



FIRE & EMS ADVISORY BOARD

CURRITUCK COUNTY



Minutes

Thursday, July 17 2008

Currituck County Courtroom "C"

7:00pm

1. Call to Order - All members with the exception of Carl Soltow was present.
2. Welcome Board Members and Guests
 - a. Chairman's Comments – Mr. Messina thanked all six (6) Volunteer Fire departments for completing their contracts. He stated that we all must put our differences aside and must start to become one. We must continue to look into improving our training, technology, terminology that is NIMS compliant, and reduce our response times. Moyock should be applauded for all of their efforts of recruitment and record keeping. According to OSFM they should be off probation soon. The Chairman suggested that we meet again in early December to see what the effects of recruitment and retention, specifically in Moyock are and will revisit their request and the issues at hand during this time. The issues still seem to be daytime response. Chairman Messina would like to make a positive recommendation to the Board of Commissioners in early February to include plans for contracts. We have had a busy and tough start, but we will continue to face these challenges and better our system.
3. Additions/Deletion of the Agenda items
 - a. Added item 6b– report from Vice Chairman McCain on meeting with the County Manager
4. Public Comment – Limit to three (3) minutes – (Must sign in at the beginning of the meeting)
 - a. No Comments
5. Approval of the minutes from the June 19th meeting
 - a. Motion to approve by Deputy Chief LaPut second by Mr. Stegner – question regarding the language was presented by Chief Dailey, clarified by Chief Carter - motion passed unanimously
6. Education: Volunteer Coordinator – Presentation from Division Chief John Bianco City of Virginia Beach Department of Emergency Medical Services.
 - a. Presentation of Volunteer Coordination and recruitment and retention. VBEMS uses *One Mission 10 Rescue Squads* or in Currituck's Case *One mission 7 departments volunteer and career*. Chief Bianco stressed the

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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need to be on the same page and stated that forming this board was definitely a positive step for our County. He continued to discuss all of the options that are out there and that we need to market our system to attract and retain personnel both career and volunteer. Currituck is not the only county or city facing these challenges. As a board he recommends that we find common ground and direction in addition to recruitment and retention to better the system. Please see the attached PowerPoint Presentation for further information.

- b. Meeting with the County Manager – Vice Chairman McCain – Met on July 9th and discussed two items.
 - i. Volunteer Coordinator – The manager would recommend that each department fund 1/7th of the cost of this position. The County would furnish an office and most of the equipment needed to operate this position, but the Volunteer Fire departments and County Department of Fire-EMS would need to fund the actual position. He expressed the same concerns previously discussed on who this position would report to. This position could be reevaluated at 18 months to see what else needs to be done, and would likely cost approximately \$60,000 which would include all of the benefits, salary, FICA and insurance. In addition this position would need a vehicle. Discussion ensued on using occupancy tax and this was discussed but not an option at this time. However, any other funds that the departments have in back tax funds or outstanding funds could be placed towards this position should they choose to make this decision. Discussion on the Volunteer Coordinator ensued: How do the volunteer departments feel about putting 5-7k into this position. There is a concern from some departments about the standardization and the Volunteer Coordinator. This position was not budgeted and the volunteer departments have allocated funds to projects this year. This may come to a choice of priorities as well and need from the departments and the Fire and EMS Advisory Board. A special meeting will be advertised to further discuss and finalize this issue.
 - ii. Funding – Discussion with the County Manager on the opportunity to increase funds. The Manager would not have an issue with this if the departments can show the data to support this increase. At this time there is no data to support that need. Equipment was discussed and this brings up a concern for funding the apparatus requests. Currently Crawford Volunteer Fire Department has an apparatus on order and should arrive sometime in August to early September. Corolla Fire Rescue and Lower Currituck Volunteer



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Fire Department have both requested an apparatus for this fiscal year. This may cause the board to prioritize and possible delay the purchase of these apparatus or spreading out the funding over 18 months without having to borrow it. The County Manager did like the fact that the Board was looking at all options but that we wanted to move forward as one voice. A question was posed on who owns the apparatus. All newly purchased apparatus at this time is jointly titled. Previous purchases were owned by the Volunteer fire departments and there are of apparatus owned solely by the County. Vice Chairman McCain reported that the County Manager and County has no intention of taking over the volunteer system and is excited to see our board move forward with research and recommendations. Discussion on needs assessment ensued. There needs to be a correlation and coordination of resources as well as a need to standardize equipment, technology data and the like.

7. Selection/Appointment of Apparatus Committee – Motion was made to place Carl Soltow, Hugh McCain, Mick Lesinski and Butch Stegner on this Committee. It was followed up by a motion to place the Chiefs on this committee as well. Motion passed 8-0. We will have a special meeting August 5th 2008 to discuss the volunteer coordinator as well as refine the Apparatus Committee if needed.
8. Adjourn