

Rutland County Fire Mutual Aid Association, Inc.
Minutes of the April 15, 2010 Meeting

The meeting was held at the West Rutland Fire Station and called to order by President Schlachter at 7:00 p.m. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for our fallen brothers and sisters in the fire service.

SICK AND DISTRESSED:

None reported.

ROLL CALL:

Department Members Present: Castleton Fire Department, Clarendon Fire Department, Danby-Mt Tabor Fire Department, Hubbardton Fire Department, Mt Holly Fire Department, Pittsford Fire Department, Rutland City Fire Department, Rutland Town 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: Schlachter, Skaza

Other Guests: None

Secretary's Report / Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to table the approval of the minutes from the previous meeting. PASSED.

No correspondence has been received by the Secretary that needs to come before the Board.

Treasurer's Report

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

Mutual Aid Responses

Mutual Aid responses were reviewed. The discussions involved the following incidents:

- Clarendon: Mill River Union High School, steam pipe leak
- West Pawlet: LP Truck Overturned with leaking product
- Danby-Mt Tabor: Large Brush Fire
- Pittsford: Barn Fire
- Rutland Town: Outdoors in Motion, fire with haz-mat

State Dispatch

A discussion took place on whether or not a protocol was needed to screen calls received by dispatch. This issue was raised at the last meeting by Chief Kilpeck and tabled until the PSAP

Administrator could be included in the discussion. Many representatives pointed out that this issue has been discussed and a decision had been previously made to dispatch all calls received in the dispatch center and allow the local department officer to determine if the call should be cancelled. A motion was made and seconded to continue with the procedure that was previously decided upon, which is for all calls to be dispatched and leaving the local officer in charge with the decision to cancel a response based on local protocols. PASSED.

Tinmouth Fire Department has requested to get onto the State Dispatch/RCFMA Dispatch System. President Schlachter will be working out the logistics with them. Tinmouth must also pay the initial fee to join the system.

Vermont 911 is finalizing the proposal for the next upgrade of the statewide 911 system.

If you have not yet requested funding for pagers through the VCOMM Emergency Request program, then you should do it immediately. The next deadline for requests is in June.

VSFA Representatives Report

Addison County is willing to host the 2011 VSFA Convention in Middlebury, but without a parade. The parade is a very expensive endeavor and attendance is dropping lower every year. Each County Representative was tasked with finding out the preference of their constituents. A motion was made and seconded to state that we feel that the host should be given the preference as to whether there would be a parade or not. PASSED.

The 2010 VSFA Yearbook and a VSFA Handbook was distributed to member departments that were present. The Green Mountain Responder will no longer be published in paper format. The Association is working on putting together an electronic newsletter.

Members are encouraged to nominate members for the VSFA Awards. If you nominate a member and they are not chosen, you are encouraged to re-nominate them for consideration the next year.

New Business

2009 Fire Act Grants are being awarded now and the 2010 application period will be opening shortly.

Treasurer Michael Skaza asked the members to set the 2010 Mutual Aid Association Dues and the 2010 State Dispatch User Fees. A motion was made and seconded to level fund the dues at \$200.00 per Department and the State Dispatch user fees at \$900.00 for those Departments using our roll-over phone lines and \$800.00 for those Departments not using our roll-over phone lines. PASSED.

A discussion took place on narrowbanding our radio frequencies. It was agreed that the Association should set a deadline for all of our members to achieve their narrowband re-licensing. This will avoid each member Department having to reprogram their radio equipment multiple times during the process. It is recommended that all departments start the application process soon, because many of us will have to change frequencies. Once your frequency is

changed, you should notify the Association so that we can maintain a current directory of frequencies to share with all departments. No date was agreed upon for this to happen, however, the FCC mandates that it be done by January 1, 2013.

The new Chief of the Mt Holly Fire Department is Keith Hawkins.

The election of officers was held according to Roberts Rules of Order with the following results:

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

Old Business

The Division of Fire Safety has repealed a recent directive that permitted much smaller egress windows in residential occupancies. The Association took a strong position on this issue at the last meeting seeking this directive to be repealed.

H527 Municipal Cost Recovery Bill has been re-worked and will be studied further in a summer study by the legislature. This is enabling legislation for Departments who would like to bill for responses.

Southern VT Regional Fire School will be held on May 1 and 2, 2010. Information is posted on the Association web site and will be direct mailed to all departments. Please register early to avoid course cancellations.

President Schlachter introduced Rich Wienhagen who is working with him through the Vermont Associates in Training and Development. Rich will be working to update the County equipment and resource inventory that was last done by the LEPC several years ago.

Chief Norm Flanders is still seeking a patch from each Department in the County to make a plaque to present to the Vermont Fire Academy as they open their new Administration and Classroom Building. Patches can be mailed to Norm Flanders, P.O. Box 168, North Clarendon, VT 05759.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. PASSED. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. Skaza

Michael J. Skaza
Secretary/Treasurer

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RUTLAND COUNTY FIRE MUTUAL AID ASSOCIATION
WILL BE THURSDAY, JULY 1, 2010 AT THE RUTLAND CITY FIRE STATION