



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

## ***CURRITUCK COUNTY***



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### **Minutes**

**Thursday, August 22, 2013  
Currituck County Courtroom "C"  
7:00pm**

**1) Call to Order – Meeting called to order by Chairman Stanley Griggs at 7:01PM**

**2) Roll Call of Advisory Board Members:**

**Present:** Chairman Stanley Griggs, Mr. Jim Cason, Mr. Charles Berry, Mr. Mitch Copeland, Ms. Evelyn Henley Deputy Chief Bergamini, Commissioner Aydlett, CCFEMS Chief Rob Glover

**3) Reading and Action on the June 2013 Meeting Minutes:**

Mr. Berry made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Mrs. Henley seconded the motion which was voted upon and carried.

**4) Public Comments:**

None

**5) Board Comments:**

Mr. Berry - had questions regarding benefits and insurance for the volunteer fire department personnel. A discussion regarding the membership of the North Carolina State Fireman's Association (NCSFA) and federal benefits was conducted. His concern was driven by recent events of Wildland Firefighter fatalities out west and issues with LODD benefits. Also, it was mentioned that all of the county volunteer fire departments were members of the NCSFA and a discussion of the importance of the membership and information on record for the receipt of any benefits. A discussion regarding the retirement fund and membership was held.

Deputy Chief Bergamini – discussed the information gained from a recent conference regarding the changes in the statewide ISO program. He suggested that due to the significance and complexities of this item that Mr. A.C. Daniels of the NCOSFM be requested to conduct a class for the county and regional fire chiefs. There was some discussion about the Crawford Township Vol. Fire Department possibly has already

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scheduled a session. Deputy Chief Bergamini suggested that the training be brought to the county.

He also gave an update on the Knotts Island Fire Truck and that they took delivery of the apparatus and that the first training session is scheduled for Saturday, August 24, 2013.

Chairman Griggs – advised the Board that is meeting with Ms. Sandra Hill of the County Finance Department to discuss the documents and process currently used for the VFD budget process.

Discussion regarding requesting a County Chief’s meeting is still on the agenda to discuss specifications and standards for equipment and other items.

Commissioner Aydlett -

Chief Glover – advised the Board that a copy of the second draft of study document is forthcoming and a small list of reviewers requested to review and provide feedback.

Chief Glover also advised that the Deputy Chief application period has closed and the process will begin soon. He also stated that advertisement for new paramedic positions (Carova staffing) and other vacancies would be posted on Monday, August 26, 2013.

Department secretary Ms. Daneker is returning on Monday, August 26, 2013. A question from Chairman Griggs regarding the process once the study document is completed. Commissioner Aydlett provided an explanation of the process that includes a combined meeting with the BOC, FEAB and county Fire Chief’s.

Commissioner Aydlett requested that Deputy Chief Bergamini provide an update with the progress of the Carova fire station upgrade. Chief Bergamini stated that there were issues with code compliance, increases of costs, and the project is about 50% complete. However, he was complimentary with the quality of the workmanship and materials used with this process.

### **6) Old Business:**

- **Update on the Assessment/Study:** covered in Board comments section.
- **Update - Discussion on career and volunteer requirements of mask fit testing/physicals for departments** – Chief Glover provided an update on the reply

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from NCDOL. He was advised that NCDOL does not require volunteer fire department personnel to have a physical evaluation as part of the mask fit testing process. However, they do recommend that the OSHA Medical Questionnaire be used to identify potential issues or concerns. If there are items identified, NCDOL recommends that a follow-up medical evaluation be considered. They also, that each situation regarding the definition of a volunteer fire department of concerns are handled on an individual basis. Copies of the NCDOL medical questionnaire was provided to members and a few copies of the NCDOL standards were provided for review.

Chief Bergamini asked for clarification on the requirement of a mask fit testing but no requirement for a physical. Chief Glover emphasized that NCDOL does strongly recommend the use of the medical questionnaire. However, he also stated that there are certain responsibilities that if volunteer fire departments assume such as HAZMAT or Technical Rescue (Confined Space) teams would be require physicals.

The Board held a lengthy discussion regarding the requirement or recommendation of medical evaluations for the county volunteer firefighters and the various components that are included in various types of these physicals (spirometry) and other associated components. Commissioner Aydlett cautioned the Board to not require an unfunded mandate of the departments. Also, lengthy discussion regarding the funding of this item was conducted.

Mr. Berry made a motion for Chairman Griggs will include this item within a letter being written to the BOC and county fire chiefs recommending the support of both the system-wide wellness initiative that may include (voluntary) medical evaluations, pulmonary function testing, mask fit testing for system firefighters. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cason. A vote was conducted and motion carried.

- **Update on the Volunteer Coordinator Position** – This item is on hold until the VFIS assessment is returned and discussed with the Board of Commissioners.
- **Update on the KIVFD Apparatus** – Dedication or public relations regarding new apparatus. Chief Glover has contacted the administration of the station and offered to assist the KIVFD with this task. He also stated that Mr. Edwards. Commissioner Aydlett told the Board that he spoke with the KIVFD fire chief earlier in the week and was advised that he was told that they have been in touch with Mr. Edwards regarding public information and relations activities associated with the new truck.
- **Update on Working Groups and Apparatus Standards** – The Chairman asked if the county chiefs were still conducting regular meetings. He thought the chiefs

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should be the venue to work on these items. Chief Galganski stated that he thought that this activity should remain with the FEAB in formulating work groups for developing the standards. A reference to last month's meeting minutes referred to writing a letter to the county fire chiefs for them to meet and discuss standards and needs for the system. Chief Galganski referred to the recent apparatus committee. Discussion on a needed meeting and the impacts on particular discussions and decisions with the recommendations from the VFIS system study. The topic will be tabled until after the study is received and reviewed. Commissioner Aydlett added that many topics and items will be influenced by the study. Chief Galganski stated he would contact Chief Jones and organize a meeting. Chairman Griggs asked to attend the meeting.

Chief Bergamini questioned Chief Glover regarding the capital funding for the Moyock VFD SCBA purchases. Research is needed. Commissioner Aydlett stated that any consideration for additional funds requested by the VFD's was set aside until after the receipt of the VFIS study.

### **7. New Business:**

Chief Galganski recognized the efforts and teamwork of LE, EMS and fire during a recent MVA with injuries in Corolla.

Chief Melton of the Moyock VFD explained the need for the SCBA updating or replacement upon the request of Commissioner Aydlett. There was continued discussion regarding the subject of SCBAs and the types and needs of particular departments to bring the system into consistent equipment.

- **Next Meeting Dates:** Future meeting dates - **September 26**, October 24, November 21(?), December 19(?), 2013.

The next meeting to be held is contingent on the receipt of the VFIS study document and a potential combined meeting with the BOC and county fire chiefs. The Chairman will determine the need of the next meeting based on current and pending business by September 10<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 2014 hours.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Chief Rob Glover, FEAB Secretary.