

Capital Fire Mutual Aid System

(CFMAS)

Barre City, Alumni Hall, 2nd floor

September 18, 2024

Meeting Minutes

Meeting was held in-person and virtual

District 1 Berlin, Middlesex, Montpelier, Northfield, Roxbury

District 2 Bolton, Moretown, Stowe, Waitsfield, Warren, Waterbury

District 3 Cabot, East Montpelier, Marshfield, Plainfield, Walden, Woodbury, Worcester

District 5 Groton, Peacham, Ryegate, Topsham

District 6 Barre City, Barre Town, Chelsea

I. **Meeting to order** – Meeting was called to order by president J. Aldsworth at **7:01 pm**

II. **Roll Call by Town** (P=Present, **Blank**=Not Present,)

Barre City	P	Groton	P	Plainfield		Washington	
Barre Town		Marshfield	P	Roxbury		Walden	
Berlin	P	Middlesex		Ryegate		Waterbury	P
Bolton		Montpelier	P	Stowe		Williamstown	
Cabot	P	Moretown	P	Topsham		Woodbury	
Chelsea		Northfield		Waitsfield		Worcester	
E. Montpelier	P	Peacham		Warren	P		

III. **Addition or deletions to the agenda** – No additions or deletions

IV. **Public comments** – No public comments

V. **Introduction of Guest speaker** – No guest speaker(s). J. Aldsworth welcomed Montpelier chief Derik Libby. Chief Libby introduced himself and gave a short history of his time in the fire service of which started in Stowe in 1985. The member present introduced themselves to chief Libby.

VI. **Approval of Meeting Minutes** – There was a motion to approve minutes of the May 15th, 2024, meeting by Waterbury and seconded by Warren There was no discussion, motion passed by the members present.
There was a motion to approve minutes of the July 17th, 2024, meeting by Cabot and seconded by Moretown. There was no discussion, motion passed by the members present.

VII. **Approval of Treasurer report** – S. Baggs presented on the treasures report. S. Baggs gave an explanation on the increase of revenue from what was budgeted, this was due to the town of Berlin making a full payment of their portion of the ten-year capital replacement program. There are three departments behind on their membership dues, Groton, Washington and Williamstown. S. Baggs had made changes to the

account to reflect change in the secretary position after the annual meeting. He also resigned the current CDs for the next 9-months at the best rate that Northfield Savings Bank had to offer (4.5%). CDs will be up again for renewal in March. An email was sent to L. White regarding the financial review and should have the report to share soon. **A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Waterbury and seconded by Cabot. There was no discussion, motion passed by the members present.**

VIII. Old Business

- a. **Update / discussion on USDA grant** – J. Aldsworth gave an update, CFMAS did not make the cut for the congressional spending. The USDA was instructed to fit us into the Recovery Resiliency Project. Some adjustments to the project had to be made, so the CAD system was removed from the project. Which shouldn't be a problem because the State is pursuing their own CAD system. Will be working on the licensing and MOUs for our 16 towers. The fiduciary is CVRPC we have money set aside in the request to have them manage the grant. At some point we may need to discuss a financial manager, but we are not there yet. Televate has gone above and beyond their contract in working with us. J. Aldsworth had attended the regional meeting in Pittsford. If successful in receiving the grant we will need to do a public meeting and will need everyone in-person attendance. **A motion was made, if CFMAS warns a special meeting for the USDA grant, it would be in-person only. Moved by Cabot, seconded by Waterbury. There was no discussion, motion passed by the members present.** This would be one night / one meeting. S. Baggs believes that it would be fine if there is a 30-day notice. J. Aldsworth believes it only needs to be a 72-hour notice. He continued to say that what ever the open public meeting law requires. S. Baggs ask what would be the best-case scenario if we are awarded the grant what would be the turnaround time for when it is up and running? J. Aldsworth believes 12 to 18-months. S. Baggs spoke about radio problems, tone without messages and messages without tone. And want to make sure these and other noted issues were addressed.
- b. **Firefighter 1 update** – Talked to the instructor it's going well. They've had some people of course drop out as normal, but extremely well attended. The recommendation I got from the instructor is that he feels that with the people that are late coming to the table we can possibly have a second one in the area next year so. W. Shwartz said that we will not see another firefighter 1 class in central VT for three years.
J. Staab spoke with the fire Academy about holding a PADO class. We submitted the request along with applications and we went nearly five weeks without any word from them. They eventually got back to me a week ago with an e-mail saying that BVFD will be on the list for the mid of 2025. In talking with P. Cerutti, he tried to get an EVOG class, and nothing came about it. It's a struggle at times to get Fire Academy classes in Central VT. W. Schwartz stated the academy is short staffed.
- d. **Communications** – G. Dillon spoke on the unnecessary radio communication on the dispatch channel when responding to a working fire. This is a problem. There is a policy to address the

problem. C. McCool from Dispatch spoke on the subject. Usually talking with department heads things get better, at least for a short time. This is an accountability issue. J. Aldworth will have the communication working group address the communication concerns discussed.

IX. New Business

- a. Access to Zoom link recording- J. Staab asked for the access to Zoom. S. Baggs will provide the login credentials.

X. Reports

J. Aldsworth asked if there were any committee that would like to report anything out, to please add it to the agenda and if you don't have a report we won't put you on the agenda. If you would like to call something from the floor, this is your time to do so. We are trying to streamline the meeting especially when we are trying to bring in guest speakers.

a. Committee reports

- i. Coalition of Fire Rescue – W. Knox spoke on the cancer bill that had support in the House and not in the Senate. Between 2025–28 all hybrid or electric vehicles will have something on the license plate indicating it. J. Aldsworth asked if anyone has something that they want to CFMAS to back and bring forward to the Legislators, to do so.
- ii. Communication Committee – J. Aldsworth would like to see the Communication Committee warn a meeting to discuss licensing and MOUs. I would like to see this happen in the next three or four weeks.

XI. Executive session – Not needed

XII. Good of the Order –

- a. Upcoming guest speakers / training topics –
 - i. VT Alert, VTrans Command Operation Center
 - ii. Green Mountain Power
 - iii. SCBA/Flow testing
 - iv. Central VT Railroad
 - v. Fuel Dealer

If you have a topic or would like to hear from a specific, please reach out to

J. Aldsworth - joseph.aldsworth@vermont.gov or J. Staab chief338bvfd@gmail.com with the request and contact information if you have it.

XIII. Adjourned – Motion was made to adjourn by Moretown and seconded by Cabot, motion passed by the members present, meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.