

**Rutland County Fire Mutual Aid Association, Inc.**  
*Minutes of the January 15, 2009 Meeting*

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The meeting was held at the Castleton Fire Station 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. Chief Goyette welcomed the membership to Castleton.

**SICK AND DISTRESSED:**

None reported.

**ROLL CALL:**

*Department Members Present:* Castleton Fire Department, Clarendon Fire Department, Fair Haven Fire Department, Hubbardton Fire Department, Ira Fire Department, Mt Holly Fire Department, Rutland City Fire Department, Rutland Town Fire Department, Shrewsbury Fire Department, Tinmouth 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, Secretary/Treasurer

*Coordinators Present:* Schlachter, Skaza

*Other Guests:* Dan Zimmer, Vermont Fire Academy

**APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as written. PASSED.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

President Schlachter reported that he is continuing to represent the Association on various projects that he has remained involved with at the state and local levels.

Rutland City Fire Department would like to undertake a project that would upgrade Support 1 so that it was capable of performing fire fighter rehabilitation functions.

There are currently no communications issues that he is aware of. He is awaiting a report from our radio vendor on transmitters using our frequency without PLs and the possible impact of bleed over on dispatching interference. Anyone using our dispatch frequency is reminded to always use proper radio procedures. President Schlachter presented a letter that was sent regarding Brandon Fire Department's use of our dispatch frequency on a repeater system for their paging (See Attachment A).

**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:**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

It was decided to hold off on making contacts regarding the additional funding needed for the Fire Academy Administration Building project. The plans are now completed and ready for bid. Construction is slated to begin in the Spring of 2009.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Recent mutual aid responses were discussed.

A discussion took place regarding Forest Fire Reimbursement. It was noted that some Towns are using mutual aid for forest fires and not paying the responding departments while others are. It was agreed that a discussion was in order with the Agency of Natural Resources about forest fire reimbursements.

Wallingford Fire Department is willing to host a support unit once the rescue squad moves out of the fire station.

A report was given by our VSFA Representatives Don Howard and Norm Flanders. They reported that VSFA is trying to encourage membership by all fire fighters in the State. If there have been issues in the past that have driven people away, they would like to hear about them and work toward resolution. They reported that there has been some discussion within other fire service groups in Vermont regarding consolidation of the fire service. No solid information is available on this topic, but members were asked to report about any such discussions that take place.

There will be a FIRE Act Grant Workshop presented by FEMA at the West Rutland Fire Station on February 4, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

Dan Zimmer was present and reported on current events at the Vermont Fire Academy. He stated that funding for program delivery was becoming more and more difficult. He said that regions need to begin considering alternative ways of providing training through "franchising" programs. He explained that Counties may want to look at delivering VFA sanctioned programs with local instructors to lessen the cost burden. He announced the upcoming National Fire Academy programs that were being delivered to Vermont and provided an update on the status of the Fire Fighter I programs that are currently underway.

Michael Skaza stated that the County treasury could be used to fund some training programs in the county that would be good for our members.

President Schlachter said that we needed to revisit our mutual aid agreement to review the language to ensure that it covers all services that are provided by fire departments in this day and

age. It was acknowledged that the scope of fire department services have changed considerably since the document was originally drafted. There is a concern that there may be loopholes in the language that could give a payer, such as an insurance company, a way to dodge their financial responsibility.

Clarendon Fire Department announced that they will be selling their tanker and it will be available in mid-February.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

*Michael J. Skaza*

Michael J. Skaza  
Secretary/Treasurer

Attachment A

**RUTLAND COUNTY FIRE MUTUAL AID  
PO BOX 6747  
RUTLAND, VERMONT 05702**

**November 20, 2006**

**Mr. Richard Hill  
Wells Communications**

**Re: Brandon Fire Paging Repeater**

**Dear Mr. Hill:**

**Rutland County Fire Mutual Aid will agree to the use of our dispatch frequency of 154.250 as a control frequency for a paging repeater in Brandon.**

**It is our understanding that this will not affect our system at all as the repeater is simply taking the signal from dispatch and re-broadcasting it over the repeater frequency to give greater pager coverage in the Brandon area.**

**Rutland County Fire Mutual Aid will assume no financial responsibility or liability for the repeater equipment being purchased/used by the Brandon Fire Department and the Brandon Fire Department is responsible for all licensing of this equipment.**

**If you require further information please contact me at 775-5735. Thank you.**

**Robert L. Schlachter  
President**

**CC: Chief Robert Kilpeck**