



# ***FIRE & EMS ADVISORY BOARD***

## ***CURRITUCK COUNTY***



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### **Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, May 15, 2008**

**Currituck County Judicial Building Courtroom "C"**

**7:00pm**

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Chairman Messina at 19:07. All members were present.
2. Welcome Members and Guests – The Chairman welcomed the guests in attendance and thanked them for their service and interest in this Board and the community. He stated that there is a public comment period and asked if there were any further requests to speak, please sign up now.
3. Chairman's Comments – Chairman Messina we will attempt to keep all meetings to ninety- (90) minutes unless a motion is made by the body to continue the meeting. The Chairman met with the County Manager and discussion stated that at this time there is no plan from the County to take over or to merge with all of the volunteer fire departments. When the time arises and the department's request assistance, the County will take this into consideration, but all avenues should be explored before the County steps in with dedicated career personnel. The Chairman also discussed funding options with the manager. Discussion on the use of occupancy tax was brought to light and this could be a potential option in the future.
4. Additions/Deletion of the Agenda items – A request was made to move the public comment period from item number 11 to item number 6. Motion by Captain Laput and seconded by Chief Galganski. Motioned carried.
5. Public Comment – Limit to three (3) minutes –
  - a. Captain Richard Labounty – Commends the Board for their time and assistance on this difficult task. As a resident and a member of Moyock Volunteer Fire Department, they are trying to increase their volunteer membership and want to continue this trend, but they want to keep and decrease the ISO ratings in Moyock. MVFD wants to be proactive and have requested career services as a backup to the volunteer services.
  - b. Chief Richard Lane – Apologizes to the Advisory Board and all of the Volunteer Fire Departments/Chiefs if he offended anyone at the last meeting, this was not his intention. Moyock Vol. Fire Department turned a letter into the County requesting career assistance and the County to merge services. The Advisory Board accepted this letter, after two drafts were turned in. He requests that we look at this as a Moyock issue as the



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other departments have not requested this assistance. Chief Lane would also like to address a letter that was sent to the Advisory Board and the Commissioners. This letter addresses the IAFF and states that this organization is a part of the push to have paid employees. Chief Lane stated the IAFF has only been in place for four months and Moyock has been working on ways to better their department, including paid services for four-five years. Chief Lane stated that Moyock has opened their membership to an unlimited number and open any personnel willing to join their fire station.

- c. Captain Tim Walters – Understands the request to go paid from Moyock but wants to know if there has been anything done to increase volunteerism in the County and in particular Moyock. He feels that we cannot put enough paid people in place and that Fire and EMS should be separated. The Department of Fire-EMS is misrepresenting as they are not a recognized fire department. Chief Carter is the EMS Chief and now it seems he is in charge of the Fire-EMS department. He recommends that we take all Department of Fire-EMS personnel and make them just EMS. Then let the contracted fire departments be responsible for their district and EMS responsible for EMS related calls and incidents.
- d. Carl Johnson – He is confused on why there is opposition to placing paid employees in Moyock. We already have paid firefighters in the County, through the department of Fire-EMS that supplement the volunteer departments as needed. This same process was performed in the past with EMS. Moyock brought this to the County and brought their issues to Chief Carter to try and develop a viable plan to better response and personnel at the station. Moyock is not asking for the County to place paid employees in all stations, just in the Moyock station as a supplement. There are already personnel in place to make this happen at no cost to the taxpayer.

Chairman thanked all for their comments and closed the public comment period.

6. Chairman asked to approve the Mission Statement and reread said statement to the Advisory Board. Chief Galganski motioned for approval, and seconded by Vice Chair McCain. Motioned carried.
7. Approval of the Minutes and the Agenda – Motion to approve the agenda by Butch Stegner and seconded by Carl Soltow. This motion passed unanimously.



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8. Presentation – Volunteer Recruitment and Retention – Chief Carter
    - a. At the direction of the Chair, Chief Carter gave a Power Point Presentation to the board on options to better recruit and retain our volunteers. Discussion ensued on the myriad of options that are available. Please see the Power Point for more information.
  
  9. Volunteerism in the County – There has been discussion of a Volunteer Coordinator to assist and improve recruitment and retention in the County. Discussion was brought forth on if the Fire Marshal could take on this responsibility. Chief Carter and Chief Daily stated that the Fire Marshal already has a plethora of responsibility and may not be able to dedicate the time needed for this position. Discussion ensued on the hiring of a Volunteer Coordinator. The Board will continue to investigate this as an option. Discussion also was brought forth about paying volunteers per call or by their availability. Crawford currently pays their members per call and for long duration incidents they receive further funding. Chief Galganski gave a presentation on volunteer incentives and went further into the incentive portions which included IRA, retirement info and paying by call.
    - a. It was determined that an immediate need was to look at a Volunteer Coordinator for the Fire volunteers. A motion was made to look into this idea by Chief Daily and seconded by Vice Chairman McCain. It passed unanimously.
    - b. Immediate items that county can do to increase volunteerism will be addressed as we can. Ideas on billboards, press releases and advertisements to increase volunteerism will be looked into.
  
  10. Education – Minimum training requirements – Captain Laput
    - a. A presentation on requirements to be a NC firefighter and a NC certified firefighter was presented by Captain Laput. Fire departments and members must have a minimum of 36 hours of training. This is determined by the Fire Chief and can include business meetings and other events approved by the Fire Chief. At this time, Currituck County does not have a consistent training program that all departments are working under and are following the state requirements. Discussion ensued on certified firefighters and understanding the State direction and code and the responsibilities of firefighters that were not certified as well as ones that are certified at the minimum firefighter 1 and 2 levels.



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11. Moyock Volunteer Fire Department Update - motion by Chief Galganski was made to continue the meeting past the 90 minute mark and seconded by Mick Lesinski. Motion carried.
- a. Chairman Messina asked about the current situation and if there were any changes. Captain Laput stated that there was no change other than the cap of volunteers being lifted allowing more volunteers in their organization. Chairman Messina asked the Board not to become too focused on one or two options but to keep all options open. At this time, there have NOT been any decisions or recommendations made on what to do in the Moyock district other than we need to increase volunteerism throughout the County. The Chairman opened this topic for discussion. Discussion ensued on the function of career personnel if Option 3 was put into place and how much each person would be counted in terms of ISO. Chairman Messina will set up a meeting with OSFM to discuss and clarify this further. Chief Daily stated that during his discussion with OSFM one other option would be to merge Moyock Volunteer Fire Department with Crawford Fire department. This would make MVFD a substation to Crawford and may decrease the ISO rating. Discussion ensued. The Board discussed the Associate Membership and encouraged all departments to look into adopting this as an option to increase members and more importantly to increase coverage of benefits to all volunteer and career personnel.

### 12. Volunteer Fire Department Budget Discussion

Chairman Barry Nelms sent a letter to the Fire and EMS Advisory Board stating that the budgets for this year would remain the same 1/6<sup>th</sup> division of funds for the upcoming budget. Discussion on bringing this up for future budgets was conveyed.

### 13. New Business

- a. Chief Carter discussed the presentation of Model System (Accreditation process for EMS) and asked for support from the FEAB and the Volunteer Fire Departments. He also stated that next week would be National EMS Week and the department would be out in the community supporting this endeavor.
- b. Chief Galganski brought the Fire and EMS Advisory Board's attention a request for his department to purchase a new apparatus using existing funds or occupancy tax. Discussion ensued on how we should do this process and who should approve of this, the Fire Chiefs or the FEAB.



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14. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Chief Dailey and seconded by Mr. Lesinski.  
Motioned carried.