

Fire and Rescue Commission
Minutes of November 24, 2020
Chatham Community Center (Gallery Room)
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
Bobby Lovelace	X	
Ben Meeks	X	
Ron Scearce	X	
Keith Scruggs	X	
Bert Sellers	X	

Staff members present: Chris Slemp

Association Representative: Mike Neal

3.) Additions or Revisions to the Agenda - none

4.) Approval of the agenda: motion to approve agenda by Ron Scearce, seconded by Chuck Angier, the motion passed unanimously.

5.) Approval of previous meeting minutes:

Motion to approve minutes by Ben Meeks, seconded by Keith Scruggs. The motion passed unanimously.

6.) Presentations: none

7.) Hearing of the Citizens - none

8.) Fire and Rescue Association reports: (Mike Neal) 10 min

Chief Neal stated the Chiefs' Christmas Banquet is scheduled for December 2, 2020 at the Community Center with a limit of 25 people. The SOGs for incident command are still being worked on, as well as name tags and accountability on fire scenes, and SOGs for the Rapid Intervention Team.

9.) County Staff Reports (Slemp)– There are no new updates on 640.

As far as training, in October the county sponsored a mass casualty at Mt. Cross and that people are eager for training. Another training is planned on the north end, possibly a third training after that.

Firefighter 1 virtual class is planned and is booked already and another one planned shortly. An EVOC class was held at Tunstall.

EMS call responses are greatly improving, as well as, out-the-door times. We are heading in the right direction.

EMS only positions are being considered to change to Fire/Rescue positions. EMS only positions are paid on a 40-hour work week plus enormous amounts of overtime; due to fluctuating pay and the morale issues, we are consider the job classification change to move them under a different FLSA section. That would allow their pay to be equal across the board. The only thing that will be changed is their job description. Part-time rates will also be raised, thus improving retention rates. They will be doing fire prevention activities and some public education.

We have also been chosen for a community outreach pilot program; we were given 10,000 masks and hand sanitizers for distribution to at-risk populations. Maps were utilized to show where these areas are in the county. Chris will be working with non-profit organizations such as PATHS to distribute these.

There is no new update on Cool Branch and has not heard back from Franklin County. The deadline to hear from them is December 1, 2020.

10.) Unfinished Business - none

11.) New Business -

A.) Board of Supervisors' Communications (Scearce)

At the Board of Supervisors' ("Board") November Business Meeting, the Board decided the following issues/items related to the County's Volunteer Fire and EMS Agencies:

(1) Approved release of \$140,000 CIP apparatus fund to Tunstall Fire and Rescue for purchase of fire apparatus;

(2) Approved release of \$14,000 CIP training fund to allow the Public Safety Department to purchase technical rescue training equipment such as rope and rigging equipment and trailer;

(3) Approved \$295,000 payment for the Harris Radio System maintenance agreement; and

(4) Continued with the use of CARES funding for the DLSC/County Regional Radio Project.

(B) FY22 CIP Budget Request Discussion (Slomp) (see packet)

Chris reviewed the FY 22 CIP Fire and Rescue request budget which is included in the meeting packet.

We will try to set standards by spring 2021 with extensive discussion of standardization.

Mike Neal stated going forward we need funding for Rescue trucks ongoing repairs and maintenance. He stated 80% are rescue. Forms have been sent out to chiefs for apparatus and they will be reviewed at Christmas dinner on Dec 2, 2020.

C) Agency Funding Review Ad Hoc Committee Creation

Chris stated that the funding must be looked at for the departments.

Bert Sellers, Bobby Lovelace, and Chuck Angier were asked by Brian to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee. There was a question about the term for the board members, and that there may be some rotating off in the Spring. We will get back with proposal suggestions by the meeting in January 2021.

12. Matters from Commissioners:

Ron Scearce – Happy Thanksgiving and enjoy family time.

Mike Neal – nothing

Ben Meeks – Reminded that he requested an inventory for all commission members. Also, be mindful of cluttering of on scene vehicles. Happy Thanksgiving to all.

Chuck Angier -Happy Thanksgiving

Bobby Lovelace – Happy Thanksgiving

Keith Scruggs - Remind those who drive personal vehicles to scenes and reminded of the risks involved. Stated he saw 2 personal vehicles probably exceeding 80 mph.

Bryan Foxx- Reiterated on being careful on personal vehicles. Also, thanked the departments for good work performed. Happy Thanksgiving be safe to all.

13. Closed Session – Motion to enter closed session regarding Keeling VFD Board of Directors' mass resignation at 7:19 pm by Keith Scruggs, seconded by Bret Sellers. Motion passed unanimously. Return from closed session and certified at 8:20 pm.

14. Motion to Adjourn by Ben Meeks, Seconded by Keith Scruggs. Motion passed unanimously. Adjournment at 8:20pm.