



FIRE & EMS ADVISORY BOARD

CURRITUCK COUNTY



Minutes

Thursday, June 18, 2009

Currituck County Courtroom "C"

7:00pm

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call of Advisory Board Members
3. Introduction and Welcome of Mr. Ronnie Powell
4. Public Comment –
 - a. Steven VanHise – President and Deputy Chief of Crawford communicated his displeasure and frustration of the County’s current position with contracts in a prepared statement.
 - b. Dave Messina – spoke about his concerns with the County volunteer fire contracts as well as concerns with the County Airport. In particular, he discussed how he feels money that is being spent inappropriately at the Airport and it could be used for other items, like protective equipment for the Volunteer Fire departments.
 - c. Chief James Moseman –for Lower Currituck Volunteer Fire Department echoed on the previous comments and stated that contracts should be a mutual agreement. The current contract that has been drawn up by the County Manager and County Attorney is blackmail. He expressed his frustration with communication and items being filtered or falling on Deaf ears.
 - d. Chief Dailey stated congratulations to Chief Laput for his nomination and acceptance in as the Fire Chief for Moyock Vol. Fire Department. The Board congratulated both Chief Laput, and President John Wheeler for their new positions in Moyock. Chief Laput and the FEAB thanked Chief Richard Lane for his hard work over the last few years.
5. Chair's Comments/Advisory Board Member Comments
 - a. Chairman McCain had some of the same issues with the contracts and how they are written.
 - b. Butch Stegner mentioned his concern and disappointment with the contracts as they were presented.
 - c. Carl Soltow discussed saving costs and ideas for apparatus purchasing and discussion of bulk purchasing.

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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- d. Chief Dailey – states that the communication with the County and Board of Commissioners is non-existent. He feels that the FEAB is a buffer and a way to filter information. He is also frustrated with the current contracts. He presented a proposed contract that states that the Contracts can be extended but only if the three mainland departments merge. He states that there is a huge communication problem.
 6. Approval of May 21, 2009 Minutes
 - a. Approved with only changes being grammatical or misspellings.
 7. Chief's report - update on the proposed contracts and a report on each VFD's Board of Directors position on the current contract proposals from the County.
 - a. Chief VanAuker – Knotts Island Vol. Fire Dept. – Contracts – KIVFD will not sign the current contract with the two different options presented. KIVFD received a letter from the County Attorney discussing turning over the land for the new fire station to the County by the end of the month. If this was not accomplished
 - b. Chief Laput – Moyock Vol. Fire Department – His department is waiting to see what the Board of Commissioners will decide and do, since there seems to be different variations of the contract being discussed.
 - c. Chief Galganski – Corolla Vol. Fire-Rescue – his department will sign the contract because they need the apparatus. However, he is confused with the different discussions about
 - d. Chief Galganski stated that Carova Vol. Fire Dept. – Would rather not have County pay bills but will likely sign the contract
 - e. Chief Dailey – Crawford Vol. Fire Department – Hate to be negative but his body and board voted for 1 year extension and their department will not sign the current contract. His department sees liability with the employee/employer relationship and that \$33,000 will be taken away from the volunteer department.
 - f. Chief Moseman – Lower Currituck Vol. Fire Department – Lots of issues with the contracts they were presented with no changes. They have found lots of changes including titling apparatus to the County. His department will not sign the current contract to protect their organization as presented and voted for a one year contract extension. They are putting together a contract with their legal counsel to present to the Board of Commissioners as a counter proposal.

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9. Motion to extend the meeting – Approved at 2045 hours.
 10. Ideas for discussion on a counter proposal to the County Commissioners for the upcoming contract year.
 - a. VFD disbursing all Accounts Payable and Bookkeeping versus County Finance Department doing the same – Discussion ensued on the positive and negatives of County paying the bills for the volunteer fire departments. Previously, the County took over the finances and this did not work out very well, so it went back to the VFD taking care of the bills. At this time, there are two departments that currently have the County paying their and after some adjustment this process seems to be working.
 11. Ideas for discussion on options regarding apparatus replacement/upgrade funding.
 - a. Discussion about different funding options – leasing, bulk purchasing and the like, was presented by Vice Chair Soltow.
 12. Discussion of Fire Station Grants – Discussion by Chief Carter discussing the option of applying for Stimulus funding for a new fire station in Moyock and or Maple. Chief Dailey, Laput and Carter will try to get together to discuss a plan for this. However, time is very limited
 13. New Business
 - a. Motion to remove and replace Commissioner Janet Taylor from the board due to attendance and in accordance with the FEAB bylaws. – Motion Passed – moved to Board of Commissioners for final approval
 14. Adjourn – Motion to adjourn – approved unanimously

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