

VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD

Live Structure Committee
Thursday, October 1st, 2020
Video Conference utilizing Google Hangouts
11:00am

A regular meeting of the Live Structure Committee was held was held electronically through Google Meets because of the State of Emergency initiated by the Honorable Ralph Northam, Governor of Virginia. The Chairman of the committee was unable to attend and the Chair of the Board took his place and chaired the committee. There was a constituted Quorum and the meeting called to order.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Walt Bailey
James Stokely
David Hankley
Bettie Reeves-Nobles
Stephanie L. Koren
Jerome Williams

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Keith Johnson
James Calvert
James Poindexter
Scott Garber

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Rick Gregory
Harry L. Day

GUESTS PRESENT

Michael A. Matthews	RD. Drake	Ben Powell
Larry Gwaltney	Wade Sanders	John Evans
Chris Allin	J. Brickey	Marc Davidson
R. Crockett	Freda Starnes	Richard Roatc

VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD

Live Structure Committee
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AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT

Travis Rickman	Brook Pittinger
Theresa Hunter	Bill MacKay
Briant Atkins	Jeff Liebold

CHANGES IN THE AGENDA

N/A

PUBLIC COMMENTS

N/A

CONSENT AGENDA

No Changes to the previous meeting minutes member Jim Stokely moved to approve the previous minutes with a second from David Hankley and the previous minutes were approved.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Chairman stated that the normal Chairman was not able to attend today's meeting because of previous commitments but that he did send the Chair and clerk of the committee notes on some of the issues and the chair asked that the clerk please read those comments aloud for the committee when called upon.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **Topic:** Review Cost impact to address NFPA standards change for Impingement Protection Project

Motion: Bettie Reeves nobles motioned to fund at partial compliance at 5 year seconded by James Stokely.

VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD

Live Structure Committee
Thursday, October 1st, 2020
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Topic Discussion: The Chairman asked Theresa with VDFP to clarify the NFPA issue and the information sent out to the board. Walt Bailey said he had a comment for our stakeholders and asked if there is an option for our stakeholders to reach out to the General Assembly for a one time appropriation for this issue. Brook suggested that there was some funding for interest on the funds that could possibly be gone after by stakeholders. Walt discussed that this might be something that stakeholders will discuss at the November meeting. The Chairman asked for Lee's comments which were "Per an earlier conversation With Ms. Hunter, there was talk of a three to five year funding proposal due to the fact that full funding was not available to complete the project in under a five year proposal. With that, the five year suggestion seems to be the path that we should follow at a partial funding. Bettie Reeves- Nobles asked about certain funding obligations and agreed that we are very stretched for funds and that we should do the partial t a five year time frame. James Stokely stated that if we go ahead and adopt a plan if additional fund arise can we make the change. Staff said that we would be able to take a step back and make a motion at a later meeting.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: To move the motion forward to the full board for final approval on October 2nd, 2020

NEW BUSINESS

1. Topic: One Year Grant extension Scott County

Motion: Stephanie Koren motioned for the one year no cost extension for Scott County seconded by Bettie reeves nobles to approve.

Topic Discussion: Freda Starnes the Scott County Administrator spoke at the meeting stating that they are hoping to advertise their project within 15 days and then they will advertise for thirty days once they get approval from VDFP.

VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD

Live Structure Committee
Thursday, October 1st, 2020
Video Conference utilizing Google Hangouts
11:00am

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: To bring to the full board at the full meeting on October 2nd, 2020

2. Topic: One Year Grant Extension Hanover County

Motion: Stokely made motion for a one year no cost extension for Hanover seconded by Bettie Reeves nobles

Topic Discussion: Chief Wade Sanders spoke about how they have had many discussions with the Structure Group and developing the policy manual. They are about 7 months behind but it looks like the project has about 3 more months. Brook wanted to make sure that this was a no cost extension which was confirmed.

Vote: Unanimous to Approve

Motion Action: To take to the full board meeting on October 2nd, 2020 for final approval

3. Topic: One Year Grant Extension Fluvanna County

Motion: Member Stephanie Koren and seconded by Jim Stokely to grant Fluvanna a one year no cost extension.

Topic Discussion: Ben Powell from Fluvanna County spoke stating that their project has been issued a billing permit but their project is over budget and they are looking over their bids and solicit for additional bids to bring down the cost soon. This is a one Year no cost extension.

Vote: Unanimous to approve

Motion Action: To take to the full board meeting on October 2nd, 2020 for final approval

VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD

Live Structure Committee
Thursday, October 1st, 2020
Video Conference utilizing Google Hangouts
11:00am

4. Topic: Project scope change Prince George County

Motion: There was a motion by Jim Stokley to table the Project scope change for Prince George County and re-refer to the Administration, Policy, and Finance committee to review the addition to the policy seconded by Stephanie Koren.

Topic Discussion: Chris Allin spoke and informed the committee that they would like to change the location of their previously approved building to instead contribute to a joint building on federal property in conjunction with Fort Lee. This location is in Prince George, but it is on Fort Lee Property. The Federal government has established water and electrical on the property and the clearing has already began.

The chairman stated that the board always wants to help localities as much as possible when it comes to providing live training structures and live fire scenarios. Walt stated that what they were asking would be a policy change and would have to go to the Administration, Policy, and Finance Committee for a change to the policy. The chairman also asked for clarity as to what guarantees can we have from the federal government as to changes to the building and property. Or are they offering any long term agreements for the property. Chris Allin stated that they were discussing the conditions. The chairman asked for staff clarification as to the policy as written requires that the land owner own the property and people able to guarantee the property for 20 years. Staff stated that the current policy states that the locality must own the property or have a long term lease for at least 20 years. Staff asked the locality to clarify the reasoning for the change in location of previously awarded grant funds to support the project. Staff highlighted that the money has been sitting for a long period of time and could be audited. They also included that if the policy committee looks at a change they should put in a limit to the amount of time a project can go without using the funds allocated. Chris Allin believes that they can get a long term lease with the federal government and the Chairman stated that would be something that we would need.

Bettie highlighted this was awarded in 2016 and this building is still in the foundational period for an extended period of time.

The chairman highlighted that the administration has changed in Prince George that as exacerbated the extension of the project.

VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD

Live Structure Committee
Thursday, October 1st, 2020
Video Conference utilizing Google Hangouts
11:00am

Vote: Unanimous to Table and re refer to the Administration, Policy and Finance

Motion Action: Table and re-refer this matter to the Administration, Finance, and Policy Committee for a review of the possible addition to the policy.

5. Topic: VFIRS Grant Awards

Motion: Bettie moved and seconded by Jim Stokley to approve the grants

Topic Discussion: There was a total of 6 applications totaling \$4,200. The Chairman clarified that it was the agencies recommendation to fund the grants and Theresa said yes there is currently \$45,000 available for VFIRS Grants.

Vote: Unanimous to approve

Motion Action: To take to the full board meeting on October 2nd, 2020 for final approval

6. Topic: Live Structure Policy Change review

Topic Discussion: Brook Pittinger clarified that the agency has had a particular department come forward with some questions brought forward and there were two identified to bring forward to the board. The locality is constructing a Prototype B Building which is propane and does not believe that it should have to tile entire length of the room but should only have to be in one fixed location in the room. The second issue relates to the number of burns that are allowed to be conducted in one day currently set at 10 burns day. The locality would like the board to amend the policy to include exceptions for these current requirements. The Committee broke up these issues into two separate Items A (Tiling) and B(Maximum Burns per day).

Item A Discussion:

The Chairman asked about the structure group's recommendation. Mike Matthews from the structure group recommended that there is currently no evidence that the walls do not get to exceeded temperature in areas that do not

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Live Structure Committee
Thursday, October 1st, 2020
Video Conference utilizing Google Hangouts
11:00am

have tiling. They believed that the board should not approve the request and change which the sentiment was shared by Walt and Jim Stokely. The Chairman requested that how much it would cost to have a study done to look at the tiling issue and the Chairman stated that he would like to have more information. Lee Day believed that the committee should follow the recommendations of the Structure group and stick with the current policy. The Chairman asked Matthews how much would each localities save for not having to tile the entire building. He stated that for the standard prototypes with two rooms the cost would be minimal, but for a large building like Hanover's it could warrant significant cost savings.

Motion: Item A David Hankley made a motion to the structure group to bring forth a proposal relating to testing of tile only on parts of a burn room rather than the entire room seconded by Bettie Reeves-Nobles.

Vote: Unanimous to approve

Motion Action: For the Structure to return with a cost analysis proposal for a study to be conducted on tiling in a burn room.

Item B Discussion:

The chairman asked the structure groups recommendations on the Item B the number of daily burns that is currently set at 10 per day. Mike Matthews clarified that the metal buildings hold heat and that the request is a regional training facility and that they might exceed the amount of burns. Walt asked about whether or not this would be allowed if they used other ways to circumvent that current standard such as using only one burn prop in a room at a time. Lee Day stated that we should stick with the current policy.

David Hankley asked why the 10 burns a day was previously determined. Mike Matthews said that it was developed in 2005 and it came from the metal building groups and was researched to come to the 10 burns a day maximum. That was also a precedent set from previous A+ E firms. Chief Sanders asked for documentation for the recommendations from Mike Matthews from the Structure group and he said he would provide those to Mr. Sanders.

VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD

Live Structure Committee
Thursday, October 1st, 2020
Video Conference utilizing Google Hangouts
11:00am

Motion: David Hankley moved that the structure group look at the opportunities to increase the number of burns from 10 seconded by Stephanie Koren.

Vote: Unanimous to Table

Motion Action: Send to the Full Board for Final Approval

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Stokely and seconded by Bettie to adjourn the committee adjourned at 11:57pm

Clerk of the Committee: Travis Rickman

REVIEWED BY:

Brook Pittinger
Deputy Executive Director