

August 23, 2022
Regular Meeting

Pittsylvania County Fire and Rescue Commission
Regular Meeting
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VIRGINIA: The Regular Meeting of the Pittsylvania County Fire and Rescue Commission was held on August 23, 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	Absent
Ward Rowland	Tunstall – Rep	Present
Tim Cassell	Westover – Rep	Present
Bryan Shields	Chatham/Blairs – Rep	Present
Coleman Mayhew	Stauton River	Present
Kermit King	Northwest Quad - Rep	Present
Steve Stallings	Southwest Quad -Rep	Present
John Brown	Northeast Quad - Rep	Present
Bert Sellers	Southeast Quad - Rep	Present
Vic Ingram	Board of Supervisors Rep	Present
Mike Neal	F&R Association	Present

AGENDA ITEMS TO BE ADDED

Updated agenda with taking 14 A and moving it to 13 E.

Motion:

“I make a motion to amend agenda for moving closed session (14 A) to 13 E.”

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Motion to Approve Agenda

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

MINUTES APPROVAL

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

Motion:

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

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

PRESENTATIONS

None

HEARING OF THE CITIZENS

None

FIRE AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION REPORT

Chief Neal, Association has three things to bring tonight. The association has a committee working on the Return to Active Duty Policy. They will have a draft at the September Association meeting, it will be presented for review, given time to discuss it, and will return for the October Association meeting to vote on. Next, in reference to the service agreement that was approved by the Board of Supervisors, the association respectfully requests the agreement to include the amount attached to the contract that we are being funded and that each agency should expect by meeting this agreement. As of now the contracts have not been signed for this year. The final thing is in reference to the diversions and holding of ambulances at the hospitals, can we ask the county attorney to research the law and look for ending this problem. An example

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was given from 8:15pm last night, of a call with patient having a breathing problem, transported to Gretna waited an hour and 49 minutes, patient was declining, Medic 1 met them after leaving Gretna and assisted with transported to Lynchburg, VA. Total time of call was around five and half hours.

COUNTY STAFF REPORTS

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

Summary:

1. **ARPA funding:** Only have 4 departments still working on projects.
2. **Mutual aid agreements:** City of Danville is completed. Halifax Co. Jason Johnson advised, county attorney has it for review. Met with Franklin Co. and Bedford Co. still in discussions. Henry Co. Board of Supervisors had a meeting at 3p today for approval. Paperwork has been submitted to Franklin Co., they have it for discussion and approval. Spoke to Rodney Keatts with Rockingham, NC he didn't think we could do one with them as a county because all of their fire depts are independent contractors. Spoke with Barry Lynch with Caswell, Co. and they request us wait till after the Blue Ridge Rock Festival.
3. **Solar Farm Training:** training was held on Tuesday August 2 at Brosville F & R and Tuesday August 9 at Climax FD. Waiting on a date from Gretna F & R for next class. Strada – solar farm company is very interested in hosting this at Gretna.
4. **Deputy Director:** Interviews were held August 17 & 18. Will be named by end of month
5. **Schedule 6 CSR drug storage –** Paperwork is with Dr. Long for review. They are getting with every agency to make sure everything is in place and ready.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Ben Meeks spoke about the Fire and Rescue Memorial; they met before the Board meeting last Tuesday. They are trying to find exactly what they want and what it will consist of.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Board of Supervisors Communications, Vic Ingram spoke about funding. Looking at the ARPA funding, 1 million to F & R agencies, \$43,000 for each department. Vaccine incentives \$81,500, Hazardous duty bonuses \$62,286.35 and CARES 1.4 million. Every department got increases. The \$15 to \$25 billing rate change and looking at the leftover money to cover this instead of the contingency money. There is leftover money to cover this. It does have to be a public hearing on this and encouraged everyone to contact their supervisor for their support on this. The Board is pursuing trying to contact the hospitals on diversion.
- b. Return to Active Volunteer policy update, Mike covered in Association report. Hopes to have it completed and back to vote on next month.

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- c. Fire and Rescue Service Agreement, Chief Neal spoke on it earlier. The Association has asked that the funding/matrix be attached to the agreement. A draft was not submitted by the association for the commissions review. It was discussed to add the matrix as an attachment to the agreement. The Association voted for the name of the agency and amount funded be on the agreement prior to signing.

Motion:

“I make a motion to table the service agreement updates.”

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

- d. Future projects and outlook for Fire and EMS in the county
Ben Meeks spoke on this, about having a work session with the commission and the county staff about future projects, capital improvement, and budget in the next 5-15 years.
- e. The association has made a motion to have representation along with the commission on the next budget process.
Chief Neal spoke about having one or two representatives from the association and commission and sitting down and going over what is needed.
Director Key spoke and referenced the Code Chapter 11-2. For both groups to come up with priorities.

MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- C. Key – No matters
- J. Brown – No matters
- B. Sellers – No matters
- J. Hollie – No matters
- M. Neal – No matters
- W. Rowland – No matters

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T. Cassell – No matters

V. Ingram – Interim County Administrator has resigned, has been a blessing to the county.

S. Stallings – No matters

B. Shields – No matters

C. Mayhew – No matters

K. King – Thanked everyone, money that was leftover goes back into general funding. Diversions are a big problem, seems to be getting worse.

B. Meeks – Will invite DLSC back next month to talk about the Community Paramedicine program. Thanked everyone for their time. Thanked Clarence Monday and the Board of Supervisors. Update to Thomas Page, firefighter with Gretna and Hurt, today he said a few words. Gretna F & R hosting a BBQ fundraiser this Saturday for him and his family.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Ben Meeks at 7:49 PM, second by James Hollie.