

**Fire and Rescue Commission**  
**Minutes of October 27, 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

<b>Member</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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: Michael Lee

Association Representative: Dean Fowler

3.) Additions or Revisions to the agenda

4.) Approval of the agenda: Minutes from last meeting, motion to approve by Chuck Angier seconded by Ron Scearce.

5.) Approval of previous meeting minutes:

Motion to approve minutes by Ron Scearce, seconded by Tim Duffer.

## 6.) Presentations:

Bryan Fox stressed the importance of maintaining ‘radio calmness’ and speaking clearly to the dispatcher. He also reiterated that 10 codes should not be used anymore (which are not used after 9/11), because there are people out there who do not know what they mean. Please try to use plain language and plain simple text.

He also mentioned responding and transport. He said that when responding to an accident in a marked vehicle: He said that from the EVOG book, “due regard”- the person who will determine “due regard” is the judge, we cannot run breakneck speed just because the red light and siren is on. Factors to be considered are road conditions, traffic conditions, and weather conditions, etc. Also stressed that when going on an emergency call to the hospital or to an emergency call (etc.) the siren and lights must be on simultaneously. Virginia law states this, and the driver could be criminally charged for not doing so and if an accident was to occur.

As far as transport, Brian stated that when taking person to hospital that we should be careful, because, as aforementioned, liability is on the driver.

Concerning personal vehicles, Virginia state law states they can have 2 red or red and white flashing units, any more is unlawful. It also gives you zero right in your personal vehicle to violate any posted Virginia driving law, rule, or regulation. Providers have no authority over anybody. He stated the public does not know that. When they see the red lights flashing, they are unsure exactly what you are. If they try to maneuver to get out of your way, and they wreck, you (the provider) are liable. There have been previous instances in Pittsylvania County who have been charged in these instances.

Concerning agencies who do EMS, call reports must be in within 12 hours of the end of the call run, and the state of Virginia monitors this, Violations could affect grants and funding for non-compliance. Providers should also remember if the patient wants to go to the hospital take them on to the hospital. Do not try to “talk them out of it.” If the patient states they want to go to a particular hospital, and that hospital is on diversion. Tell the patient that it is on diversion, and which hospital they will be taken to, if the patient says, well, I will not go with you then.” At that point you have given them their realistic options, so get the patient to sign, and you go on your way.

Please make sure that as an EMS agency, your provider knows the protocols. That they know what drug they can give, and when and why to give the drug. Again, the provider can be on the hook, and lose their license. If the provider is newly certified or has changed their certification level, make sure they have been checked off on the protocols and understand what they are doing in the field because if they have not there are eternal consequences for the provider and the station.

He also stated that chiefs are doing a great job and for them to encourage their providers. He said to keep incident command on the scene in check.

7.) Fire and Rescue Association reports: (Dean Fowler) 10 min

Chief Fowler stated the Chiefs qualifications for captains have been adopted, and the SOG has been put in place, and distributed. Accountability system has been adopted with name tags and the passport system. Mike has started collecting information for name tags There was questions about the Accountability Board or Command Board apparatus, with the cost for this possibly going back to Departments to purchase. Rapid intervention team was discussed within the committee and suggested that he and Mike Lee going back and looking over it again. There will be a chance for all to look over and ask any suggestions they come up with. A suggestion was made that once put in place chiefs and captains undergo so that they might be able to take back to their agencies.

8.) Other Fire or EMS Agency Reports - none

9.) County Staff Reports –

A. Public Safety Deputy Director’s Report (M. Lee)

Mike Lee spoke (in Chris Slemp’s absence, who is in class all week)

Inventory list of all equipment has been completed. Test kit with N95s are available.

Mike said fit testing will start again. Scott masks (small and large) are in, as well as MSA masks.

Training officer has been hired, He is part-time; Since coming aboard he has accomplished and will provide: 2 (maybe 3) Firefighter 1 classes, (one of these being hybrid-virtual). The hybrid class will likely start this November. Hands on Fire Fighter I class for first part of next year for the southern and northern parts of the county, Inaugural Fire Academy class is taking their last class tonight. (there will be 20+ certified Fire fighters upon completion.)

Target Solutions online training has been a great help for providers.

For 2021, ten fire programs classes have been requested from the state. Scott has been working on this.

10.) Unfinished Business

A. Commission Bylaw’s Revisions Adoption (B. Foxx)

The by-laws that were established in July by the committee meeting have been tweaked. In September meeting proposed changes were submitted, along with other items for changes. The final copy of by-laws was voted on at tonight’s commission meeting, with all approving.

Bryan thanked the committee and their willingness to get the bylaws established.

B. Strategic Plan Update Mike Lee said ESO will be hopefully up and running in Jan 2021.

Mike asked for suggestions and said Dean Fowler wants more input on the Strategic Plan. Dean Fowler need a needs assessment across the county for apparatus, what is needed as far as trucks, etc. for the agencies.

Further discussion of items under the Strategic Plan was held.

11.) New Business - none

A.) Board of Supervisors' Communications (Searce)

Ron Searce stated at the Board of Supervisors last meeting a resolution was passed. The Franklin County/Cool Branch deal is still in discussion. Still have not heard anything from Franklin Co. He stated it was unfair, 60% of Cool Branch' calls go to Franklin Co. There are 3 options offered to Franklin County. Franklin County have until December 1st, 2020 to decide.

12. Other matters from Commission members:

Ron Searce - none

Mike Lee - none

Ben Meeks - asked for a list of the inventory list for all Commission members.

Tim Duffer- asked are we going to follow guidelines countywide for fit testing. Question about facial hair. He spoke about negligence and possibility of suits by citizens and that chiefs need to have that discussion.

Chuck Angier- none

Bobby Lovelace- said he was glad to be here, also stated to bear with him as he becomes acclimated to being on the commission.

Keith Scruggs- none

Bryan Foxx- stated next meeting will be the Thanksgiving week. Vaden Hunt Esquire said it can be moved if the public is aware in a timely manner. It was decided to keep meeting the same date as scheduled for November and December. Thanked all for being here.

13. Adjournment- motion to adjourn by Ben Meeks, seconded by Ron Searce. Motion to adjourn unanimous.

Adjournment time: 7:25 pm.