

November 16, 2023  
Regular Meeting

**Pittsylvania County Fire and Rescue Commission  
Regular Meeting  
November 16, 2023**

**VIRGINIA:** The Regular Meeting of the Pittsylvania County Fire and Rescue Commission was held on November 16, 2023, 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	Present
Vacant	Stauton River	Vacant
Kermit King	Northwest Quad - Rep	Present
Steve Stallings	Southwest Quad -Rep	Present
Coleman Mayhew	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**

None

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Motion to Approve Agenda

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Alan Casper – Banister – Rep.
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Bryan Shields – Chatham/Blairs – Rep.
<b>AYES:</b>	Hollie, Meeks, Casper, Rowland, Cassell, Shields, King, Stallings, Mayhew, Sellers
<b>ABSENT:</b>	None

**MINUTES APPROVAL**

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

**FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION  
NOVEMBER 16, 2023**

**Motion:**

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

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Bryan Shields – Chatham/Blairs – Rep.
<b>SECONDER:</b>	James Hollie – Dan River – Rep.
<b>AYES:</b>	Hollie, Meeks, Casper, Rowland, Cassell, Shields, King, Stallings, Mayhew, Sellers
<b>ABSENT:</b>	None

**PRESENTATIONS**

Steven Barts, Deputy Chief of Administration Blairs Fire and Rescue presented. Heart felt condolences to those who were affected by the catastrophic events of Sunday morning. This fire resulted in no loss to human life. Like to express gratitude to all responders, everyone. He spoke about the initial response and went over the first 10 minutes of the call. Seconds count. The timeline was discussed. Enroute – 911 calls, CECOM taking calls of people along with multiple calls reporting the fire. Dispatchers advised responders of persons trapped and their locations. Arrival of E342 and L34 found a 3 story 200 x 65 apartment complex with “A” side well involved. Multiple civilians were trapped on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and occupants were actively jumping. Est. 30,000 ft of occupied space. At the 2:35 minute mark of being on scene, firefighters transported a 35-foot ground ladder nearly 100 years, threw it to the “B” side and effected the rescue of 2 trapped occupants from Apt 302. Manpower was limited at this point. At the 6:20 minute mark of being on scene firefighters threw an additional 35-foot ladder on the “C” side and effected the rescue of 3 trapped occupants. Fire spread at this point 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> floor on the back side and stairwells were involved. At the 6:45 minute mark of being on scene water was put on the fire. Simultaneous to the rescues, firefighters were stretching handlines and beginning to extinguish the fire. Water supply was an issue. Danville’s E5 was able to lay a line in from a city hydrant to get more water access. There are many lessons to be learned from this. There are at minimum 5 people walking the earth today that wouldn’t be here otherwise.

**HEARING OF THE CITIZENS**

Mr. Robert Tucker, Banister district Board of Supervisor representative, spoke on behalf of the citizens that reside at North Pointe. Sincerely thanked everyone from the bottom of their hearts. Recognize and appreciate firefighters running to danger. There was a miracle that there was no loss to life. Water and parking problems were recognized and want to address them. Would like to express gratitude to the community at large for the support and supplies for those in need.

## **FIRE AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION REPORT**

Chief Neal thanked Mr. Barts for the presentation. Thanked Mr. Tucker. Several big fires have been over the county in the last couple of days. Everyone is working together. Reminded everyone of the wildfires across the state, we have the same conditions here. Since December of last year Ringgold buried 2 firefighters/EMTs, it's heart breaking, also remember Eanes and Johnson families them in your prayers. Strong Brotherhood and love in the county.

## **COUNTY STAFF REPORTS**

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

### **Summary:**

1. **SCBA** – Fit testing machine has been calibrated and returned.
2. **SCBA packs** – The purchase order has been completed and Sur- Flo should be contacting each department to have their SCBA yearly flow test done.
3. **Radio PM** – has been completed for the year.
4. **Training** – We will be having a VDFP funded Basic Pumps Ops and Rural Water Supply classes in the spring.

We are under a State of Emergency due to the drought conditions, there is a complete Burn Ban, and 3 stations are being paged on initial dispatch.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Board of Supervisors Communications – Vic Ingram spoke about the response and support of the volunteers. No greater love and Matthew 25:35 was spoken about. Memorial update, they will get going after the first of the year with Sellers, Shields, and Meeks. December meeting, they will have a presentation. A name is needed, Pittsylvania County Fire and Rescue Memorial. There must be bylaws and 501c3 status as well. The cost may be \$25,000 or more. There are a lot of particulars that go into this process.
- b. Budget Committee update – Meeks spoke about meeting with Key, Hutcherson, Fowler, and Stallings. Right now, the CIP budget requests have been submitted and the rest of the budget will be submitted on the first of January. CIP fund requests have been submitted. Looking to get another 100 portable radios, due to end of life. Fire apparatus replacement increase of \$50,000 and ambulance replacement increase of \$50,000 also. Bringing them both to \$100,000.

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- c. Recruitment & Retention update – King advised that there has been some discussion. Hoping to have a meeting and get back with the commission. They are requesting anyone with ideas to bring it to them.
- d. VOLSAP program – Meeks spoke about this program through the State of Virginia to put monies towards as a volunteer and draw a retirement. This option is available. It was brought up at the Association level, 2 agencies wanted to participate.

**MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

C. Key – No matters

W. Rowland – Appreciates volunteers they are exceptional.

S. Stallings – Appreciated the presentation. Looking forward to good things.

B. Shields – Thanked Mr. Barts and Blairs FD. All agencies came together. To the men and women across this county, your work does not go unnoticed. Thanked everyone, Mr. Tucker, elected and newly elected officials.

T. Cassell – Thanked everyone for what they do. Everyone came together.

C. Mayhew – Thanked volunteers. Sympathy to everyone who has lost family members.

M. Neal – No matters

A. Casper – Congratulations to the newly reelected Board of Supervisors

B. Sellers – Thanked Mr. Barts. Thanked the Board members.

J. Hollie – Thanked Steven. Great job by all the firefighters at North Pointe.

K. King – Thanked volunteer. Great job Mr. Barts. Great job Blairs if it starts good it ends good. Thanked everyone for what they did at North Pointe.

B. Meeks – Thanked commissioners. Thanked volunteers and Steven. Appreciated all volunteers who responded. At least 5 people are walking tonight because of our volunteers. A good foundation was set. Thanked Mr. Tucker. Congratulations to all who won elections. Sympathy to everyone who has lost loved ones. Thank you to all mutual aid departments. Dry conditions do not burn.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn by B. Meeks 7:33p.