



FIRE & EMS ADVISORY BOARD

CURRITUCK COUNTY



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 13, 2008
Historic County Courthouse 7:00pm

Call to Order – Approval of Agenda

The first meeting of the Fire & EMS Advisory Board was called to order in the Historic County Courthouse Kitchen at 1904 hours. All members were sent an agenda packet prior to the meeting with no changes requested. The meeting began with introductions of all constituents with a brief background description given from each person.

Rules of Order –

Ike McRee, County Attorney, spoke to the group about all of the rules of order that we could utilize to ensure a good order and smooth business approach to our meetings. Mr. McRee discussed the public meeting law, specifying that any time a majority of the board is to meet the County is required to advertise forty-eight (48) hours in advance. This advertisement will include all regularly scheduled and “special” meetings. Mr. McRee also emphasized that documents produced and e-mails transpiring between board members are “public documents” and therefore is public record. (NC Public Records Act/FOIA) Chief Carter stated that he has requested to post documents produced from of the Advisory Board on the County’s website. Additionally, he will file the appropriate paperwork and request to advertise to the Clerk of the Board.

Overview of the Fire-EMS System

Chief Carter presented the Board a Power Point presentation overview of the current Fire and EMS system structure. Discussion ensued on some items that are in place to start and continue cohesion and planning to better the system. Additionally, the Board reviewed all options and thought processes, to date, on issues and dilemmas faced by career and volunteer departments in the County. Board members asked questions as to operations, benefits, and the like specifying some strengths and weaknesses to the system. This help to identify the direction of the board and setting goals/priority items.

New Business

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

The first action of the Board was to nominate and select a Chair and Vice Chair of the Board. Dave Messina nominated himself and gave a brief background as to his involvement and commitment to moving this Board forward. His nomination received a



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second from Chief Galganski and a third by Chief Dailey. Discussion ensued on the process of nominating a Vice Chair. Hugh McCain was nominated by Chief Galganski with a second by Chief Dailey and Captain Laput. Both motions carried 8-0.

Chairman Messina opened the next agenda item the Moyock/County merger. He stated that this was a progressive move from Moyock and commended them on their efforts to date. This topic had been discussed during the presentation and Chairman Messina wanted to hear input from the Chief's and the departments that they represent. He opened the floor to the Chiefs -

Chief Galganski stated that he has been a long time volunteer and believes that the County and the Volunteer agencies are moving in the right direction and applauded Moyock for making a proactive move.

Captain Laput stated "it is about the service and what is best for the citizens" He continued by stating that Knotts Island had some concerns about how a merger would work and the process involved with merging services.

Chief Dailey stated that his department, Crawford Vol. Fire Department, is strong right now, but he has been in tough times before. His department and Lower Currituck Vol. Fire is here to support the County and Moyock. He also acknowledged that during the day, staffing is not where it needs to be. The departments he is representing have concerns on the ISO ratings and Auto aide agreements. He believes that there needs to be a clear vision and structure defined for all understand and agree to. Chief Dailey is going to meet with ISO on other items later this month and will follow up on the death benefit issues as well as any items this board would like him to ask.

Chief Carter thanked all involved and stated that CCFEMS also has concerns with this merger. Chief Lane, Moyock Vol. Fire, the Fire Marshal James Mims and Chief Carter all met with ISO in late February and were told that the ratings would not change at first, but would likely decrease, to a 6 or better once the County is re-rated, should the Board move in this direction. He also reiterated that this process will take time and structure, funding and decisions will need to be made if this is the direction the Fire & EMS Advisory Board and ultimately the Board of Commissioners decided to move to.

Chairman Messina thanked all Chiefs and their departments again for all that they do and their commitment to bettering our system. The Chairman recommended a four tiered plan: immediate, three year, five year and master plan. He stated that some of the immediate items to be addressed were the merger and associated issues. When we meet again in April the Board can decide on items to add into the other tiers.



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Vice Chairman Hugh McCain discussed the ability to have a needs assessment for replacement of items and apparatus. This would give the board and the volunteer departments a guideline and idea of when items will be up for replacement. He will look into this further and report back at the next meeting.

Chairman Messina opened the discussion on how the board would be staggered to ensure that each two year term there is half of the turnover. Below is a list of each member and their term expiration. All members will serve a two year term with a maximum of two terms being allowed, unless otherwise approved by this Board and the Board of Commissioners:

1. Butch Stegner – March 2009
2. Mick Lesinski – March 2010
3. Chief Chris Dailey – March 2009
4. Vice Chairman Hugh McCain – March 2010
5. Chief Rick Galganski – March 2009
6. Captain Greg Laput – March 2010
7. Chairman Dave Messina – March 2009
8. Carl Soltow – March 2010

Chairman Messina stated he would like to start out each meeting with a role call from each department and a statement from the Volunteer Fire representatives. The agenda and previous meeting minutes will be sent to all representatives the Monday before the next meeting. The next meeting will be held in the Airport Conference Room 7pm on April 17th. All future meetings will be held on the third Thursday of the month in the same location at the same time.

Motion to adjourn from Chairman Messina and seconded by Chief Galganski, motioned carried 8-0.