for an interstate and statewide mutual aid agreement. We have many departments that cross state and county lines and there are questions as to whether such mutual aid is adequately addressed by statute. This is an issue that may need to be addressed with our legislators. Some Chiefs expressed concerns over the question of insurance

coverage when operating outside of your normal mutual aid system and departments are advised to look into their individual coverage.

Support 2 is in service in Poultney and able to respond as needed. Support 1 is out of service and is currently parked at Rutland Fire Department and in need of a home.

President Schlachter stated that he is awaiting the release of the Fire Act Grant Program Guidance to see if regional applications are being accepted. If they are, he would like to apply for a new support truck for the County. A motion was made and seconded to authorize President Schlachter to apply for a Fire Act Grant to obtain funding for a new support truck if regional applications are accepted. PASSED.

It was acknowledged that we need to look at updating the Rutland County Mutual Aid agreement to be more inclusive in today's missions. We also believe that we need to update and incorporate the recommended countywide fee schedule for hazardous materials responses.

The next meeting is our Annual Meeting and will be held on April 24, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Clarendon Fire Station.

With no other business at hand, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. PASSED. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. Skaza

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Secretary/Treasurer