

COUNTY OF CURRITUCK  
NORTH CAROLINA  
JULY 24, 2014

**JOINT SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND FIRE AND EMS ADVISORY BOARD**

The Currituck County Board of Commissioners and the Fire and EMS Advisory Board (FEAB) met for a special joint meeting on Thursday, July 24, 2014, at 6 PM, at the Currituck County Cooperative Extension Center, 120 Community Way, Barco, NC, in the Elizabeth Sanderlin Auditorium.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. Board of Commissioners attendees included Chairman Paul O'Neal, and Commissioners Aydlett, Gilbert, and Griggs. Also present was District 4 nominee Paul Beaumont, County Manager Dan Scanlon and County Attorney Ike McRee.

Fire and EMS Advisory Board (FEAB) attendees included Charles Berry, Jim Cason, Donni Mathias, Evelyn Henley, Mitch Copeland, John Brennan, and Ernie Bray. Many members of the Fire and EMS staff were in the audience.

Chief Robert Glover introduced William Jenaway, VFIS Executive Vice President, Education and Training Services, who presented the results of a Fire study that had been recently performed for Currituck County. The object was to look at the future of Fire and EMS in the County and develop a long-term focus in an effort to meet the needs of the public. Mr. Jenaway explained the challenge Currituck faces having to consider both the needs of the year-round resident and the increased demands from visitors.

Mr. Jenaway explained the parameters of the study, which included finances, operations, staffing and planning. Mr. Jenaway reviewed the current status of the departments relative to these topics. He made recommendations based on the study results with regard to the management structure and need for standardization of departments and stations. In addition, suggestions were made pertaining to acquisition of funding to cover future expenditures, such as construction, apparatus, and equipment. He addressed staffing and status management to ensure standards of cover are met.

Mr. Jenaway suggested a five-year plan for implementation of recommendations and asked the Board of Commissioners and Chiefs to take the first steps to begin to transition. He suggested the County Manager, Finance Director, Fire and EMS Advisory be involved, as well as the public, in an effort to determine what citizens are willing to pay and what can be accomplished with those dollars.

Upon completion of the presentation there was some discussion amongst the Board of Commissioners and FEAB with regard to funding of the departments, paid versus volunteer, and the struggle with determining what residents are willing to pay. Rick Galganski raised the question of setting tax districts for independent departments. Commissioner Aydlett suggested that this would work well in some areas of the County but not in others.

Chairman O'Neal recalled a District tax in the past was eventually changed to a flat tax due to the inconsistency it created with funding of the various departments. He would not be opposed to re-considering tax districts. Chairman O'Neal suggested the FEAB take time to review the findings and suggestions within the report while giving the Board of Commissioners time to absorb the information as well.

Some discussion ensued about paid staffing and the relative structure within the department pertaining to command. Mr. Jenaway suggested a separate corporation be set up for whoever gets paid by the County. When asked about billing, Mr. Jenaway stated billing is typically handled by a third party.

Mr. Jenaway said an Executive Summary would be made available the following week when it was requested by Chairman O'Neal. Mr. Jenaway, when asked, said the greatest hurdle the Commissioners need to overcome would be to follow through on their decision to make the changes.

### **Adjourn**

With no further questions or discussion, Chairman O'Neal thanked Mr. Jenaway and asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Aydlett moved to adjourn and Commissioner Gilbert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.