

Virginia Fire Services Board

Live Fire Training Structure Committee

Thursday, September 19, 2024

First Responder Virginia Conference

1000 19th St, Virginia Beach, VA 23451

10:45AM – MR5CD

MINUTES

The Virginia Fire Services Board Live Fire Training Structure Committee meeting was held at the Virginia Beach Convention Center in Virginia Beach, Virginia. The meeting was called to order by Chair Reeves Nobles and a quorum was present.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Keith Johnson, Ex-Officio, VFSB Chair – Virginia Fire Chiefs Association
Bettie Reeves Nobles, Committee Chair – General Public
James Calvert – Industry Representing SARA Title III/OSHA
JM Snell II – Board of Housing and Community Development
Jess Rodzinka – Virginia Professional Fire Fighters
Carla Keese – Virginia Chapter, IAAI
Jerome Williams – Certified Fire Service Instructor

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Billy Hanks – Local Fire Marshal

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT

Nicholas Nanna, Deputy Director
Theresa Hunter, Chief of Administration
Spencer Willett, Government Affairs Manager

GUESTS PRESENT

David Hoback	Greg Schadt	Chris Shaver	Danny Coughlin
Andy Foley	Monty Willaford	Vernie Francis III	Eddie Ferguson
Rhett Fleitz	Colten Lotts	Brandon Proffitt	

CHANGES IN THE AGENDA

No changes in the agenda

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comment.

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CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: To approve the minutes of the April 2024 meeting,

Motion: Calvert **Second:** Johnston

Discussion on the Motion: None

Vote: Unanimous

Action: Minutes approved.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Committee Chair Bettie Reeves Nobles did not provide any comment.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Goochland Live Fire Training Structure Presentation

Brandon Proffitt presented on their completed live fire training structure approved by the Virginia Fire Services Board. Goochland Fire Rescue Chief Eddie Ferguson and Goochland staff presented a plaque to the VFSB, accepted by Reeves Nobles and VFSB Chair Keith Johnson.

Ferguson thanked the board for their assistance on the project and Brandon Proffitt for his leadership throughout the project.

Johnson thanked Goochland for being a patient partner as the board and VDFP navigated a new prototype.

NEW BUSINESS

a. City of Roanoke New Building Application

Roanoke Fire-EMS Chief David Hoback spoke to the grant application. This included an overview of the city, its fire and EMS department, and capacity issues with the current regional training center. As the community has grown, there has been a need to train more firefighters. All the partners involved with the regional training center are seeing increased numbers in recruit schools, which has outpaced its capabilities for live fire training. In the past two and a half years, almost a third of the department has been replaced. This has also highlighted the need for additional incumbent training. The new training center being developed by the city will include space for state partners and classrooms but lacks a live fire training structure.

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James Calvert stated he and members of the VFSB attended the Roanoke Regional Fire Academy Graduation and highlighted the regional concept. He supports the proposal based on the needs identified by Chief Hoback.

Jess Rodzinka asked for a vision of the new training center that the City of Roanoke will manage, which is where the structure will sit. Hoback stated it would be a Class A live fire training structure.

Reeves Nobles asked if they would be requesting the \$30,000 for architecture and engineering. Hoback stated this was the case and that the city manager supported the application.

Motion: To approve the City of Roanoke New Building Application

Motion: Calvert **Second:** Rodzinka

Discussion on the Motion: None

Vote: Unanimous

Action: Application recommended to the VFSB.

b. Halifax County Extension Request

Jason Johnson spoke to the extension request. He highlighted ongoing issues with the project including the cost of bringing in dirt compared to demolishing the current building. The county does not have the permit in hand for the new structure, requiring an extension.

Reeves Nobles clarified if it was a two-year extension request or a one-year request. J. Johnson spoke about making sure the project is in line with state procurement policies and that could range from one to two years.

JM Snell II spoke about the issues identified with the site and that the locality is taking advice from the engineer. He supports the extension on those grounds and moved to extend the grant. Reeves Nobles asked Theresa Hunter to explain the competitive bid process. Hunter explained the process and that all projects must be put out to bid. Reeves Nobles asked if this made it feasible to meet this in one year. VDFP is looking at a 1.5-year benchmark.

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Committee Clerk Spencer Willett reminded the chair of the pending motion from JM Snell. He also reminded the chair of the need for a second before any further discussion.

Motion: To extend the Halifax County Live Fire Training Structure Grant by 1 year.

Motion: Snell **Second:** Calvert

Discussion on the Motion: None

Vote: Unanimous

Action: Extension approved for VFSB

Calvert was yielded the floor and recognized Reeves-Nobles for her leadership of the Live Fire Training Structure Committee, which she was stepping down from as chair. Reeves Nobles spoke about her a transition off the Virginia Fire Services Board in June and her fourteen-year tenure. Calvert also recognized Hunter for her role as VDFP staff on the various live fire projects.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee Clerk

Spencer R. Willett