



FIRE & EMS ADVISORY BOARD

CURRITUCK COUNTY



Minutes

Thursday, July 16, 2009

Currituck County Courtroom "C"

7:00pm

Call to Order

Roll Call of Advisory Board Members – All Members present with the exception of Mr. Ronnie Powell

Public Comment - **None**

Chair's Comments/Advisory Board Member Comments

- Chairman Hugh McCain stated he was sorry about holding the last meeting to three plus hours and will try to manage that better for us in the future as this is just too long. To his knowledge, all contracts have not been fully executed, but are in the process. It appears there is a gentlemen's verbal agreement in place until items can be voted on and the contracts signed. From what we are hearing, the intention of our board will be to look at concentrating on the four items outlined the addendum of the contracts: merging the mainland volunteer fire departments into three or more divisions, allocation/appropriation of funding, and standardization of equipment, training and operating procedures. Chairman McCain discussed breaking down budgets to look at the pros and cons with the purpose to focus on savings while maintaining safety and commitment to service.
- Mr. Mick Lesinski – stated that the County is receiving fire protection very cheap and that it may be time to spend more money even with the economic decline to ensure firefighter safety, specifically when talking about self contained breathing apparatus. (SCBA's)
- Mr. Butch Stegner – Agrees with Mr. Lesinski. He said that north of the County most cities are not decreasing funds to Public Safety but leaving it or in some cases increasing budgets (City of Portsmouth, Va)
- Chief Chris Dailey – Last couple of months have been very strenuous. He sends his appreciation to all for all who have given their time and assistance to keep operations going. There has been a lot of camaraderie and volunteer hours put in to continue to operate and he thanks all those who continue to help. Chief Dailey stated that as a system, we have a come a long way and there has been a lot of good things done with equipment, facilities and training since he first started, but it is time for a serious look into the future.

All meetings will start promptly at 1900 hrs

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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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- Chief Rick Galganski – Wishes that the County would start negotiations of contracts much earlier (beginning of the calendar year) so that there is ample time to review the contracts and discuss any changes.
 - Vice Chairman Carl Soltow – He agrees with the previous comments. He has contacted the State Office of the Fire Marshal and thinks that a merger may be foolish at this time based on his quick findings report.
 - Chief Greg Laput – He agrees with Chief Galganski with looking at the contracts earlier. Chief Laput stressed that the VFD's and/or this board needs to be sitting down with the Commissioners very early so that we have a plan and all involved can start to work on the same page and have a clear understanding of the goal and final outcome. There seems to be a lot of indecision and this is not fair to either parties.
 - Chairman McCain recognized Commissioner John Rorer's attendance in the audience and invited him to join the conversation if he had something to add.

Approval of June 18, 2009 Minutes - motion by Chief Galganski, second by Chief Laput
Motion **Approved**

Reports: Fire and EMS Chiefs activities for the past month as it regards to public safety

- Lower Currituck Volunteer Fire Department – Firefighter Aaron Gay present the report for Chief Moseman - LCVFD had 30 calls for service in the month of June with a majority being auto accidents. This brings the six month call volume to 155, approximately 10 more calls than this time last year. First, half of the year 2400 hours of training and no new volunteer applications, and membership is steady at around 65 members. As of this morning the South Station is still on schedule and fire apparatus should be back in the station by the end of this month. The plan is to have the station open in October. Ladder testing will happen July 27th. All stations are on this schedule. This costs approximately \$4.00 a foot or around \$15,000 for all stations. The contract is being discussed this evening. *LCVFD's board did agree to sign their contract at the very end of this meeting.*
- Moyock Volunteer Fire Department – Chief Greg Laput – their department has signed the contract. The body and board went ahead and agreed to the contract even with a number of questions still outstanding with the addendum and future. Engine 3 is out of service for the foreseeable future with a possible broken impeller. They will be looking to Crawford Volunteer Fire Department to assist them for larger scale incidents. MVFD has four new junior members that just came on board.
- Corolla Volunteer Fire-Rescue – Chief Rick Galganski - 37 fire calls and 520 man hours for the month of June. Total calls for the year = 93. This is an increase since

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- last year. Engine 64 (4x4) is back in service and cost \$21,000 to put it back in service. Engine 63 is out of service. They also have to do hydrant testing for the private hydrants and this costs approximately \$24,000 a year, this is outside of the County water department maintained hydrants. CFR just received the County contract and it is under review.
- Knotts Island Volunteer Fire Department – Chief Jerit VanAuker - They have had 2 fire calls this month for a total of 16 for the year. However, EMS calls seem to be increasing steadily. They are having some work done on one of their engines to work on the primer pump and small leaks. Working on small items with the new building. No major issues at this time to report. They voted to execute the contract.
 - Crawford Volunteer Fire Department – Chief Chris Dailey – His department carried over \$14,000 from last year and \$19,000 from donation and bingo money to try and pay for outstanding items. CVFD met last night and was voted to sign with a narrow margin 9-5 and it was executed and delivered to the Courthouse this afternoon. Chief Dailey met with the County Attorney and County Manager today for approximately 2 hours and stressed communications. He appreciates Chief Carter’s personnel (CCFEMS) assistance on July 1, with the accident in Crawford’s area. At this time, there was not written contract although there is. a verbal agreement, there are concerns that without an executed contract we could put personnel at risk with line of duty accident and death benefits. Chief Dailey then presented information on the various meetings he has attended and the current evolution of the contracts for this year and the current status with the amendment.
 - Carova Volunteer Fire Department - no report
 - Currituck County Department of Fire-EMS – Chief Michael Carter – reported that they have been very busy this past month and have had some major incidents. However it seems that training and collaboration is starting to pay off. The department is trying to put together a robust training schedule for both fire and EMS for this fiscal year. Chief Carter stressed that we should continue to focus on improving our training, operations, communications and cohesion. Hopefully, this can happen with the contracts now moving forward. CCFEMS hired 8 new personnel, 4 full time and 4 temporary. A new Captain was promoted, Captain Carl Johnson. Medic 7, the Carova ambulance, has been in service for just over a month and is working out very well. The community has complemented on it and both Chief Vann and Chief Galganski have been partners in this new endeavor. The department placed two FIT-5’s (chemical extinguisher “room and content fire”) on the Fire Marshal vehicle and EMS-5, the shift supervisor vehicle.

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Old Business:

- Report and discuss the 6 month contract extension and action plans to address the 4 points in the addendum –
 - There seems to be some sort of disconnect between the VFD's, FEAB and the County Commissioner's. FEAB and VFD's need direction from the County Commissioners. The major issue with the contracts will be the merging of the mainland volunteer fire departments and associated allocation of funding as it appears we are already starting to combine training and discuss SOG's. Chief VanAuker has already started to put together a PowerPoint to take a realistic look at the costs and benefits. Discussion ensued on the merging of departments to include management of finances and cultural changes that come with these potential changes.
- Apparatus Information from Vice Chairman Soltow – Update is similar to last month. There is a savings in a larger purchase. Chief Carter stated that a lease to own is an option to certainly to seriously consider.
- Discussion ensued on what department will receive the next fire apparatus and in what time frame.

New Business:

- Proposal from the Fire Chiefs to move Advisory Board Meetings to 4th Thursday of each month – **Approved**

Other Business

Adjourn

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