

Rutland County Fire Mutual Aid Association, Inc.
Minutes of the September 24, 2006 Meeting

The meeting was held at the Danby-Mt. Tabor Fire Department and was called to order by President Schlachter at 7:00 p.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

SICK AND DISTRESSED:

None reported.

ROLL CALL:

Department Members Present: Benson Fire Department, Brandon Fire Department, Castleton Fire Department, Chittenden Fire Department, Clarendon Fire Department, Danby ó Mt. Tabor Fire Department, Fair Haven Fire Department, Hubbardton Fire Department, Ira Fire Department, Poultney Fire Department, Rutland City Fire Department, Rutland Town Fire Department, Shrewsbury Fire Department, Wells 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: Chief Robert Schlachter (C1), Michael Skaza (C2), Tom Fucile (C5)

Other Guests: Andrea Hatch, Vermont Homeland Security Unit; Paul Connor, Rutland Regional Planning Commission, LEPC

WELCOME FROM HOST DEPARTMENT:

Assistant Chief Johnson welcomed the Association to the Danby-Mt. Tabor Fire Station.

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the previous meeting without changes. PASSED.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Schlachter reported that the Grandpaø Knob Radio Project was nearing completion and the new transmitter was expected to be on-line within about 1 week. Adirondack Two-Way Radio has applied to the FCC on our behalf to obtain a license for new radio link frequencies.

Support 2 has had all of itø needed mechanical repair work completed and the only item remaining is for it to have a trailer hitch installed.

President Schlachter reported that his VSFA Presidency is now completed and he will be able to concentrate more on County projects. He has been appointed to the 9-1-1 Board by Governor Douglas and will be working on behalf of the fire service in that capacity. The VT 9-1-1 System is updating to new generation equipment, which is expected to be on-line in 2007.

President Schlachter has been in talks with East Wallingford Fire Department regarding their entrance into our dispatch system.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

No report.

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 requested the membership to consider a \$100 fee increase to the State Dispatch user fee paid to the Association. This increase will help to offset future capital equipment and maintenance expenses. This issue will be taken up under new business.

The Dispatch Center is once again asking that departments update their contact information with them. There are many departments that have not provided updated contact information in years. During an emergency is not the time to find out that the Dispatch Center has outdated and incorrect contact information for your agency. Contact the Dispatch Center to update your information at 802-786-6179. This applies to all agencies, not just those who are dispatched by State Dispatch.

Alice Davis is retiring from the Dispatch Center. A motion was made and seconded to purchase a plaque for service appreciation for Alice Davis and Shirley Parkman, retiring dispatchers. PASSED.

With the installation of the new radio equipment nearing completion, there will be extensive testing of the system. Please make your members aware of the testing.

Chief Lowell of Benson Fire Department asked the Association to reiterate the importance of adhering to our dispatch policies, especially the prohibition of the use of the dispatch frequencies for truck-to-truck or other fireground communications.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chief Lowell of Benson asked if there was any response to his request for the dispatch system to begin using run cards. No action has been taken on this issue. It will be discussed with the Dispatch Supervisor.

NEW BUSINESS:

Andrea Hatch from the Homeland Security Unit appeared before the membership and presented the following information:

- The NIMS compliance date is October 2007. HSU understands that is not a realistic deadline, but they want to make sure that all agencies are working toward the goal of NIMS compliance.
- December 31, 2006 is the end of the 2005 grant cycle. There are a number of departments who have not filed expenditure reports. There is over \$300,000 in our LEPC

that has gone unreported. Unreported grant expenditures will not be reimbursed after the deadline.

- The 2006 grants were based on a capabilities review and therefore are of a very limited scope.

The Vermont Fire Academy will be offering a Firefighter I Course at the Clarendon Fire Department beginning October 12th, 2006. Contact Tom Fucile, lead instructor or the Academy for additional information.

The VSFA Representative to the Vermont Fire Service Training Council has stepped down and we are awaiting an appointee from the VSFA President to fill the vacancy. Dave Stanton is retiring and that will leave the Chairman's position open on the Council.

The issues of recruitment and retention, sustained funding for fire service training, and the dry hydrant program have been identified as important legislative issues for the upcoming session.

Southern Vermont Regional Fire School will be held on the last weekend of April. The Committee will be looking for sites in the Rutland area. New ideas for courses and committee members are needed. Contact President Schlachter if you are interested or have ideas/requests.

VSFA is seeking future convention hosts. No interest or action taken.

President Schlachter is planning a fund raising program for the Association. This would include a mailing to area businesses seeking donations and support. More information will follow.

President Schlachter asked the membership for consideration of reimbursement of Castleton Fire Department for the purchase of a back-up dial-in radio transmitter that has been installed in their station. This unit is providing back-up transmitter services to the west side of the County. A motion was made and seconded to reimburse Castleton Fire Department for the purchase of the back-up transmitter in the amount of \$1250.00. PASSED.

President Schlachter requested permission from the membership to install the old Killington Transmitter at the Rutland Fire Station to serve as a back-up to cover the central valley of the County. A motion was made and seconded to install the old Killington Transmitter at the Rutland Fire Station to serve as a back-up transmitter to our system. PASSED.

President Schlachter requested permission to spend up to \$500.00 to outfit the support vehicles with command equipment and other miscellaneous supplies. A motion was made and seconded to authorize President Schlachter to spend up to \$500.00 from the Convention Fund for the purpose of outfitting the support vehicles with command equipment and miscellaneous supplies. PASSED.

Recent mutual aid calls were reviewed.

Chief Kilpeck of Brandon Fire Department, and our NVFC Director presented information on the Fire Corps Program, which is a program in which you can obtain community volunteer to perform services for your department.

Chief Kilpeck presented the awards for Best Appearing Marching Unit and Best Appearing Factory Built Tanker to the Shrewsbury Fire Department; and recognition of nomination for Chief of the Year to Ken Abbott of the Danby-Mt Tabor Fire Department on behalf of the VSFA.

A motion was made and seconded to set the July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007 State Dispatch User Fees at \$900.00 for departments that use roll-over lines, and \$800.00 for departments that do not use roll-over lines. PASSED.

A motion was made and seconded to set the July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007 Mutual Aid Association Dues at \$200.00. PASSED.

A motion was made and seconded to hold the December Mutual Aid Meeting in Shrewsbury. PASSED.

With no other business at hand, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. PASSED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. Skaza

Michael J. Skaza
Secretary/Treasurer