



FIRE & EMS ADVISORY BOARD

CURRITUCK COUNTY



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Currituck County Airport Conference Room 7:00pm

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Chairman Messina at 19:15 hrs in the Airport Conference Room. A role call was taken and all members of the Fire & EMS Advisory Board were present with the exception of Chief Galganski.
2. Welcome Members and Guests – The Chairman welcomed the guests we had in attendance and thanked them for their service and interest in this Board.
3. Chairman’s Comments – Chairman Messina stated that tonight’s meeting is a continuation of the last meeting. He reminded all members not to become tunnel vision and that all options are on the table for us to review and discuss.
4. Additions/Deletion of the Agenda items – No items were added or deleted, however, in the absence of Chief Galganski, agenda item number 9 will be presented by Chief Dailey
5. Approval of the Minutes and the Agenda – Motion to approve the agenda by Captain Laput and seconded by Vice Chairman Hugh McCain. This motion passed unanimously.
6. Public Comment – Limit to three (3) minutes – No comments
7. Moyock Volunteer Intention Letter

At the request of the Advisory Board, Chief Richard Lane submitted another letter from Moyock Volunteer Fire Department that gave more detailed information on what Moyock Volunteer Fire Department was requesting from the County. Chief Lane then reminded the Advisory Board that this request was not something that was decided hastily, but has been discussed in a committee format and then voted on by their membership. In return for career personnel, the membership of MVFD voted unanimously to merge their personnel with the County and to give the County all equipment, apparatus, the building and oversight with the understanding that the volunteers would still be an integral part of the system.



FIRE & EMS ADVISORY BOARD

CURRITUCK COUNTY



Chairman Messina was handed a copy of this letter and distributed this document to the board. He then read this letter to the board. Chief Lane asked the Board if this letter addressed the request of the Board. Vice Chairman McCain stated that it cleared the ambiguity of the previous letter and thanked him for taking the time to develop this language. Chairman Messina requested a motion to accept this letter. The motion was made by Vice Chairman McCain and seconded by Mr. Lesinksi. The motion to accept the letter from Moyock Volunteer Fire Department was cast and passed by unanimous vote.

8. Presentation of organizational structure and cost analysis for the County to provide fire services to the Moyock Township.

As requested by the Advisory Board, Chief Carter provided a PowerPoint presentation with five different options for the board to consider, if the County were to provide Fire Services. Sandra Hill, Finance Director, validated the numbers presented in these options as well as the current financial status of the MVFD and the County. All options presented were presented with the assumption that no other Volunteer Fire departments would be affected from this change and with the ultimate goal to increase the level of service to the citizens and visitors of Moyock and Currituck County. Staff recommended options 3-5 as this had minimal to zero costs increases to the tax payer.

The Chairman opened the floor for discussion. Chief Dailey discussed increasing the associate membership and allowing for more personnel to respond from his station. He also had reservations with the County providing fire services with an ALS Engine because he wanted to ensure the primary goal was fire related. Chief Carter stated that the primary function would certainly be fire, but that an ALS Engine would provide the same EMS level service as the County currently operates.

Hugh McCain asked Chief Lane the downside of these options. Chief Lane stated that he also endorses County staff recommendations, but stated that the number of personnel provided in option 3 was only two. In Option 4, this would only provide daytime staffing.

Back taxes and financial items were discussed. Sandra Hill clarified that this is left over funding from the fire district tax and this is a onetime set of funding, typically used by the volunteer fire departments in emergent situations.



FIRE & EMS ADVISORY BOARD

CURRITUCK COUNTY



Occupancy tax was discussed and it was clarified that some of this funding was being utilized for the County department of Fire-EMS.

There was discussion on how the rest of the Volunteers were integrated into this system. Chief Carter and Captain Laput reiterated that there should be no change to the operation or contracts with the other fire departments.

Chief Dailey stated that the County needs to do a better job of promoting volunteerism. One option would be for the County to have a Volunteer Coordinator to continue to increase volunteerism in the County. Discussion ensued on what it takes to be a volunteer firefighter and the steps that it takes to fight a fire. Mr. Lesinski asked what certifications a firefighter must hold to enter a structure. The Board discussed NC General Statutes on fire fighting and how current departments are set up to handle fire certifications and options.

Chairman Messina asked if the Board wanted to take any action on this item. A motion was made by Mr. Lesinski to adopt Option 3 of the presentation and seconded by Vice Chair McCain. Vice Chair McCain clarified his second to open the motion up for discussion. Chief Dailey stated that there was serious concern about the County taking over Fire Services because he feared this would cause the ripple effect and ultimately volunteers would quit. Mr. Soltow felt that this was a stop gap and that we should provide four personnel on the engine rather than two. With no further discussion the question was called: A 5-2 vote was cast against this motion. Option 3 was not adopted.

Discussion ensued on the need to address the Moyock Volunteer Fire Department issue. Chief Dailey made a motion to table this item while the Board does further research. A second was made by Mr. Stegner. Discussion opened with the Chairman stating that calls would not go unanswered as the County was assisting Moyock now. However, this is a very important decision and needs to be completely investigated before a decision is made. The motion passed with five voting yes and two abstaining. Motion passed

9. Volunteer Fire Department Budget Discussion

Chief Dailey presented the budget as it was given to him from Chief Dailey. This method would allow for departments to be compensated by the number of stations that they operate and would be based on a percentage. Sandra Hill requested that this be turned in ASAP as the budget is the end of a two year budget and needs to be reviewed and finalized by the Board of Commissioners as soon as possible. The



FIRE & EMS ADVISORY BOARD

CURRITUCK COUNTY



Chairman opened this topic for discussion. Captain Laput stated that the two departments he represents do currently support this proposal. Due to time restraints, this topic was tabled and sent to be an agenda item at the next meeting.

10. New Business

Chairman Messina and other members stated they were worried about the ripple effect and do not want to lose any volunteers. A request was made to Chief Carter to research and present options on how we can increase volunteerism in the county.

11. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Chief Dailey and seconded by Mr. Lesinski. All approved and meeting was concluded at 10:20pm