



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

## ***CURRITUCK COUNTY***



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### **Minutes**

**Thursday, September 22, 2011  
Currituck County Courtroom "C"  
7:00pm**

- I. Call to Order - Meeting called to order at 7:00PM
  
- II. Roll Call of Advisory Board Members
  - Present:** Vice-Chair Stanley Griggs, Chairman Hugh McCain, Paul Beaumont, Deputy Chief Bergamini. Mitch Copeland, Charles Berry, Chief Glover
  - Absent:** Lt. Black, Michael Lesinski, Commissioner Aydlett
  - Attendees:** Brandon Whitlow, Mary Beth Newns, Chief Chris Dailey, Chief Bill Jones, Chief Richard Lane
  
- III. Reading and Action on the June 2011 Minutes

Mitch Copeland brought minimum typographical errors to attention that needed to be changed.

Motion to approve minutes with corrections was made by Mr. Berry and seconded by Deputy Chief Bergamini, motion voted and passed.

- IV. Public Comments – No participation – Chairman Hugh McCain welcomed Crystal Daneker, the new secretary for CCFEMS to the meeting.

- V. Comments from FEAB Members:

Chairman Hugh McCain – mentioned the outstanding work behind the scenes performed by Deputy Chief Bergamini in researching the purchase of new apparatus needed for the Knotts Island station. He also expressed excitement that this will lead the county into new opportunity for advancements.

Chief Glover – commended all Fire Chiefs for their dedication during the hurricane. He continued to announce how pleased he was with the incident and how it ended. It was stated how nice it was to have an after action meeting, which allowed discussion on things to change as well as discuss things that all were pleased with. The event was an opportunity to learn from challenges and mistakes. Hugh McCain entertained the compliment to say he would like to thank all that were involved in the county and how nice it was to see employees go above and beyond the call of duty.

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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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### VI. Old Business

#### Definition of Assistance Aid and Augmentation

Chairman Hugh McCain turned it over to the Chief Glover to explain in detail his finding of how the county would define “assist” in ordinance and budget agreements regarding the participation of CCFEMS’ support of county volunteer fire departments. Chief Glover explained after the lengthy discussion from the previous meeting, he had been tasked by finding another word or a comprehensive definition that would specify the meaning to the word “assistance” to place in the ordinance. As stated last month, that word has different meanings to different people and organizations relative to their needs from CCFEMS.

After researching other ordinances and policies and procedures, he found that the department of Fire/EMS provides to all agencies based on a system that the department is a county agency and therefore cannot specify the meaning to the word assistance as it relates to services and expectations. After entertaining the question to retrieve an answer from the County Manager, Dan Scanlon, there still seems to be no real answer to the definition “assist” within our county. It was suggested to specify through separate contracts the ideas of how to assist specific organizations. If this cannot be done, the word in the ordinance will be defined as “help” or “aid”. There was talk about augmentation that more specifies resources and people, but did not seem to be an issue.

Chief Glover spoke of a collective meeting with the county’s volunteer/contract Fire Chiefs to specify each department in separate policies; however this seems that the process will be too restrictive and needs to be universal throughout the different stations. The talk of changing the first paragraph in the ordinance was spoke of as the rest of the ordinance states all agencies as a team would respond to anything that is needed through fire or other related public safety response.

Deputy Chief Burgamini stated that he agreed to the idea of each department having specifics noted in individual contracts and not in the ordinance itself, as this would become too cumbersome to explain in that ordinance. Mitchell Copeland suggested he agreed with the idea to refer to a policy vs. each contract written separately from house to house. He also stated how the guidelines would be easier to change if approached in the fashion. Furthermore, he entertained additional questions and discussions to the Fire Chief’s to obtain their thoughts on the matter.

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Chief Jones agreed with the concern that there would be too many differences if each house had its own policy, that each departments needs are different.

Chief Daily agrees with having those policies, but also expressed that he has concerns and after speaking to attorney's that there needs to be some type of guideline to give structured meaning of the word "assist".

Chief Lane agrees to have a policy in place; however he believes that the general tasks, services and expectations are done each day with no concern.

Discussion regarding how the procedures we currently have in place was conducted. Chief Daily had no issues with the daily operations of his station, however would like to see a better guideline to determine structure.

Chief Glover expressed his concern that he does not want the word in the ordinance to hold up progress. Stanley Griggs agreed and stated his concern and suggested individual station leadership to request a specific definition to the word or term "assist" would limit in many ways the functions and abilities of these resources when new or alternative needs are identified and requested.

A motion was made by Chairman McCain to have a general foundation that is consistent and that each station would then have specific policies defined in their contracts.

The motion was then made and approved that Chief Glover will meet with the Fire Chiefs to proceed with this process and bring it back to the board for further discussion.

## VII. New Business

### Purchase of Fire Apparatus – Knotts Island Volunteer Fire Department

Deputy Chief George Bergamini spoke on the process in terms of researching new apparatus for the Knotts Island Volunteer Fire Department. He shared his experience on meeting with the apparatus committee where the guidelines were discussed of purchasing in a county organization. Information was gathered as well on specific needs such as a large pumper, etc. After researching on contracts, it was recommended to "piggyback" on a contract from another county. This avenue would result in significant savings of county funds as long as there would be no substantial

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changes in the contract. Chief Bergamini stated that will be minor modifications to the county's specific needs with minor charges anticipated. Chief Bergamini has found a small county named Whitakers which recently purchased an E1 pumper. After combining Knotts Island's needs to this pumper, a decision has been made of what to build. Deputy Chief Bergamini stated that the engineers had just completed the drawings today, and he will share them with the VFD's and FEAB at a later time.

Paul Beaumont expressed concern of piggybacking off of a bad contract which was interjected by Bergamini stating that the current contract has been tweaked to work for our county. He also questioned whether this effort was consistent with attempting to standardize apparatus and equipment as previously decided and directed by the FEAB.

Some of the specifics of the apparatus that are used and regulated included: NFPA compliance; LED light pack; on board generator; front suction; front hose bed; 1000 gallon tank; five man raised cab; non-corrosive rims; Cummings engine; automatic transmission; and a five thousand gallon reservoir. The apparatus will have an EMS compartment located behind the driver. The new truck will also meet the new Diesel Exhaust Fluid standard. The cost will be estimated of three hundred thousand, ninety three thousand dollars (\$393,000.00) with an additional twenty five thousand for hoses, tanks, and nozzles for an anticipated cumulative total of four hundred eighteen thousand dollars (\$418,000.00)

The proposed plan is to possibly sign the contract in October for a July delivery on this equipment.

Chief Dailey questioned the standardization of the cost for hoses, tanks, and nozzles being added into the price of the truck vs. the cost later coming out of individual budgets. Bergamini stated the importance of standardization, and this is the beginning.

Chief Glover stated that he supported and recommended the idea of purchasing the equipment complete for standardization.

Chief Jones expressed his concern with having a five inch hose which may be too large and not practical for this particular fire district's needs.

Chief Bergamini stated that the next step in the process has been made by meeting with the County Manager, Dan Scanlon, and the finance director, Sandra Hill. The goal has been set to purchase the apparatus for Knotts Island in full and at this time next budget year, lease purchase four new trucks for other stations in need.

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Additional discussion continued regarding various needed visits during the build of the vehicle. Chief Jones advised the need of taking a trip mid completion, which will allow for modifications before completion. Chief Daily advised in the past engineers where able to provide digital photos and conduct the preliminary construction meeting on-site in the county, which will help with overseeing the process.

### VIII. Other New Business

Local Fire Chief's Meeting – October 17, 2011 7:00 pm held at the Coinjock Marina.  
Chief's Meeting with the Commissioners' -October 28, 2011 5:30pm REF: redistricting

### IX. Next Meeting – The next meeting will be scheduled for October 27, 2011 at 7pm.

Hugh McCain addressed the topics of the next meeting, which will include discussion on the possibility of paid part time volunteers. As well as discussion on the volunteer coordinator position. Chairman McCain will send his thoughts on these matters via email before the next scheduled meeting.

Adjourn – 8:20 p.m. Minutes respectfully submitted by Crissy Daneker/Chief Rob Glover