

October 26, 2021
Regular Meeting

**Pittsylvania County Fire and Rescue Commission
Regular Meeting
October 26, 2021**

VIRGINIA: The Regular Meeting of the Pittsylvania County Fire and Rescue Commission was held on October 26, 2021, in the Board Meeting Room, 39 Bank Street, SE, Chatham, Virginia. Chairman - SouthWest Quad - F&R Rep Bryan Fox, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. The following members were present:

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Chuck Angier	NorthWest Quad - Citizen Rep	Present	6:09 PM
Tim Duffer	Southeast Quad - F&R Rep	Present	6:10 PM
Bryan Fox	Chairman - SouthWest Quad - F&R Rep	Present	6:10 PM
Kermit King	Northwest Quad - F&R Rep	Present	6:10 PM
Ben Meeks	NorthEast Quad - F&R Rep	Present	6:11 PM
Hugh Mitchell	SouthWest Quad - Citizen	Absent	6:10 PM
Ronald S. Scearce	Board of Supervisors Rep	Present	6:12 PM
Keith Scruggs	Vice Chairman - NorthEast Quad - Citizen Rep	Absent	6:10 PM
Bert Sellers	Southeast Quad - Citizen Rep	Present	6:08 PM

AGENDA ITEMS TO BE ADDED

1. Motion to Add Agenda Items

None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Motion to Approve Agenda

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Tim Duffer, Southeast Quad - F&R Rep
SECONDER:	Bert Sellers, Southeast Quad - Citizen Rep
AYES:	Angier, Duffer, Fox, King, Meeks, Scearce, Sellers
ABSENT:	Mitchell, Scruggs

MINUTES APPROVAL

1. September FRC Meeting Minutes Approval (Staff Contact: Christopher C. Slemp)

SUMMARY:

For the FRC's review and consideration, attached are the September FRC Meeting Minutes.

FINANCIAL IMPACT AND FUNDING SOURCE:

Not Applicable.

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RECOMMENDATION:

County Public Safety Staff recommends the FRC approve the attached September FRC minutes as presented.

MOTION:

“I make a motion to approve the attached September FRC Minutes as presented.”

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Chuck Angier, NorthWest Quad - Citizen Rep
SECONDER:	Kermit King, Northwest Quad - F&R Rep
AYES:	Angier, Duffer, Fox, King, Meeks, Searce, Sellers
ABSENT:	Mitchell, Scruggs

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

HEARING OF THE CITIZENS

Vic Ingram - Tunstall district and serves on the Board of Supervisors. Apologized for the delay. Thanked everyone for their service and sacrifice. Vic spoke about the process for the Cascade Fire and Rescue's need for a fire truck and timeline was presented. Everything he has seen from the fire and rescue community has been ethical. The biggest threat to Fire and Rescue as we know it today is David Smitherman and his 4-year plan. The men and women that serve us, we can never repay them for their service. He asks everyone to stand strong during this political season. He closed and thanked everyone for their service.

Mike Neal - Has 2 things to bring to the commission. Covid has been tough, listed several reason, illness, training, and diversions. His departments moral has been hurt. First of all, they are struggling getting coverage. Wants the county to look ahead and possibly get a Medic truck in his district. Second, wants to clear the air for the fire commission, with rumors reference his stew. They cleared \$7600 and \$900 in donations and all money went to Ringgold Fire Dept. operations.

FIRE AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION REPORT

D Fowler - Keep responders and families in your thoughts and prayers

COUNTY STAFF REPORTS

1. County's Public Safety Director's Report (Christopher C. Slemp)

SUMMARY:

The following is the County's Public Safety Director's November Report:

- (1) Congratulations to Kasey Seay, EMS Coordinator, for completing and graduating from the Virginia Fire Officers' Academy this past week.
- (2) Interviews for the Deputy Director's position have been completed and a candidate will be announced soon.

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(3) The Hurt EMS Station is ninety-five (95%) complete. A final walk through has been completed and a short “punch list” is being completed. County Staff should start operating out of that Station soon.

FINANCIAL IMPACT AND FUNDING SOURCE:

Not Applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

Not Applicable. For informational purposes only.

MOTION:

Not Applicable. For informational purposes only.

Director Chris Slemp - Recognized Ralph Lawson being present with Red Cross and the help they give behind the scenes.

Conducted interviews for Deputy Director position and they have completed. An offer has been made and accepted, Chris Key will be coming on board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

K. King asked about diversions. And that will be covered by Mr. Scearce

NEW BUSINESS

1. Board of Supervisors' Communications (Contact: Hon. Ronald S. Scearce)

SUMMARY:

At the Board of Supervisors' (“Board”) October Business Meeting, the Board decided the following issues/items related to the County’s Volunteer Fire and Rescue Agencies:

(1) Appointed Hugh Mitchell as the citizen-at-large for the Southwest Quadrant, who will replace Bobby Mitchell who has resigned from the FRC.

(2) Directed the County Administrator to start discussions with both Danville SOVAH and Gretna Sentra ER about reducing the number of hospital diversions that are occurring, as well as potentially expanding services in the County.

(3) Discussed the ARPA funds appropriated to the Volunteer Fire and Rescue Departments. The Board’s Finance Committee heard the process recommended by the FRC. However, after more discussion, Finance Committee agreed to table any further action until Kimberly Van Der Hyde, the County’s Finance Director, can determine more eligible uses for the ARPA funds as they pertain to Fire and Rescue Departments. Van Der Hyde was also directed to work one on one with the Volunteer Agencies that may need assistance with determining appropriate projects. Van Der Hyde should have a more detailed list of eligible uses by the next Finance Committee Meeting.

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FINANCIAL IMPACT AND FUNDING SOURCE:

Not Applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For informational purposes only.

MOTION:

None. For informational purposes only.

R Scarce - Board appointed Hugh Mitchell to serve as the citizen at large for the Southwest quadrant replacing Bobby Lovelace resigned for health reasons and thanked him for his service given.

T Duffer asked about the committee and timelines were discussed and getting Kim Vanderhyde involved.

B Meeks has hopes that the process is opened up for approved items.

MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Sellers - Thanks Vic Ingram for support. Also, thanked Mike Neal for work he does for the Ringgold Community.

Angier - Spoke about the time he spent in the 911-center and he was impressed.

Fowler - No matters.

Scarce - Wants to remind the commission of the progress that David Smitherman has assisted with, and also the leadership of Bob Warren. Also spoke about the economic growth. Spoke on the low tax rate, third lowest in the state. Election was discussed.

Meeks - Apologized for missing last meeting. Thanked volunteers and public safety staff at Rock Concert. Congratulations to Chris Key. Keep Scott Eanes in prayers and also Cristen Talley. Auto-launch Ladders for the county, RIT, and cross training was discussed. Appreciated the ARPA funds and \$500 for volunteers. Encouraged Mike Neal. Per call pay for the county due to increased transport time. Also, spoke about the elections and the importance.

Duffer - Commend Chief Neal for speaking up and asking for help. Spoke about 911 center and asked the Board of Supervisors changing status of dispatchers to Public Safety. Thanked Volunteer Agencies. Spoke about shortages in parts and other items needed for service. Congratulated Chris Key and spoke about his understanding of the system.

King - Thanked everyone in attendance. Condolences to Chief Neal and thanked for honesty. Thanked supervisors in attendance. Congratulations to Kasey Seay. Congratulations to Chris Key. Vote on Tuesday.

Sellers - Was unaware of any ill will with Mr. Smitherman, he also addressed Mr. Scarce.

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Scearce - spoke back reference stating of facts. Comments were made direct back to one person tonight.

B Fox - Looks forward to working with Chris Key. Heart of the Volunteers is alive, and he has seen it in action. Volunteers are needed and vital part of this county. Commended Mr. Angier for digging in. Encourage volunteers to attend training. Triage at the ER was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Bryan Fox. Adjournment at 7:17 PM.