

# **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

