



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

## ***CURRITUCK COUNTY***



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### **Minutes**

**Thursday, February 23, 2012  
Currituck County Courtroom "C"  
7:00pm**

**I. Call to Order - Meeting called to order by Chairman Hugh McCain at 7:00PM**

**II. Roll Call of Advisory Board Members:**

**Present:** Vice-Chair Stanley Griggs, Chairman Hugh McCain, Mr. Paul Beaumont, Deputy Chief Bergamini. Mr. Mitch Copeland, Mr. Charles Berry, Chief Glover, Mr. John Wheeler, Commissioner Aydlett

**Absent:** Michael Lesinski

**Guests:** County Manager Dan Scanlon, Ranger Aaron Gay - NCDOT, Chief Chris Dailey, Chief Bill Jones, and Chief Rick Galganski along with several members from various county volunteer fire departments.

**III. Reading and Action on the January 2012 Minutes:**

Motion to approve minutes was made by Mr. Beaumont and seconded by Stanley Griggs, motion voted and passed.

**IV. County Manager's Presentation:**

Chairman McCain introduced Dan Scanlon as the County Manager. Mr. McCain asked that any questions or comments be recognized by the chair to keep the meeting functioning in a professional manner.

Mr. Dan Scanlon began by explaining that the Currituck County Board of Commissioners (BOC) held their annual (2012) retreat last month. At the BOC request, Mr. Scanlon gave a brief overview and discussion regarding information explaining the Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating system. The BOC had asked that the same presentation be provided to the FEAB as a result of an article written and published by The Daily Advance following that BOC retreat/meeting.

Mr. Scanlon provided his presentation stating two objectives; (1) the purpose was to assist the BOC in understanding the definition of ISO and its components and to reiterate to the members that they should "quit chasing ISO". The County Manager

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All meetings will start promptly at 1900 hrs

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explained that he provided a recommendation to the BOC to include the formulation and adoption solid policies and procedures to support operational means and methods and let ISO follow in behind.

The PowerPoint overview was then displayed and discussed regarding homeowner and fire insurance premiums, as well as, the county volunteer fire department's ISO ratings. Mr. Scanlon summed up the presentation with direction to support the volunteer fire departments by bringing in more volunteers, recruiting, retention and training. The County Manager suggests that the FEAB work with the local departments and Fire Chief's to come up with solutions to address the daily challenges of the (contracted) volunteer departments and develop strategies to support and prolong the longevity of the county's volunteer departments and system. He stated that it was important to acknowledge the need and a meeting was needed to openly discuss the challenges and needs, as well as, agree on solutions.

Vice Chair Stanley Griggs expressed his thought that the volunteer departments could define an answer that would get the ISO ratings up.

Chief Glover stated that the efforts to address many of the current issues have been implemented and notable from the county's volunteer fire departments.

The County Manager had a second discussion relaying a message from the County Attorney which has directed that verbiage be included in the service contract on items to include harassment and unsafe work conditions for the protection of Currituck County and all volunteer fire departments. This language needs to be included in the contracts before July 1, 2012.

Mr. Scanlon then entertained various questions from Advisory Board Members and attendees.

A discussion was brought forward by Mr. Wes Liverman, President of the Lower Currituck Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department regarding the upcoming budget. Mr. Scanlon acknowledged comments and statements made of the need for more funding for the departments. However, he stated that the county has no more to give. Crawford Township Fire Chief Daily commented that he would like the county and FEAB to work with the county fire departments to determine and develop service levels for current and future operational expectations. This effort would require participation from all stations and ultimately an agreement from participating departments.



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Mr. Scanlon agreed but also stated that the public needs to be made aware of the department's plans to have them develop understanding and support with the decisions in regarding to the impacts and effects to the public. Mr. Paul Beaumont believes that it would be challenging and difficult to get the public to understand, especially if they had not required or requested service from the fire departments.

### **V. Public Comments – No participation**

### **VI. Comments from FEAM Members:**

Chairman Hugh McCain—McCain welcomed Mr. John Wheeler back to the board with pleasure. He will be representing the northern district.

Deputy Chief Bergamini—Shared thanks to Chief Galganski for hosting the Chief 101 Course conducted by the North Carolina Office of the State Fire Marshal (NCOSFM). He also stated that he understood that with completion of this course that all fire departments and fire chiefs were not compliant with NCOSFM requirements for this training.

### **VII. Old Business**

#### *Paid Part Time Firefighter Assistance*

Hugh McCain stated that this topic was discussed in a meeting over a year ago. Lower Currituck Chief Bill Jones suggested that the departments submit what was prepared in previous budget meetings. Chairman McCain agreed to bring forward that information at the next meeting.

Lower Currituck President Wes Liverman discussed his idea of implementing an incentive program. Others in attendance agreed that incentive programs do help, but they are also not against requesting or support the paid part time employee concept. Vice Chairman Griggs entertained the idea to develop a response matrix with a level of service established to be placed in a countywide policy.

#### *Budgets/Contracts Process*

Chairman McCain has allotted next month as a work session for budgets and contracts. He reminded FEAB members and attendees that this year's submission will be a single year budget in order to get on the same cycle as the rest of the county. Finally he noted that the Corolla Volunteer Fire-Rescue Department had submitted their budget document.

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At 8:30 hours a motion was made and seconded to extend the meeting an additional 30 minutes to cover other discussion and business.

Lower Currituck Fire Captain Hayden Poland spoke on his knowledge of the paid part time position being used to assist staffing the Town of Duck Fire Department.

Commissioner Aydlett suggested the use for a paid volunteer coordinator to assist stations with the recruiting and retention of additional volunteer membership.

Chair McCain summarized that each department needs to identify specific issues and problems. Once complete the departments could work on necessary funding.

### **VIII. New Business**

Chairman McCain presented a request from the Knotts Island Volunteer Fire Department for the purchase of a new brush truck using existing funding within their department's budget. A recommendation to move the money into capital expense was presented and approved.

### **IX. Next Meeting – March 22, 2012.**

Topic: Work session on budgets and contracts.

### **X. Adjourn – 9:08 p.m.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Chief Rob Glover and Ms. Crissy Daneker