

Capital Fire Mutual Aid System

(CFMAS)

E. Montpelier Fire Department

54 Village Acres, East Montpelier, VT 05651

May 20, 2026, 19:00

Regular Meeting Minutes

CFMAS members present

J. Aldworth, J. Staab, W. Bothfeld, T. Seckington, K. Giroux, W. Schwarz, E. Metivier, J. Koonz, D. Libby, S. Pratt, J. Larrabee, A. Larrabee, G. Dillon, S. Dillon, P. Cerutti, T. Neill, B. Morse, J. Campbell, T. Ouellette, L. Stamatelos, D. Randell

CFMAS members On-line

K. Cushman, E. Webster, R. Bresette

Guests

S. Bagg, C. McCool

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, Brookfield, Chelsea

I. Meeting to order - J. Aldsworth called the meeting to order at 19:03

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

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

III. Addition or deletions to the agenda –

- Election after new Business
- Considerations
- Contract with Montpelier Dispatch

IV. Public comments – No public comments

- J. Staab introduced two members from BVFD, Asst Chief J. Silk and Jean Carlo (JC)

- V. Guest speaker – Creig Bowman fftech2509@gmail.com, from State Firefighter Association

The State Firefighter Association was formed November 7, 1890. This is one of the oldest associations in the State. Membership has been declining over the years. Due are \$18.00, (membership - \$14.25, cadet academy - \$1.25, accidental death benefit \$2.50). There is also benefit for loss of limb(s), eyesight and hearing. They have lobbyists that fight for firefighter benefits. They have had weekend training and will try to have one in the north and one in the south to make it easier for people to attend. Meetings are virtual. Website is Vermont State Firefighters Association (VSFA), <https://vtfirefighters.org>. The Cadet Academy is held in Pittsford at the Fire Academy and will be a weeklong event. You can find the registration form on the website. You can also find the national firefighter registry for cancer. The National Firefighter Registry (NFR) for Cancer is the **largest effort** ever undertaken to **understand and reduce risk of cancer** among U.S. firefighters. NIOSH is recruiting firefighters to join the NFR so that we can better understand the link between firefighting and cancer. The annual convention will be held in Saint Albans, July 18 at the Elks Club. Creig asked what do you need and a short list was given; recruitment & retention, radio communication programs, holding meetings around the state. Please reach out if you have any thoughts, concerns/needs.

- VI. Approval of Meeting Minutes for 3/18/2026–

Motion was made by **P. Cerutti** to approve the minutes of 3/18/2026 and seconded by **J. Campbell**. With no discussion the 3/18/2026 minutes were approved by vote of the body.

- VII. Approval of Treasurer's report –

S. Bagg presented the budget as emailed. A few notes – slow months, with only one that is owed and that is Randolph. The over payment from Cabot will be cleared up by July. The CDs had an increase of 3.4%. Current balance is \$278,927.33 and the **approximate projection** after the next round of payments should be \$385,000 to \$390,000. There was a question about the money in the checking account. S. Bagg explained \$106,000 payment to Montpelier for dispatching for all members that get dispatched through Capital Dispatch. S. Bagg then explained that Barre City Dispatch invoices the Towns they provide service to individually, where CFMA negotiates as one to help hold cost down. CFMA has been able to hold the annual increases to 2.5% to 3%. The question was asked about Montpelier doing the invoicing much like Barre city Dispatch does. S. Bagg also brought up the possibility of outsourcing of the accounting. It was determined that the communication committee would investigate the City of Montpelier invoicing instead of CFMA. S. Bagg will look further into the outsourcing of the accounting before bringing it to CFMA for discussion.

Motion was made by **P. Cerutti** to approve the Treasurer's report as sent out and seconded by **G. Dillon**. With no further discussion the Treasurer's Report was approved by vote of the body.

Internet went out for a brief time.

- VIII. Old Business

- a. Update / discussion - Communication Project
J. Aldworth - Slowly moving forward. We have asked Motorola to give us pricing and that was all J. Aldworth could say at this time. Please lobby your State Reps for passing the reallocation of the \$2.5 million
- b. P. Cerutti – Spoke on the relocation of the Woodbury tower.
- c. G. Dillon – will have the communication “working group” look at “common language” for run cards. Dispatch is asking that CFMA adopt common language in what they are calling types of calls/alarms on their run cards that require additional resources (2nd 3rd Alarms or Working Fire).
- d. S. Bagg – gave an update to the Active app. Later in 2026 Active will roll out an “Active Incident Chat”. You will be able to share information (chat, photos, etc.) with the departments responding to your incident. It may not work for all. At this time, it will not be able to be seen by dispatch, but S. Bagg is still looking into how to make that work. You can send information to dispatch through email at ldispatch@montpelier.org.
- e. Carrie/Dispatch - asked if departments could provide dispatch with a roster that indicates officer or position, to include phone numbers.
- f. Bulk Purchases – CFMA will be trying to purchase in bulk.
- g. A 1977 CFMA volume 1 ledger was presented. The book holds the original articles of association signed by the founders. **G. Dillon made the motion** for the secretary to purchase a safe for the ledger and other CFMA documents, **seconded by P. Cerutti**. With no further discussion the purchase of the safe was approved by vote of the body.
- h. **Elections** – G. Dillon suggested leaving the current officers in place. **W. Shwartz made the motion** to cast one ballot to keep the current officers in place, **seconded by J. Campbell**. All officers were asked if they accepted. J. Aldworth was asked if he was a member of a fire department after his retirement from Barre City. J. Aldworth has now joined Plainfield Fire. With no further discussion the current officers were elected to serve another year and was approved by vote of the body.
- i. Non-emergencies such as training, service calls etc. should not be relayed to the dispatchers.
- j. The ability to send pictures/information related to that specific call to Dispatch and all responders within the related call. Currently departments can text department members within Active. S. Bagg/Dispatch will be working on the procedure within Active.
- k. There was discussion on the mandated Statewide CAD system.

IX. New Business

- a. Considerations –
 - i. Microsoft (MS) Teams- It was suggested to move from the Zoom platform to MS Teams. MS Teams is free and would save nearly \$200 a year. The benefit is everyone will have access to video recordings, transcripts and comments in the chat. I would also suggest getting

microphones that will capture everybody through out the room. P. Cerutti asked if the membership would be open to use MS Teams at the next meeting. After some discussion the membership was open to use MS Teams. J. Aldworth mentioned that if the microphones were \$250 or less, CFMA would not need to vote on it. S. Bagg mentioned the CFMA pays \$170.00 for Zoom. S. Bagg suggested that CFMA get their own subscription for MS Teams if that is the way we go and that would be about \$72.00 a year

- ii. CFMA Website - The idea of CFMA having their own website was discussed. The benefit is we can promote CFMA as well as the different departments. The drawback is the need to have someone to manage the website. Further discussion and possible presentation to come.
- iii. Outsourcing the bookkeeping should be considered.

X. Committee Reports

- a. Communication committee – P. Cerutti reported that CFMA contract with Montpelier Dispatch for one-year (July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027) for an annual fee of \$438,037.89. The Communication Committee recommends the CFMA approves this contract. This is a 3% increase from the last contract. **W. Schwartz made the motion** to accept the one-year agreement with Montpelier Dispatch for a total of \$438,037.89, **seconded by Plainfield**. With no further discussion the contract for a one-year agreement with Montpelier Dispatch for a total of \$438,037.89 was approved by vote of the body.

XI. Good of the Order

- a. New equipment, out-of-service equipment, special department news
 - i. J. Aldworth –
 - 1. Randolph will be holding a firefighter I & II.
 - 2. Waterbury offered to host a firefighter I/II for next year
 - ii. Middlesex - Duog Hanson passed away, there will be a dinner at Station 1, June 9th at 18:00
 - 1. There was a **motion by P. Cerutti** to donate \$100 towards the dinner, **seconded by G. Dillon**. With no further discussion the motion passed.
 - iii. Roxbury – There is a used Mack pumper at Ding Machine in NH. They would really like to stay as a pumper and not turn into a dump truck.
 - iv. Warren – There is a leadership development program in Connecticut being put on by international firefighters' association. June 19th & 20th
 - v. J. Aldworth – Tentative guest speaker for the next meeting, topic will be cancer prevention and cancer screening.

XII. Executive session – *Not needed*

XIII. Adjournment

Motion was made by **P. Cerutti** to adjourn, second by **J. Campbell**. With no discussion the motion passed by a vote of the body present to adjourn at 20:47

Training in the Area

- VT Fire Academy upcoming Courses, <https://firesafety.vermont.gov/calendar>

Notes

- Information on Accountability Tags, contact Jeff jcampbell@warrenvt.org