

**Rutland County Fire Mutual Aid Association, Inc.**  
*Minutes of the August 26, 2007 Meeting*

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The meeting was held at the West Haven Town Hall 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 Fucile offered a welcome on behalf of the West Haven Fire Department.

**SICK AND DISTRESSED:**

None reported.

**ROLL CALL:**

*Department Members Present:* Benson Fire Department, Brandon Fire Department, Clarendon Fire Department, Fair Haven Fire Department, Hubbardton Fire Department, Ira Fire Department, Mt. Holly Fire Department, Poultney Fire Department, Rutland City Fire Department, Rutland Town Fire Department, Tinmouth 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, Fucile, Skaza

*Other Guests Present:* Dan Zimmer, Vermont Fire Academy; Micheal Greenia, VSFA President; Kristy Oxholm, VSFA Vice-President; Tim Girard, VSFA 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President; Kevin Goodhue, VSFA Secretary; Tim Burgess, VSFA Convention Committee;

**APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2007 meeting. PASSED.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

The Governor's Homeland Security Committee recently met in Rutland and presented on all of the resources that are available for emergency response. The need for regional emergency response plans was discussed and the issue will be taken up by the LEPC. President Schlachter advised that Fire Chiefs should be involved in this process.

President Schlachter reported that he will be working with the LEPC to develop a regional disaster response plan. He encouraged local departments to be involved and have input into this project in the planning stages.

**VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

None.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The Treasurer presented a year to date finance report. He reported that the Association is solvent. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. PASSED.

**STATE DISPATCH:**

A storm on August 25, 2007 caused a catastrophic power failure for the Grandpaø Knob transmitter. Adirondack Two-Way Communications is working to repair the system. President Schlachter reported that the fuses worked to protect the equipment. Back-up dispatching for the west side of the County is being done through the Castleton Fire Station.

The DPS radio shop will be performing some programming changes to the primary and secondary transmitters of the following departments:

Ira Fire Department:	Killington and Boardman Hill
West Rutland Fire Department:	Killington and Boardman Hill
Pittsford Fire Department:	Grandpaø Knob and Boardman Hill
Chittenden Fire Department:	Grandpaø Knob and Boardman Hill

President Schlachter will be placing a work order with Adirondack Two-Way Radio to perform Fall Preventative Maintenance on all County owned radio transmitter equipment.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

President Schlachter reported that Support 2 will be delivered to Poultney Fire Department this upcoming week and it will be placed in service.

President Schlachter will be taking the old 1800 psi training cylinders to Mac Steel for scrap. The money that is obtained from this will be turned over to the Treasurer.

President Schlachter reminded departments that the required VCOMM radio programming must be performed. There is grant money available for upgrading radio equipment that is not compatible with the standards for interoperability.

The request for VCOMM funding for the replacement of the Mt Holly Transmitter is nearly completed and will be submitted by President Schlachter soon.

A review of recent mutual aid calls was done and included incidents in Benson, Tinmouth, Fair Haven, and Rutland City.

The officers of the Vermont State Firefighterø Association were present and presented an update on the progress and current undertakings of the Association. They are summarized as:

- Committee members are needed on most committees. You do not need to be a Chief to hold a committee position. Any VSFA member who is interested in being on a committee should contact a VSFA Officer.
- VSFA will be working through the Coalition of Fire and Rescue Services on obtaining a stable funding source for firefighter training. All sides of the fire service see this as an important issue and it may be one that we are called upon to lend support to.

A planning meeting for the 2008 Southern Vermont Regional Fire School will be held in September. The Committee is seeking members to assist in the planning and implementation of

this program. They will be working on securing a national level speaker and searching for possible locations.

Chief Kilpeck, State Director for the National Volunteer Fire Council provided an overview and update of what is going on in the fire service nationally. He is also working on the NFPA 1720 (Standard for Volunteer Deployment) Committee. He reported that 23% of firefighter line of duty fatalities could possibly be prevented with proper seat belt use. There is a campaign underway to encourage better compliance with firefighter seat belt use and he encouraged all of the Rutland County Chiefs to emphasize this important issue with their firefighters.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Dave Bartholomew has taken over the position of Benson Fire Chief.

The officers of the Vermont State Firefighters Association reported that no one has requested to host the 2008 VSFA Convention. They requested that Rutland County host the 2008 Convention. A lengthy discussion followed that detailed the expense and the amount of volunteer help that was needed to host the convention. A motion was made and seconded to host the 2008 VSFA Convention in Rutland County. PASSED. A motion was made and seconded to request \$7000.00 from the VSFA, through our VSFA representatives to go toward the expense of hosting the 2008 VSFA Convention. PASSED.

Dan Zimmer of the Vermont Fire Academy provided an update of their activities, which are summarized below:

- Firefighter I and II challenge opportunities will be available in October 2007. More information will be forthcoming.
- Restrooms are being built as an addition to the VFA Fire Station in Pittsford. This is a great improvement for anyone who will be training at this site.
- There will be a National Fire Academy Course coming to the area on Pump/Apparatus Operator-Driver. More information will be forthcoming.
- The Haz-Mat and Firefighter I standards are being updated, which will lead to a curriculum update in the near future.
- Dan stated that he is available to any department to consult with training needs

A discussion took place on the alleged proposal to either relocate, or newly construct Vermont Fire Academy facilities on the Vermont Technical College Campus in Randolph. Concerns were raised by many Chiefs present at the meeting that such a proposal was not in keeping with previously drafted plans. Many felt that a tremendous amount of capital has been spent on the Pittsford site and that to relocate or build facilities elsewhere was not economical. A motion was made and seconded to inquire on the alleged plans to relocate or newly construct Vermont Fire Academy facilities on the Vermont Technical College Campus in Randolph, and to support the maintenance and construction of both new and existing operations and facilities only if located in Pittsford, based on the extreme capital investment that has already been made at the existing site. PASSED.

Craig Robideau will be coordinating the operation of the Fire Safety Trailer at the Vermont State Fair on September 6, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Assistance is needed in staffing the

trailer for safety demonstrations. Anyone who is interested and available should call Craig Robideau at 802-345-5587.

With no other business at hand, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. PASSED. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Michael J. Skaza*

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Secretary/Treasurer