

PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY
FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

January 26, 2021; Board Meeting Room; 39 Bank Street, Chatham, Virginia 24531

1.) CALL TO ORDER

Slemp called the Meeting to Order at 6:30 pm.

2.) ROLL CALL

Tucker conducted the following Roll Call:

| FRC Member | Present | Absent |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Chuck Angier | X | |
| Tim Duffer | X | |
| Bryan Fox | X | |
| Brian Garrett | | X |
| Bobby Lovelace | X | |
| Ben Meeks | X | |
| Ron Scarce | X | |
| Keith Scruggs | X | |
| Bert Sellers | X | |
| Kermit King | X | |

Association Representative Present: Dean Fowler.

3.) ANY ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

4.) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

On Motion by Sellers, second by Duffer, the Agenda approved unanimously by FRC members present.

5.) APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

On Motion by Sellers, second by Meeks, previous FRC Meeting Minutes approved by FRC Members present.

6.) PRESENTATIONS

None.

7.) HEARING OF THE CITIZENS

Robert (“Bob”) W. Warren, Chairman, Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors, thanked all the FRC Members for all they do. He also stated that he was appearing on the behalf of the Blairs Volunteer Fire and Rescue to support its request for usage of the County’s municipal bonds for the purchase of a ladder truck. Warren also stated that Blairs does a really good job of doing research on purchasing equipment.

Mike Neal, Chief of Ringgold Fire and Rescue, thanked King for agreeing to serve on the FRC. He also spoke in support of the County allowing Blairs use the municipal bonds to purchase a ladder truck.

8.) FIRE AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION REPORT

Fowler presented the following apparatus standards for vehicles when using CIP funding developed by the Fire and Rescue Association:

Fire Engine/Pumper

Minimum of 1250-gpm pump

Minimum 1000-water tank

Minimum of a 3-person cab

Meets current NFPA standards for storage and hose capacity.

4000-watt light tower

Fire Tanker/Tender

Minimum of 1000-gpm pump

Minimum of 2000-gallon tank

Quick water discharge

Meets current NFPA standard for water

Brush Truck

Minimum 1-ton chassis

Minimum 250-gpm pump

Minimum 250-gallon tank

On Motion by Scruggs, second by Meeks, the above Standards were unanimously approved by FRC Members present to be recommended to the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors for potential adoption.

9.) COUNTY STAFF REPORTS

Slemp presented the following Public Safety Director's Report Staff Report:

- The Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors reached an Agreement with 640 Rescue Squad on the remaining assets and real estate.
- There is no update on the Cool Branch/Franklin situation.
- The FY22 County Public Safety Budget request includes: another Field Staff Supervisor, a 2.5 % increase in volunteer funding, a \$5000 increase in the volunteer recruitment and retention line; increases pertaining to additional funding for agencies due to increase in call volume.
- He encouraged all volunteers to get the COVID vaccination and he also is researching the Hepatitis vaccine with the Health Department and identifying a related source.

10.) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

11.) **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **New FRC Member Welcome/Introduction**

Fox welcomed Kermit King, new FRC Member for the Northwest Quadrant. No formal action on this Agenda item.

B. **Election of Officers**

i. **Chairman Election**

On Motion by Angier, second by Searce, Fox unanimously nominated and elected FRC Chairman by FRC Members present.

ii. **Vice-Chairman Election**

On Motion by Lovelace, second by Angier, Scruggs unanimously nominated and elected FRC Vice-Chairman.

C. **Funding Ad Hoc Committee Report**

Slemp stated that the Funding Committee has met several times and will have a related recommendation at the next FRC Meeting. No formal action on this Agenda item.

D. **Board of Supervisors Communications**

Searce detailed the following Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors issues and items related to the County's Volunteer Fire and EMS Agencies covered at their last Business Meeting:

1. The Board requested the FRC to adopt a formal CIP and apparatus funding rotation.
2. The Board approved and sent the final radio agreement to Danville Life Saving Crew for the regional radio system upgrade and the use of CARES funding for this Project.
3. The Board reappointed Duffer as the firefighter representative for the Southeast Quadrant, reappointed Chuck Angier as the citizen representative for the Northwest Quadrant, and appointed Kermit King as the firefighter representative for the Northwest Quadrant.
4. The Board gave approval to County Staff to continue with the Hurt EMS Station Project.

No formal action on this Agenda item.

E. **CIP Apparatus Rotation and Apparatus Placement Discussion**

Slemp stated that it is becoming necessary to review the amount and type of apparatus in the County, as well their placement. Fox appointed an Ad-Hoc Committee of King Duffer, and Meeks to review this issue.

F. **Aerial Truck Discussion**

Fowler requested that FRC recommend to the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors that Blairs be allowed to access the County's Municipal Bonds for purchase of a \$430,000n aerial ladder truck. He covered extensively all the features of said truck. Fowler also, with the County backing

the purchase, it would save Blairs \$17,323 on the purchase. Sellers questioned Fowler as to why he had not asked the County to help with the purchase of the truck. Smitherman explained how the tax-exempt bonds are issued from the County. He also stated that the County would like to be involved in securing this valuable resource for the benefit of all the County citizens. Smitherman also said that since the Apparatus Committee should take a hard look at the placement and purchases of equipment in the County. He also challenged the FRC in the future to make careful and thoughtful decisions when purchasing equipment. Meeks stated that Blairs has done its due diligence on the purchase of the truck and he fully supports the purchase. He also noted the importance of placement and training in the departments and keeping everybody safe.

On Motion by Meeks, second by Scarce, the FRC, with Duffer abstaining, approved recommending to the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors that Blairs be allowed to utilize County tax-exempt funds to purchase an aerial ladder truck.

12. MATTERS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS

- Meeks: mentioned Med Bags costs are now being absorbed by the volunteer agency and he has looked at some ways to absorb some of the cost. He said the ESO platform can be used for billing. Meeks also mentioned that perhaps EMS rates need to be reviewed/adjusted as well as fee schedule, due to rising costs of supplies, costs, volume of EMS calls. Finally, he addressed the amount of time it takes to replace drug boxes.
- Duffer: Recommends looking at the fee schedule first over any itemizations. He encourages volunteers and first responders to get the COVID-19 vaccine, but due their own research on it.
- King: Stated this is a learning experience and he is delighted to be on the FRC.
- Fox: Announced on January 12, 2021, the Danville Life Saving Crew lost a friend, mentor, and one of the best educators around and he appreciates all the related Community support.

13. CLOSED SESSION

- A. Consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.**

Legal Authority: Virginia Code 2.2-3711(A)(8)
Subject Matter: Keeling VFD Probation Status
Purpose: Legal Consultation Advice Regarding Same

On Motion by Scarce, second by Angier, all FRC Members present unanimously voted to enter Closed Session on the above at 8:15 pm.

14. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AND CLOSED SESSION CERTIFICATION

The FRC returned to Open Session at 8:45 p.m., and Tucker conducted the following Closed Session Certification:

FRC CLOSED SESSION CERTIFICATION

Be it resolved, that at the Meeting of the Pittsylvania County Fire and Rescue Commission (“Commission”) on January 26, 2021, the Commission hereby certifies by a recorded vote that to the best of each Commission Member’s knowledge only public business matters lawfully exempted from the Open Meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (“Act”) and identified in the Motion authorizing the Closed Meeting were heard, discussed, or considered, in the Closed Meeting. If any Commissioner believes that there was a departure from the requirements of the Act, he shall so state prior the vote indicating the substance of the departure. The statement shall be recorded in the Commission Minutes.

Vote

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Angier | Yes |
| Duffer | Yes |
| Fox | Yes |
| King | Yes |
| Lovelace | Yes |
| Meeks | Yes |
| Scearce | Yes |
| Scruggs | Yes |
| Sellers | Yes |

15.) ADJOURNMENT

Fox adjourned the Meeting at 8:50 pm.