

Fire and Rescue Commission
Minutes of May 26, 2020
Chatham Community Center
115 South Main St, Chatham, VA 24531

1.) Call to order at 6:30 p.m. by Bryan Fox, Chairman

2.) Roll Call

<u>Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Chuck Angier	X	
Tim Duffer	X	
Bryan Fox	X	
Brian Garrett	X	
Ben Meeks	X	
Ron Scearce	X	
Keith Scruggs		X
Bert Sellers	X	
Billy Talbott		X

Staff members present: Chris Slemph, Michael Lee

Association Representative: Scottie Adams

3.) Additions or Revisions to the agenda. Agenda was amended to add Volunteer Fire and Rescue insurance. Motion by Ben Meeks and second by Ron Scearce to add item. Motion passed.

4.) Approval of the agenda: Motion by Ben Meeks and second by Ron Second to approve agenda. Motion passed to approve agenda.

5.) Approval of previous meeting minutes: Motion made by Brian Garrett and second by Chuck Angier. Motion passed to approve the minutes.

6.) Presentations:

7.) Fire and Rescue Association report: Scottie Adams advised next meeting is May 27, 2020 at 1900hrs. He also asked that the commission leave the volunteer agencies service agreement as is for the 2021 year due to Covid-19.

8.) Other Fire or Rescue Agency report: None reported

9.) County Staff Report:

A.) Follow up on underperforming agencies. Bryan and Chris met with Chatham Rescue Squad. Chris has seen an improvement since the meeting. 640 Rescue is also having discussions about what they can do to improve as well. Both agencies are running calls but 640 is still struggling. Chris has also has seen an improvement with Callands Rescue.

B.) The BOS has approved Cool Branch fire for the tax exempt. The BOS also sent a resolution to Franklin Co for more funding or the County would cut service to Franklin County. Chris said they did respond to Mr. Smitherman and hopefully a meeting will be scheduled in the future. Scottie said the community is even reaching out. He is still requesting that the \$90,000 be released for the ambulance that will be here next month. Scottie Adams advised he has already had to cancel one fundraiser due to the Covid-19. Ben Meeks advised a member reached out to him to express concern about keeping the agencies responding to Franklin Co calls.

C.) Cascade and Mount Cross: The resolution allowing Cascade to move to a transport agency and the resolution allowing Mt. Cross to step down to a first responder agency were passed by the Board. Chris will to sit down with cascade and talk over territory.

D.) EMS Staffing: Career staffing interviews completed last week. There were several impressive applicants. The County is still in the process of making offers to the applicants.

E.) EMS Certifications and Standards: Mr. Davis BOS wants the Fire and Rescue Commission wants to pursue asking the state to amend the standards for EMT. Tim Duffer advised that each student has to have their skills check offs and so many hours to test. It's a national registry test and a nation standard. The state went to National Registry due to cut on cost and to make it a standard across the US. Mr. Duffer recommends that the BOS give more funding for training and have instructors to help teach the program. Volunteers could really use support from Public Safety with training. Surrounding Counties have 4-5 paid

professions in their Public Safety for a training division. Let's focus on the training and the people here to make it easier to get. Bryan Fox talked about hybrid classes. Ben Meeks talked about the county having a FISDAP system to help with students to help with National Registry passing. Tim Duffer advises the best solution is to hire a training officer.

F.) Funding formula for Volunteer agencies. Chris talked about the funding formula and how-to bring Gretna Fire and Rescue up to date. \$82,000 has been budgeted additional money for fire and rescue. Gretna would receive \$25,00 additional in FY21 with the other agencies receiving \$2,550 increase. Bryan asked about Mt. Cross's funding. Chris said he still had to work that out. Brian Garrett reminded Chris of Cascade's funding will need to increase. Ben Meeks said it's still a work in progress after meeting twice to figure out the funding. Ben Meeks would like to see funding be given to agencies that have to step up and cover another agency calls if they start missing calls. Chris Slemph informed the Commission about the capital reserve fund where funds were placed in the event an agency has an emergency need such as a blown engine or something at their station.

Tim Duffer made a motion to accept funding formula with a second from Brian Garrett. The motion passed.

G.) Service Agreement: Some changes have been placed in this agreement. To be eligible for the first 50% payment and agency must answer at least 60 % call coverage, Updated roster with radio numbers turned in, Funding audit submitted to the BOS as well, as per the FY21 budget resolution. Discussion about response times was discussed from majority of the commission members. Discussions about an agency underperforming for a month or two and then improving and being constant with improving. Discussion were talked about Fire and Ems percentages with funding. Chris is going to implement changes that the commission suggested in this agreement and come back with-it next month to vote on.

H.) Fire and Rescue Insurance Coverage REP/Proposal: Chris advises they rebid the insurance. Tim Duffer, Mike Lee, and Dean Fowler were on this committee. County went with VFIS Insurance. This insurance is much cheaper. It offers more coverage and better benefits. Chris went over the information to the committee. Chris is taking the new insurance to the board to be voted on at June meeting.

10.) Unfinished business: None

11.) New Business

A.) Amendments to Commission Bylaws: Chris discussed this with the commission. Information laying over until next meeting.

12.) Other matters from Commission members

Ron Scarce: None

Brian Garrett: Thank you for sharing your input and opinions.

Chuck Angier: None

Tim Duffer: Cares Act, Slemph said they are working on it.

Ben Meeks None

Bryan Fox: Thank you Scottie and Volunteers, and DRT for being here.

Bert Sellers: None

13.) Adjournment at 8:17pm