

July 26, 2022
Regular Meeting

**Pittsylvania County Fire and Rescue Commission
Regular Meeting
July 26, 2022**

VIRGINIA: The Regular Meeting of the Pittsylvania County Fire and Rescue Commission was held on July 26, 2022, in the Board Meeting Room, 39 Bank Street, SE, Chatham, Virginia. Chairman – Callands/Gretna Rep – Ben Meeks, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. The following members were present:

Attendee Name	Title	Status
James Hollie	Dan River - Rep	Present
Ben Meeks	Callands/Gretna – Rep	Present
Alan Casper	Banister – Rep	Present
Ward Rowland	Tunstall – Rep	Present
Tim Cassell	Westover – Rep	Present
Bryan Shields	Chatham/Blairs – Rep	Absent
Coleman Mayhew	Stauton River	Present
Kermit King	Northwest Quad - Rep	Present
Steve Stallings	Southwest Quad -Rep	Absent
John Brown	Northeast Quad - Rep	Present
Bert Sellers	Southeast Quad - Rep	Present
Vic Ingram	Board of Supervisors Rep	Present
Dean Fowler	F&R Association	Present

AGENDA ITEMS TO BE ADDED

- Updated agenda with one item to add under 13 new business
- F. Hospital wait times and diversions.

Motion:

“I make a motion to amend agenda for one item added.”

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Alan Casper – Banister - Rep
SECONDER:	Bert Sellers – Southeast Quad - Rep
AYES:	Hollie, Meeks, Casper, Rowland, Cassell, Mayhew, King, Brown, Sellers
ABSENT:	Shields, Stallings

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Motion to Approve Agenda

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Kermit King – Northwest Quad - Rep
SECONDER:	Tim Cassell – Westover Rep
AYES:	Hollie, Meeks, Casper, Rowland, Cassell, Mayhew, King, Brown, Sellers
ABSENT:	Shields, Stallings

MINUTES APPROVAL

1. June FRC Meeting Minutes Approval (Staff Contact: Christopher Key)

Motion:

“I make a motion to approve the attached June FRC minutes as presented.”

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	John Brown – Northeast Quad - Rep
SECONDER:	Alan Casper – Banister – Rep
AYES:	Hollie, Meeks, Casper, Rowland, Cassell, Mayhew, King, Brown, Sellers
ABSENT:	Shields, Stallings

PRESENTATIONS

None

HEARING OF THE CITIZENS

None

FIRE AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION REPORT

Chief Fowler, yield time to items under new business.

COUNTY STAFF REPORTS

County’s Public Safety Director’s Report (Christopher Key)

Summary:

1. **Risk Reduction:** On Wednesday June 22, A rep from VFIS Insurance was here to conduct a risk control survey and we visited five of the stations: Gretna, Mount Hermon, Riceville/Java, Brosville, and Ringgold. Four suggestions were sent back. Those are attached in the agenda.
 1. Smoke and Heat Alarms in Stations

FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION
JULY 26, 2022

2. Emergency Exit Lighting
 3. Hose Securement
 4. Above Ground Fuel Storage Tank Containment Cell & Collision Protection
- A reply was sent back that we were looking into working on these.

D. Fowler spoke and requested the Fire Marshal to inspect the stations prior to the insurance company coming to inspect.

Motion:

“I make a motion for the Fire Marshal to inspect the Fire and Rescue Stations on a regular basis.”

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Kermit King – Northwest Quad – Rep
SECONDER:	Coleman Mayhew – Staunton River
AYES:	Hollie, Meeks, Casper, Rowland, Cassell, Mayhew, King, Brown, Sellers
ABSENT:	Shields, Stallings

2. **ARPA funding:** All Submitted proposals have been approved by Board. Must have invoices turned in for reimbursement.
3. **Mutual aid agreements:** Made headway with them in the past week. They were submitted to Halifax Co and Franklin co, contact has been made and attorneys have it at this time, nothing has been returned. Danville’s has been completed. Henry County has a fire side, his attorney has it and they are working through both sides with the attorneys. Paperwork was submitted yesterday to Campbell County and Bedford County. Still working on Rockingham and Caswell Counties.
4. **Solar Farm Training:** training has been scheduled for Tuesday August 2, 2022, at 7pm at Brosville FD. Also working with Climax FD for a training with the project in their community.
5. **Deputy Director:** applications are being accepted until the end of July through the county website.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Ben Meeks spoke about the Fire and Rescue Memorial, no updates. They did submit a picture to get an estimate.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Board of Supervisors Communications, Vic Ingram spoke, expressed gratitude. Kim Van Der Hyde was able to do a presentation on funding at the association meeting. The Board passed the change in billing rates. Also, the solar farm issues with training are being addressed. The Board is going through a revamp of all the county ordinances.

b. Return to Active Volunteer policy

Chief Fowler spoke, they have met at the association level and discussed the policy. They have formed a committee to look at this with the VFIS recommendations of job descriptions and compare those and bring back ideas to the Commission.

c. Drug Box Regulations

Director Key spoke, they are in the finishing process of getting paperwork finalized and going around to check with each station to make sure drugs are secured like they are supposed to be. Then we will submit it. Gretna is going out on their own. They will try to submit all paperwork at the same time.

d. National Registry Testing

Director Key advised this was brought up at the last Board meeting.

Vic Ingram spoke, advised the Board did not have a lot of time to talk about this, and from the people he has spoken with they are not in favor of going away from the National test. There are a lot of benefits.

Debbie Akers with the Virginia Office of EMS, Division Director of Accreditation, Certification and Education spoke about the National Registry testing process. In 2005 they realized that the profession needed to move forward. In 2005 they changed the shock trauma and cardiac tech to Enhanced and Intermediate. In 2012, changes came about again, at that point VA could no longer support writing an exam and could not re write the exam to specifications. The cost was greater than 4.5 million dollars. Currently State pays for the first attempt for each student who takes the National EMT exam. 3.2 million dollars is set aside to award scholarships for students enrolled in classes. Virginia far exceeds pass rates nationwide. Educators in Pittsylvania County are doing a great job. 17 currently in the county and only 3 are actively teaching. To go away from the National Registry exam would set Virginia back 25-30 years. First you would have to get the code of VA changed. Secondly, it is in the budget bill, and thirdly the EMS regulations would have to go through executive changes by the governor's office. The National Registry test is not the problem, the problem is the motivation of the individual taking the exam. There are currently no other counties looking at changing the process. They have given this presentation to others also. The pass/fail rate for the state is 83% and the nation is 79% on the EMT level. 92% of all calls can be handled with EMT/Advanced level.

B. Meeks spoke about getting educators active. As a county we need to look at partnering with DCC and getting in the high schools. There is a 4th educator active at VO-TECH.

The Commonwealth is exceeding other states.

The exam is a computer adapted exam; they can pass in as few as 21 questions. It follows the National Education Standards.

County buys the books upfront for the classes and there is money available in the training budget.

**FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION
JULY 26, 2022**

e. Fire and Rescue Service Agreement

Each year the county has the volunteer fire and rescue agencies sign an annual service agreement that spells out expectations of both parties. The Fire and Rescue Association has reviewed the agreement and has requested changes to the service agreement. On page 3 under 6 b and c and page 7.

Chief Fowler explained the 6-b. the taking out of “appropriate apparatus”. Needing to make sure agencies getting credit for a trained provider going to starting care prior to truck responding.

B. Meeks reviewed the 6-c. taking out “with the appropriate ambulance or fire truck (depending on the type call)”. Also, the change was discussed in 7. The proposed 25-dollar reimbursement.

Motion:

“I make a motion to send this to the Board of Supervisors with the changes that have been made.”

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Alan Casper – Banister Rep
SECONDER:	James Hollie - Dan River - Rep
AYES:	Hollie, Meeks, Casper, Rowland, Cassell, Mayhew, King, Brown, Sellers
ABSENT:	Shields, Stallings

f. Hospital wait times

B. Meeks spoke about wait times for EMS agencies on the south end over 4 hours at Danville ER. And what we are facing with wait times is hurting volunteers.

Director Key spoke about the wait times and there are no rooms available, and no hospitals are accepting. They were shutting down 2A wing this week. They are having a shortage of nurses. If you go on the hospital property you have to stay.

Vic Ingram spoke about the Board speaking directly to the hospital and will be glad to put it on the Board’s agenda and address it.

MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS

D. Fowler – No matters

W. Rowland – No matters

T. Cassell – Danville just went back on a few minutes ago. Forwarded an article to Director Key on the federal law on being asked to wait in the ambulances.

V. Ingram – Collectively the Board will do what it takes do to fund the agencies.

FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION
JULY 26, 2022

C. Key –Deputy Director position is open until through the end of this week.

J. Brown – No Matters

A. Casper – Remember T. Page Firefighter/EMT in critical condition and keep him in your prayers.

B. Sellers – No matters

J. Hollie – Thanked everyone.

C. Mayhew – Thanks everyone for what they are doing.

K. King – Thanked everyone and prayers for Gretna and Hurt and the firefighter.

B. Meeks – Thanked everyone. Thomas is in a coma state and in bad shape volunteers at Gretna and Hurt. They are trying to organize a fundraiser for him. Also, Jessie Yeatts, a longtime member of Gretna, had a heart procedure done. Keep both members in your thoughts and prayers. Encouraged everyone to attend all county meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Ben Meeks at 7:56 PM, second by Bert Sellers.