

Virginia Fire Services Board

Administration, Policy, and Finance Committee

Thursday, February 22, 2024

Virginia Fire and Rescue Conference

1000 19th St, Virginia Beach, VA 23451

1:00 PM

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Administration, Policy and Finance Committee was held at the Virginia Fire-Rescue Conference in Virginia Beach, Virginia. The meeting was called to order by Board Vice Chair Abbey Johnston and a quorum was present.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Abbey Johnston, Committee Chair – Virginia State Firefighter’s Association

Bettie Reeves-Nobles – General Public

James Calvert – Industry (SARA Title III/OSHA)

Steve Sites – Virginia Municipal League

Ben Reedy – Insurance Industry

Donald Hart – Virginia Association of Counties

Walt Bailey – Virginia Fire Service Council

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Keith Johnson – Virginia Fire Chief’s Association

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT

Nicholas Nanna, Deputy Director

Theresa Hunter, Chief Administrative Officer

Spencer Willett, Government Affairs Manager

GUESTS PRESENT

Larry Gwaltney Robby Dawson

CHANGES IN THE AGENDA

No reported changes to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comment provided.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: To approve the minutes of the previous meeting (November 2023)

Motion: Hart, **Second:** Bailey

Discussion on the Motion: None

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Vote: Unanimous

Action: Minutes approved

REPORT FROM VDFP ADMINISTRATION

Chief Administrative Officer Theresa Hunter provided an update on the Aid to Localities and the Live Structure Budgets'. She also addressed open grant projects. All documentation was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. No questions were asked by committee members.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Committee Chair Abbey Johnston thanked Department of Fire Programs (VDFP) staff for their hard work, as well as Committee members participating in the work of the Fire Services Board (VFSB). She recognized that VFSB Chair Keith Johnson was unable to be at the conference due to the recent line of duty death of Firefighter Trevor Brown.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Virginia Fire Services Board Studies Review

i. Alleghany County Fire and EMS Study Report

Johnston asked that Spencer Willett provide an update for the Alleghany County Fire and EMS Study. Willett stated that the study was complete and included in the Board Packet. Willett thanked board members for participating in the study.

Motion: To approve the Alleghany County Fire and EMS Study Report as presented

Motion: Bailey, **Second:** Calvert

Discussion on the Motion: None

Vote: Unanimous

Action: Report adopted, sent to VFSB

ii. Town of Lebanon Fire and EMS Study Update

Willett provided an update on the study for the Town of Lebanon. VDFP and VFSB members were on site in December. The General Assembly session has delayed the report from being final for the February VFSB meeting. VDFP staff will provide the report for VFSB approval at the next VFSB meeting.

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NEW BUSINESS

a. Rules of Procedure Update

Willett spoke on the Rules of Procedure update. At the previous VFSB meeting, the Board adopted new Rules of Procedure that created the Codes and Standards Workgroup. The language creating this workgroup was outdated. After a meeting of the workgroup, new language was recommended. The language adopted at the December VFSB meeting was incorrect. This change brings the language up to date.

Motion: To approve the Rules of Procedure as presented

Motion: Calvert, **Second:** Bailey

Discussion on the Motion: None

Vote: Unanimous

Action: Rules of Procedure adopted as presented, sent to VFSB

b. Report on the 2024 General Assembly Session

Johnston thanked Spencer Willett and other staff involved with legislative work. She also thanked the other board members who represent various groups on the board who were involved in legislation. She highlighted the excitement of having so many people involved in the process. She encouraged people to continue to push forward next session.

Willett thanked many of the board members and staff who assisted during legislative session. He highlighted the pieces of legislation that spawned from HB 2175 (2023) and the many issues related to funding these priorities. He also highlighted HB133/SB650, which would create a toxic grant exposure fund. VDFP had issue with the broad scope of the language. This bill is now only a workgroup which VDFP will lead. HB66 clarifies fire drills in schools and states that the Statewide Fire Prevention Code will be the presiding factor on the number of fire drills. He also spoke about an Aid-To-Localities (ATL) workgroup that could be formed to examine a new funding formula. This was originally a bill to increase ATL, but now directs a workgroup to look at other formulas that could include land mass or fiscal stress. Budget amendments were also discussed, including funds for the State Fire Marshal and funds for a review of fire and EMS funding in the Commonwealth. This review would also include examining the combination of fire and EMS administration at the state level.

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ADJOURNMENT

Clerk of the Committee

Spencer R. Willett

