

VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD

Live Structure Committee
Friday, February 26th, 2021
Video Conference utilizing Google Hangouts
10:00am

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. Lee Day chaired the committee with a roll call by Travis Rickman, a constituted Quorum was present and the meeting was called to order at 10:00am.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Walt Bailey
James Stokely
Bettie Reeves-Nobles
Stephanie L. Koren
Jerome Williams
Rick Gregory

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Keith Johnson
James Calvert
James Poindexter
Scott Garber

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

David Hankley

GUESTS PRESENT

Michael A. Matthews
Scott Simpson (Halifax County Administrator)
Larry Gwaltney
Michael Barakey, City of Suffolk

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Mike Collins, KFT Fire Trainer
Jams Dickens, Deputy Chief Suffolk Fire & Rescue
Mike Lilly, Training Prince George County
Nathan Ramsey, Rockbridge County Fire-Rescue
Paul Mauger
Johnny Nugent

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT

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

CHANGES IN THE AGENDA

N/A

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were shared

CONSENT AGENDA

No Changes to the previous meeting minutes member Stephanie Koren moved to approve the previous minutes with a second from Lee Day and the previous minutes were approved.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIR

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **Topic:**

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2. **Discussion:** The Chairman asked Theresa with VDFP whether or not we currently had the funds available to commission this study. Theresa replied that we did have funds currently available in the budget.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: James Stokley moved to commission the Structure Group to conduct a study in the sum of \$28,500 to complete the study as presented.

3. **Topic:** Report from the structure group to assess the limit on the number of training burns that can be one in a structure per day.

Discussion: Mike Matthews referenced past precedents set to limit the current amount of burns per day.

Motion: No motions were given.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Topic: One Year No Cost Grant extension Rockbridge County**

Motion: Jim Stokley motioned for the one year no cost extension for Rockbridge County seconded by Stephanie Koren to approve.

Topic Discussion: Nathan Ramsey from Rockbridge spoke to the board highlighted that they have had many meetings and that the current pandemic has caused a few roadblocks and is why they are requesting the extension. This renovation of the current building will add a second floor to their building.

Vote: Unanimous to approve and send to the full board

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Motion Action: To bring to the full board at the full meeting

2. Topic: One Year No Cost Grant Extension Suffolk County

Motion: Stephanie Koren made motion for a one year no cost extension for Suffolk seconded by Lee day to approve

Topic Discussion: Michael Barakey and James Dickens spoke from Suffolk County spoke to the board to request an extension to allow time for a wetland study to be concluded. Chief Barakey stated that they will be about 6 months behind schedule with their building permit so the extension will allow them time to finalize the project scope.

Vote: Unanimous to approve and send to the full board

Motion Action: To take to the full board for final approval

3. Topic: One Year No cost Grant Extension Prince George County

Motion: Member Bettie Reeves Nobles made a motion deny the extension seconded by Jim Stokley.

Topic Discussion: Paul Mauger Spoke from Prince George spoke to the board and described the current slowdowns in their burn building construction. He talked about the process that they have gone through to get here. Board Chair Bailey asked for clarification as to how many extensions there have been Theresa Hunter with VDFP clarified that this was the 5th request for an extension for this project.

Vote: Unanimous to deny the request for an extension

Motion Action: To take to the full board meeting for final approval

4. Topic: Halifax Burn Building

Motion: James Stokley made the motion to table this item pending guidance from the attorney general's office seconded by Stephanie Koren

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Topic Discussion: Steve Dishman spoke for Halifax and discussed the current state of the building and the mishandling that has occurred to such a vital regional burn building.

Walt Bailey spoke to the issue and did abstain from the vote for a conflict of interest.

Scott Simpson the county administrator in Halifax spoke to the mishandling of the building and addressed the steps that they are currently taking in Halifax to ensure that a new building would be managed efficiently and effectively. The cost for repairs would be around \$60,000 as estimated by The Structure Group. There was a concern that the building was no longer under the Virginia Fire Services Board Burn Building program because it had been taken out of service. Chief Mackay Clarified that the last time the building was used for Certified VDFP Training was on November 4th, 2017.

Keith Johnson brought up the question to see if we could get an AG opinion to see whether or not the board would be able to fund the building. It was stated that in previous cases where buildings were inappropriately used that those localities would pay for the damage incurred then after the building was certified by the A&E firm that the building would be allowed back in the program.

Motion Action: James Stokley moved to table the matter pending on advice from the attorney general's office properly seconded by Stephanie Koren.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Lee day and seconded by James Stokley to adjourn the committee adjourned

Clerk of the Committee: Travis Rickman

REVIEWED BY:

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Brook Pittinger
Deputy Executive Director

DRAFT