

Fire and Rescue Commission
Minutes of September 22, 2020
Chatham Community Center
115 South Main St, Chatham, VA 24531

1.) Call to order at 6:30 p.m. by Bryan Fox, Chairman

2.) Roll Call:

Member	Present	Absent
Chuck Angier	X	
Tim Duffer	x	
Bryan Fox	X	
Brian Garrett	X	
Ben Meeks	X	
Ron Scarce	X	
Keith Scruggs	X	
Bert Sellers	X	
Bobby Lovelace		x

Staff members present: Chris Slemm, Michael Lee

Fire and Rescue Association representative: Dean Fowler

3.) Additions or Revisions to the agenda: None

4.) Approval of the agenda:

Motioned by Ben Meeks, seconded by Tim Duffer to approve agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

5.) Approval of previous meeting minutes:

Motioned by for approval of minutes Brian Garrett, seconded by Chuck Angier to approve minutes of August 25, 2020. Motion passed unanimously.

6) Presentations: None

7.) Fire and Rescue Association Report: Chief Fowler stated they are in the process of reviewing SOGs for RIT and fire ground accountability. They need a little more time to review and edit both these and will report back to the commission. The Association did make the follow recommendations for fire chief standards: VA State Firefighter 1, Hazardous Materials Operations, EVOC, CPR, and the National Incident Management System ICS 100, 200, 700 and 800. Additionally, EMS Captain minimum requirements would be EMT, EVOC, National Institute Management System ICS 100, 200, 700, 800, as well as MCI 1, MCI 2. The chief or captain would have until October 2021 to obtain these certifications if they don't already have them.

Ben Meeks stated he appreciates Chief Fowler and the Association for compiling the material and all the work they do.

8.) Other Fire and EMS Agency Reports: none

9.) County Staff Reports: Chris Slemm speaking: 640 is still in negotiations on how to handle any remaining funds. Cool Branch is still in negotiations. Danville Fire and Rescue as far as the capital inventory requested by the BOS is still in the process of being completed. Staff will be visiting stations and also cataloging SCBAs, turnout gear, defibrillators, etc. The majority of EMS supplies have come in and been delivered. There still items on back order, and some items are hard to get right now. Casey has delivered the majority of said items. The County's CARES funds have mostly been obligated at this point. ESO contract has been signed, Scott Hutcherson will be assisting with the rollout of ESO.

10.) Unfinished Business: Bryan Fox speaking.

A. Bryan Fox opened a discussion of bylaw's revision:

The draft of bylaw amendments was reviewed, and further suggestions were made such as correcting the meeting location; as well as, what constituted a quorum and a majority vote. Question about where they would be primary meeting, hearing of the citizens. There was a question on whether the paragraph on the hearing of the citizens had to be read if there were not any present. County attorney Hunt stated "no, it doesn't". Ben Meeks stated that he thought the Commission should be able to have remote meetings and used as an example that he was out sick last meeting and would have liked to still be able to participate in the meeting from his home. He also stated that because of the times we are in right now, it might be necessary.

County attorney, J Vaden Hunt, explained remote meetings and all it entails. He also stated that there is no requirement to facilitate remote meetings. Stated these by-laws are the commissions internal rules and they can adopt them how they want. Stated that the Commission will soon be meeting at refurbished school board administration building room that is being done with CARES funding. It was decided that a quorum would be more than a simple majority of the appointed members. Also, included in bylaws would be making remote meetings possible within defined guidelines. It was suggested that they refer the bylaws back to committee for further review and compile a revised copy of the bylaws. Tim Duffer made a motioned, seconded by Brian Garrett, to send bylaws back to committee for changes discussed of the bylaws. Motion so passed.

B. Chris Slemp spoke about the Strategic Plan Update goals: Reviewed goals, objectives and actions for goal #1 “Develop and implement a strategy to recruit, retain, educate, and motivate quality volunteers and staff while improving utilization of human resources”. Mr. Slemp reiterated that some of the actions needed will take time and money.

Comments: Tim Duffer mentioned working with the DCC Community College regarding a paramedic program.

Ben Meeks asked about whether the program was being pitched to the schools. Mr. Slemp stated that they had earlier but because of COVID-19 it was stalled until schools get back to normalcy.

Caleb Ayers was introduced to the commission as our new Public Relations Manager, he spoke about how the Fire and Rescue Association and how awareness can be raised. Presented a PowerPoint titled “Thank a Volunteer, become a Volunteer”. He also answered any questions the Commission had. Mr. Neal spoke about the importance of pushing the EMT class to those in high school and all the benefits of taking the courses. Supervisor Scarce thanked Caleb Ayers for laying out the plan. As did several other Commission members.

Ben Meeks reiterated that the statistics in EMS call volume should be put out to the public, for their education. Lots of people just do not know what goes on with Fire and Rescue.

Keith Scruggs agreed about getting young adults involved, and the importance of getting churches involved.

Ben Dalton mentioned “soft building” and maybe we can educate.

Bert Sellers spoke about how being and EMT volunteer, can be a great resume builder.

Chief Neal said that he newspaper article that he was featured in got him a lot of exposure, and subsequently donations from several people.

11) New Business:

A) Ron Scarce gave a Board of Supervisors update: the “board” passed 2 resolutions - one honoring the late Landon Worsham, long-term fire chief of Chatham, and the other was

Gretna Fire and Rescue Tax Exempt Financing to assist with purchase of a 2020 Dodge Ambulance.

B) Caleb Ayers gave a presentation on a new marketing initiative the County is pushing called "Thank a volunteer. Become a volunteer."

12.) Matters from Commission Members:

Ben Dalton – asked if all agencies have a Jr Member program. Stated this program should be actively pushed. He also spoke about training our captains and chiefs, also maybe getting someone once a year to come in and train on how to set small goals and strategic plans within the department. He also asked about update on EMS class and that he has several people who are waiting to take it. Kasey Seay stated that the class will start in January, with Chris Christenson being the lead instructor.

Keith Scruggs thanked Caleb Ayers for his efforts on the marketing plan. He also mentioned the late Landon Worsham and his legacy and thanked the Board of Supervisors for the resolution for Worsham.

Bryan Fox – thanked the Bylaws Committee for their work, thanked the chiefs for all their work, and coming out for the meeting. Also thanked Public Relations Manager for his efforts.

Motion, seconded to adjourn, motion so moved.

Adjourned at 7:32pm.