



FIRE & EMS ADVISORY BOARD

CURRITUCK COUNTY



Minutes

**Thursday, September 24, 2009
Currituck County Courtroom "C"
7:00pm**

1. Call to Order - the meeting was called to order at 7pm.
2. Roll call of Advisory Board Members
 - All members present with the exception of Mr. Ronnie Powell
3. Public Comments - None
4. Chairman and Advisory Board Member Comments
 - Chairman McCain expressed his pleasure with the conversations held at the Fire Services Board meeting.
 - Mr. Lesinski thanked the Chair and Vice Chair for the recent letter
 - Mr. Stegner also agrees with the comments about the letter
 - Commissioner Taylor apologized for missing the last meeting
 - Chief Laput was impressed with the start of the Fire Services Board and hope that this productivity continues
 - Vice Chair Soltow has concerns with the Fire Services Board, but hopes that they continue in a positive direction
5. August Minutes presented for Approval
 - Approved as presented
6. Fire and EMS Chiefs reports on Activities since August Meeting
 - **Moyock Vol. Fire Department** – Chief Laput – MVFD responded to approximately 25 fire calls last month and noted that the CCFEMS Medic 32 (second ambulance out of Moyock) is out of service. This may have an impact on their response level, particularly during the daylight hours. The Dog Track landing zone is no longer a viable automatic landing destination. They are working with CCFEMS, Blackwater and Nightingale to procure another LZ and one on XE's property (airport)
 - **Knotts Island Vol. Fire Department** – no report

All meetings will start promptly at 1900 hrs

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- **Corolla Vol. Fire-Rescue** – Chief Galganski – CVFR responded to approximately 33 fire related calls and they have noted that they are up in call volume for the year. All vehicles are back in service with the exception of Engine 63. The Platform will return within the next week. Ocean Rescue has had a tough season but all personnel are going above and beyond and he commends them for their continued efforts.

 - **Carova Beach** – Chief Galganski – They are conducting a live burn just down the street from the Fire Station in the near future (November/December) They are also discussing the potential for a Fire Station in Swan beach.

 - **Crawford Vol. Fire Department** – Chief Dailey – The report for September 23 2008 to September 23rd 2009 – They had a total of 349 calls for assistance with a majority of these calls (125) being accidents. They are working on another live burn in Shawboro in the near future. They have obtained an air fuselage from Langley Air Force Base. It is currently at East Coast abatement. They would like to see this prop used as a training module for the County Airport. Crawford VFD is also in the process of receiving two additional engines that were donated from the City of Chesapeake. They would like to use these apparatus for the airport. At this time, they are looking at options on where to house these units. Chief Dailey has ordered plans for a burn building/training center. There is land donated behind the Maple Fire Station and he would like to see this area expanded to accommodate a larger station that could provide coverage for Maple, the Airport and serve as a potential training ground. This move could assist in rating the airport.

 - **Lower Currituck Vol. Fire Department** – President O’Shea – LCVFD had 25 calls for the month of August and 212 calls so far this year. They have approximately 108 training hours. They are hosting an open house on October 4th at the newly renovated Powell’s Point station and invite all to attend. This also kicks off Fire Prevention month. (Week of Oct 4-10th)

 - **County Department of Fire-EMS** - Chief Carter – Reported that there have been strides made in communications and that a meeting was scheduled in the next week to discuss options for the immediate and long term future. CCFEMS is approaching the end of their seasonal staffing so Medic 63/7 has been placed out of service and Medic 32 is now manned when staffing will allow. CCFEMS is continuing to offer monthly EMS

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training and now has started to offer Fire Training Classes. He encourages all personnel to attend.

7. Report on August Fire Services Board Meeting

- Chairman McCain stated that we need to make a good faith effort to cover all four points that were presented in the contracts
- Discussion ensued on how most of the points were being addressed. However, the merger of the mainland fire department will be the last to address.
- Question and discussions ensued on the feasibility of one umbrella service and how we can accomplish this goal while keeping the autonomy of the VFD's.
- There may not be an economic advantage, but there may be an opportunity to improve ISO ratings and improve communications throughout the departments and County.
- The board reviewed a spreadsheet on the budgets of each department and the Chair asked questions of spending and funding. The intent is to save and reallocate funding, when and if appropriate. This should not reduce the overall funding, rather, redistribute and get a better idea of where the tax dollars are being spent. He stated that no one should be punished for being good stewards of tax dollars.
- FEAB members reviewed the funding and discussed the different line items used for the six different departments and determined that there was not always a commonality with language in the line item.

8. Status Report on Lower Currituck VFD and Corolla VFR Apparatus Purchases

- The FEAB discussed the letter from the County to address funding of both apparatus requested by Corolla and LCVFD.
- Discussion ensued on the critical need of these vehicles, but ALL future apparatus will be purchased through a common bid and specifications.
- **A motion was made by Chief Dailey to approve the purchase two apparatus, a second was made by Mr. Mick Lesinski – motion passed**

9. New Business

- Fire Services meeting has not been determined but may be in late October or early November.
- Chairman McCain will attend a meeting in Knotts Island in the near future.

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- Chairman McCain would like to thank LCVFD for their hospitality at a recent meeting he attended.
 - Ronnie Powell has missed three meetings in a row and has not returned phone calls related to FEAB. Chairman McCain will recommend to the Board of Commissioners for a replacement.
 - Thanks to LCVFD and CCFEMS for their work at the Jarvisburg Church of Christ

10. Adjourn

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