



FIRE & EMS ADVISORY BOARD

CURRITUCK COUNTY



Minutes

Thursday, August 5, 2008

Kilmarlic Country Club

7:00pm

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 1920 hours at the Kilmarlic Golf Club in Harbinger. All members were present with the exception of Butch Stegner and Commissioner Janet Taylor. Guests included all County Volunteer Fire Chiefs and Commissioner Gregory.
2. Welcome Board Members and Guests
 - a. Chairman's Comments – We need to all be on the same page and open training and communications to all members. Career and Volunteer members must come together and exhibit this unity. The ways of the past are gone and we can no longer operate as individual departments. This board will continue to develop this system at a County-wide approach.
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3. Additions/Deletion of the Agenda items – No changes
4. Public Comment – No comments
5. Approval of the minutes from the July 17 meeting – A motion was made to approve by Vice Chair McCain and a second by Chief Galganski. The motion carried unanimously.
6. Presentation by Knotts Island Volunteer Fire Department – Chief VanAuker showcasing his apparatus, conditions and history. This is a one station department with a North Carolina Rating (ISO) of 9/S. They have approximately 35 volunteers on the roster. Please see the attached presentation for further information.
 - a. Discussion ensued on the shape of the department and the daytime response. Chief VanAuker stated that his department is not as healthy as he would like it to be. =During the day he feels that they are not as strong with manpower having 2-4 personnel available to respond and works with the Department of Fire-EMS to assist with Fire response. During the evening hours he has more personnel on the Island and available to respond between 12 and 20 personnel to emergency responses. He hopes

All meetings will start promptly at 1900 hrs

Turn all pagers, radios and cell phones either off or to vibrate

At ninety (90) minutes, the agenda will be continued to the next meeting, unless there is a "motion to continue" that is seconded and approved.



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that the new building, which should come on line in December 2008, will help to obtain even more volunteers. He is also looking to send out a community letter to try and obtain more volunteers. Chief VanAuker stated that they have a lot of visitors as well. They have seen a lot of bikes and people coming to the ferry to take a scenic view to the OBX. This is an alternative route to the beach area and allows for them to skip some of the traffic on the weekend.

- b. Training in the County was discussed – Recently and NCRCS/ISO was held at the Currituck Middle school. The first day was related to communication, the next was on fundamentals of the rating system, the fire department side, inspection and water. Participation included: was Crawford Volunteer Fire Department, the County Departments of Fire-EMS, Communications, and the Fire Marshal. Lower Currituck Volunteer Fire participated on the final day with evolutions. It was noted that during the summer, a lot of the departments are busy with response and that they typically do not have training in the summer. This particular weekend there was several conflicting events which did not allow for some other departments to participate in this training. It was reinforced that all departments should train together and open their training to each other as much as possible.

7. Volunteer Coordinator for Fire & EMS

- a. Discussion – Chairman Messina and Vice Chairman McCain stated that they felt this position would be a great help to the departments as it would be a one stop shop for getting started as a volunteer in our system. This would allow us to centralize our process and try to capture more personnel for daytime response. This gives the potential volunteer a person, place and number to call with their questions.
- b. Funding- the seven departments will have to share the cost. Even though we are in a tougher economic climate, Vice Chair McCain felt that we should go forward with this project and make it a priority in our budgets. The approximate dollar amount of \$7,000 – \$10,000 was stated based on the cost of 60-70K for this position with benefits and the like. Discussion on who this person reports to was determined to be the FEAB Chair or his/her designee. It was reiterated that this position is not the end all solve all to our issues of recruitment and retention, but was a start to organizing this County wide. The Board discussed who this person would call if they were sick: this again would be the Chair or designee. Discussion continued to see how and when this person should be evaluated. It was determined that the position should have a minimum of a 2 year window to operate, with the ability to extend. The board will formally evaluate at the six



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month and one year marks. However, this person would report to the board at every meeting as to his/her progress and any issues that they are facing. A five minute break was granted after a unanimous vote to continue the meeting at the 90 minute mark.

- c. Discussion began on how much this position should or would cost. The Fire Chiefs stated that they see the benefits of this position but would like to see hard numbers to know exactly how much they have to commit. This should include workman's compensation, benefits and salary. It was stated that some of the benefits may be cheaper to provide from a volunteer department, rather than the County. Additional discussion ensued about asking the Board of Commissioners for additional funding this year that may come out of next year's budget or to offer other ways to fund this project.
- d. A motion was made by Vice Chari McCain to proceed forward with the recommendation of hiring a Volunteer Fire & EMS Coordinator to provide services to volunteer Fire & EMS in the county. Motion seconded by Mick Lesinski. The vote passed unanimously.

8. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 10pm