

Rutland County Fire Mutual Aid Association, Inc.
Minutes of the March 12, 2009 Meeting

The meeting was held at the Pittsford 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 Hooker welcomed the membership to Pittsford.

SICK AND DISTRESSED:

None reported.

ROLL CALL:

Department Members Present: Brandon Fire Department, Chittenden Fire Department, Clarendon Fire Department, Danby-Mt. Tabor Fire Department, Pittsford Fire Department, Poultney Fire Department, Proctor 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, Secretary/Treasurer

Coordinators Present: Schlachter, Skaza, Fucile, Kerber

Other Guests: None

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2009 meeting as written. PASSED.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Schlachter congratulated Chief Kilpeck on his recent retirement from the Division of Fire Safety where he worked for many years as a State Fire Marshal.

President Schlachter reported that there was little going on in the legislature that pertained to the fire service due to the budget crisis. The Division of Fire Safety is in the process of updating the Fire and Building Code through the Administrative Rules Process and that is being watched.

There is no news to report on from the Coalition of Fire and Rescue Services.

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:

Lars Lund from Forest and Parks would like to attend the April Meeting to discuss Forest Fire issues. President Schlachter will look into inviting a representative of the National Forest Service as well.

Wallingford Fire Department indicated that they would be interested in hosting Support 1 as soon as the Wallingford Rescue Squad moved out of their building. President Schlachter will make those arrangements with Wallingford and advise when the move is complete.

NEW BUSINESS:

The recent news of federal stimulus money for the fire service was discussed. Although it is preliminary, it looks like there will be grant funding for fire station construction. Most members present feel that the fire service was once again short-changed in comparison to law enforcement when it comes to funding.

It was discussed that the Appropriations and Institutions Committees were currently in the process of taking testimony on the Capital Bill. It is believed that VTC is seeking capital to complete the construction of the Randolph burn building. It was voiced by many that new facilities should not be built if it takes funding away from existing programs, which are underfunded to begin with. It was explained the VTC was pursuing Capital Funds, which are not tied to operating funds. A motion was made and seconded for the Association to take a position supporting Capital requests that will continue to build upon the Pittsford site and to encourage all available funding to be directed the delivery of training programs. PASSED.

The VCOMM Grant Program criteria has been changed from requiring the installation of VCALL frequencies into the Channel 2 position of pagers to stating this should be done if possible. This should cause greater interest in this program from the fire service.

The following upcoming events were announced:

3/14/2009	KMA Training Workshop, Rutland
5/2 & 5/3/2009	Southern Vermont Regional Fire School, Rutland

Recent mutual aid responses were discussed including the Wallingford Lodge and Mt Tabor Lodge fires.

Michael Skaza provided an activity update from the Vermont Fire Academy as follows:

- Construction of the new Administration Building continues to move forward and is expected to begin around mid-April 2009.
- The Academy Staff is seeking input on what Vermont Department would like for NFA Off-Campus Courses for the upcoming FFY. A survey form was distributed for feedback on course selection. Feedback is also needed on the interest of doing an In-State Weekend program instead of a Two-State Weekend, which is currently held in Emmitsburg, MD.
- The State Budget Crisis continues to be a burden on all facets of State Government. Budget cuts have been imposed on the current FY budget which has caused the Academy to make

adjustments to programs and schedules. We anticipate the receipt of additional funding from the insurance industry in 2010, however, there is fear that this may just offset budget cuts leading to no net gain.

Michael Skaza asked the membership to authorize the dues rate for the current calendar year. A motion was made and seconded to set the 2009 dues at \$200.00 per department and set the State Dispatch User Fee at \$900.00 for departments that utilize the County roll-over lines and \$800.00 for departments that maintain their own emergency line. PASSED. A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Treasurer to bill \$200.00 to each EMS organization that utilizes the County roll-over lines. PASSED.

President Schlachter requested permission to apply for a grant from Wal-Mart to outfit the Support Trucks with the appropriate rehabilitation equipment. A motion was made and seconded to authorize President Schlachter to apply for a grant from Wal-Mart for Rehabilitation Equipment. PASSED.

Chief Kilpeck announced that Brandon Fire Department may have a Rescue Truck coming available for purchase. If anyone is interested, they should contact him.

Chief Flanders announced that Clarendon Fire Department has a tanker for sale. Starting bid is \$7000.00.

Wallingford Fire Department has a forestry truck for sale with a starting bid of \$500.00 and a tanker for sale with a starting bid of \$1500.00.

With no other business at hand, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m. PASSED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. Skaza

Michael J. Skaza
Secretary/Treasurer