

PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY**FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES****EDUCATIONAL and CULTURAL CENTER MEETING ROOM****39 BANK STREET, CHATHAM, VA 24531****February 23, 2021**

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Bryan Fox
2. ROLL CALL - Gwen Tucker

Commission Member	Present	Absent
Chuck Angier	X	
Tim Duffer	X	
Bryan Fox	X	
Kermit King	X	
Bobby Lovelace	X	
Ben Meeks	X	
Ron Scarce	X	
Keith Scruggs	X	
Bert Sellers	X	

Association representative present: Dean Fowler

3. ANY ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA-under New Business, discussion of training reimbursement policy and the transport fee has been added.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA- motion to approve agenda by Ron Scarce, seconded by Bert Sellers. Motion passed unanimously.
5. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES – motion to approve by Chuck Angier, seconded by Keith Scruggs. Motion passed unanimously.
6. PRESENTATIONS - none
7. HEARING OF THE CITIZENS- Vic Ingram – spoke on his support and asking Commission to support Cascade VFD in their effort to purchase a 2018 International Pumper Tanker, which does meet the County’s specifications at a cost of \$180,000. They are requesting the Commission’s support and requesting \$140,000 for help with acquiring this truck. They are seeking to replace a 57-year-old 1967 brush truck. He stated the Cascade department has only had fire apparatus assistance

from the county on two other occasions. Cascade has 37 active members. They are a transport agency although they were not budgeted as such. He also said that he is thinking proactively and that one day the MegaPark will land a huge industry and the Cascade VFD is closest to this site.

8. Matt Hunt, Assistant Fire Chief for Cascade, stated that he and two mechanics and two other members will spend 2 days looking over the truck that they would like to purchase.

9. FIRE AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION REPORT (Fowler) (5 minutes)

Chief Fowler stated that the Association, at its last meeting, discussed and is in full support of Cascade and their purchase of the truck.

10. COUNTY STAFF REPORT (Slemp)

No update on Cool Branch. The local health department is still helping with the COVID-19 vaccines, as well as SOVAH health. The Saturday of the ice storm 911 saw a 625% increase in calls vs the prior Saturday. Volunteers and county staff did a great job during the inclement weather. The warming centers also proved to be a great benefit.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Funding Committee Report/Recommendations (Slemp) Chris Slemp stated that he, Bert Sellers, Bobby Lovelace, and Chuck Angier have met several times with coming up with an equitable formula for the departments. He explained how they came up with what they did. The Commission further discussed the report. Motion was made to send back report as is, to fire chiefs and the Association for review by Chuck Angier, seconded by Ben Meeks Motion passed unanimously.

12. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Training reimbursement policy revision (Slemp) – discussion of policy and it was voted on that reimbursement for tuition for classes be: EMT Classes=\$900; EMT-Enhanced=\$1,000; Paramedic=\$2,500. ACLS-PLS will stay at \$150, anyone attending the Fire Academy, the cost of the meal would be covered. It was agreed that a contract between the student and the volunteer agency be drafted. Motion for these changes made by Ben Meeks, seconded by Tim Duffer. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Board of Supervisors' Communications (Scarce) At the February Business Meeting, the Board of Supervisors decided, in relation to the County's Volunteer Fire and Rescue Agencies:
1. Approved resolution allowing Blairs Fire and Rescue the County's tax-exempt financing to assist with funding a used ladder truck.
 2. Approved the Fire and Rescue Commission's apparatus standards.
- C. Fee schedule adjustment for 911 calls/transport was discussed and with possible adjustments. An Ad-Hoc Committee will be formed for the fee schedule adjustments. Ben Meeks, Tim Duffer, and Chuck Angier were appointed to serve on the Committee.

13. MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS-

Scarce – no matters

Sellers – no matters

Bobby Lovelace- received an email from a citizen regarding the lack of safety gear while someone was cutting trees, etc. Please be mindful of safety issues. One department's picture was posted on

social media during the recent ice storm. There was no safety gear being used while operating a chain saw.

Chuck Angier – observed a lot of neighbors helping others during recent ice storm. Thanked all.
Ben Meeks – Thanked all volunteers, agencies, and county staff. Stated how working as a team that much can be accomplished.

Tim Duffer- thanked everyone. He also discussed should a FEMA Federal declaration be issued, each department is its own 501c3 entity, and that a representative from FEMA should come and meet with the agency volunteers detailing what they are entitled to. This is only if a Federal Declaration is declared from the ice storms.

Kermit King- thanked all, especially the dispatchers for fielding the many calls during the recent ice storm.

Keith Scruggs- observed average citizens checking on each other in dire circumstances during recent ice storms.

Chairman Fox – thanked all for their help during recent ice event. Also, strongly recommends every department adopt a social media policy.

14. 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

Motion by Ron Scarce, seconded by Keith Scruggs to enter closed session. Motion passed unanimously.

15. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION & CLOSED SESSION CERTIFICATION

The FRC returned to Open Session and Gwen 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

16. ADJOURNMENT-

Bryan Fox adjourned the meeting at 8:20 pm