

Fire and Rescue Commission  
Minutes of July 28, 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 Searce	X	
Keith Scruggs	X	
Bert Sellers	X	
Billy Talbott		X

Staff members present: Chris Slem, Michael Lee

Association Representative: Scottie Adams

3.) Additions or Revisions to the agenda:

4.) Approval of the agenda: Ron made motion to approve agenda, Seconded by Chuck Angier. Motion passed.

5.) Approval of previous meeting minutes: Ron Scarce and Bryan Fox advised of errors in last month's meeting minutes to be fixed. Motion made by Chuck Angier and seconded by Brian Garrett to approve minutes as corrected. Motion Passed.

6.) Presentations:

A) Bryan Fox: reviewed and reminded the Commission of their mission statement, vision, roles and responsibilities.

B.) Bob Warren spoke to members of the commission about their service regarding the Commission and how important it is. Mr. Warren also wants to address unfounded rumors in the fire and rescue. This county and the Board of supervisors wants the volunteers to be successful. The common goal should be to work together provide a better service to the citizens. From FY19 to present there has been a 76% increase for Fire and Rescue. The board appreciates all the members on the commission.

7.) Fire and Rescue Association report: Scottie Adams: Appreciates Bob Warren's Message. Only item was regarding the audit and IRS 990. With 2 agencies' being audited a year the Association requested that all agencies be audited before those two agencies are audited again. Ben Meeks asked that commission members attend the Fire and Rescue Association Meetings. Ron Scarce said the agencies should be exempt for 5 years. Brian Garrett made a motion to change the policy "Once an agency has been audited, they are pulled from the pool until all agencies have been audited. Unless there is an issue." Ben Meeks seconded the motion. Motion passed.

8.) Other Fire and EMS Agency Reports: Brosville Fire Department member from their board of directors commented on the audit and explaining why they are against it. Mr. Warren spoke to the audience. This has been county policy for a long time and other community services have to be audited yearly. We have to be fair across the board. We have to be accountable for the tax dollars and accountable for the citizens. Mr. Sellers advised the audience that this rule came from the Board of Supervisors. This was not a recommendation from this Commission. Keith Scruggs advises that the BOS is responsible for the whole county. The audit can be a good thing. Ben Meeks ask that it be done fair and equally to all agencies. He asks that Danville Life Saving Crew, and North Halifax also be turning in IRS990. I also challenge that the two agencies and any other agencies that receive money from the county be audited. Tim Duffer advises that it seems like it was miscommunication because the county is only wanting a certified letter from a CPA advising the audit was successful. Mr. Warren states that the audit should include a certified letter and supporting documents. Vaden Hunt explained what the CPA audit would look like and explain it. It will not be done by a county employee. As long as a certified CPA does the audit the county will allow an agency to use their own CPA. Mike Neal looked over a template of an audit with Bob Warren and states it is a simple form. Mike Neal also wants the BOS to consider that some agencies may not be audited for 18-20 years from now since it's so many

agencies. Mike Neal complimented Chuck Angier for coming to the Fire and Rescue association meeting. We all got to work together. Brian Draper talked about his concerns with the audit. He does not want the BOS looking at their savings and say well we are going to cut their funding. Brian Garrett says that's a concern for all agencies. Bob Warren advises he has had this conversation multiple times with severely chiefs. Bob advises he's only one member of the BOS but will not use that tool. He pledges that he will advocate for you. He does not want to penalize agencies for doing a good job. Vic Ingram also advises that no agency should be penalized for doing good work. Ron Scarce agreed with what Bob Warren stated with the audit.

9.) County Staff Reports: Chris Slemp Communication with Fire and Rescue, Commission. We will be doing the Public Safety Newsletter weekly. If you have any information you would like to put in the newsletter please notify Chris, Kasey, or Gwen. Lifpak's were ordered and have come in. We hope to have them delivered next week. We also purchased medications bags for the volunteers. Public Safety will be able to order medications for the departments and can take money for the replacement medications from the agency funding when it comes time to replenish the medications. Public Safety has been approved to purchase washers and dryers for the transporting agencies. We also have approval for ambulances for the 2 agencies that were chosen for ambulances. Chris will work with Tunstall and Mt. Hermon on that. Agenda will be put in the newsletter the Friday before the Commission meeting. 640 has disbanded and are tentatively dividing assets up between Chatham, Gretna, and Blairs. The County received a letter from Franklin County concerning Cool Branch and they are going to move resources closer to cover that area if needed. They will not provide additional funds. This will go back to the BOS for discussion. Gretna Fire and Rescue received an award from WVEMS for Outstanding EMS Agency. Mike Neal was also nominated for Lifetime achievement award. Last few days we have had some serious incidents and we appreciate the volunteers for an outstanding job on all of those incidents.

10.) Unfinished Business: None

11.) New Business:

A) Awards and accommodations: Mike Lee:

I. Valor Award: Mike talked about Medal of Valor award and explained the events of July 12, 2020. Motion made by Keith Scruggs, and seconded by Chuck Angier to bestow the Valor award on Firefighter Leach, Trooper Gregory and Deputy Francis. Motion Passed. These awards will be presented in front of the Board of Supervisors. Bob Warren suggested that the chairman and or deputy chairman also attend this meeting at the BOS for the award.

II. CPR Saves: Mike also talked about there was 2 incidents on CPR saves.

B.) Chairman Fox appointed an ADHOC Committee for Bylaws Review/Revision: Keith Scruggs, Ron Scarce, Tim Duffer will serve on this committee to revise the bylaws.

C.) BOS Communications: Ron Scarce Met on July 21, 2020: 1. Approval of Brosville Emergency Funding request. 2. Denial of Cool Branch Fire Department request. 3. Change to the Emergency Fund Policy to specify that funds are to be used for response related activities only. 4. Direction that the Commission complete a comprehensive capital asset inventory and replacement schedule. 5. Approved Service Agreement recommendations, but added provisions related to records. 6. Approved use of a MOA for all capital purchases using county funds. 7. Directed County staff to send a letter to all volunteer's agencies regarding financial report and auditing requirements.

D.) FY21 Commission Priorities Discussion: We need to greatly put our goals and vision on this. We have had several studies down in the county. 1. Start a strategic planning. Come up with chief and captain standards across the board. Standards we need to have standards on all the equipment and apparatus. SOG's need to be looked at and focused on.

A.) Bryan Fox asked for some discussion on the above items. Scottie asked for more leadership speakers, classes, etc. Ben Meeks advised that we need to offer some of the leadership training. Brain Garrett advised that we need to offer the training if we are going to have this as a standard for Chiefs and Captains.

B.) Bryan Fox asked for goals: 1. Strategic Plan Bryan also asked that we use our insurance company as a resource with SOGS.

C.) Ben Meeks made motion that the main goal for this year be forming and adopting a strategic plan. Brain Garrett seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## 12.) Matters from Commission Members

Ron Scarce: Nothing

Chris Slemp: Nothing

Chuck Angier: Appreciates Mike Neal and thanks to the visitors tonight. Spoke on Cool Branch's town hall meeting and encourages the community to participate.

Brian Garrett: Encouraged people to come to the BOS meetings. If anyone has concerns to please let me know. Thank you all for coming out and speaking.

Ben Meeks: Some sort of formal plan for RIT teams. I would like for it to start here and then go to the Fire and Rescue Association to be discussed. We have multiple incidents where we needed

this team. We need to look at protecting our people on these calls. I am challenging this commission to put something in place. Brian Garrett made a motion that we send a recommendation to the Fire and Rescue Association to develop a standardized "RIT" policy for fire scenes in the county. Ben Meeks seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Scottie Adams: Thank you to all who came tonight.

Tim Duffer: Thank you to the BOS, and the volunteers. Brad Campbell passed away a few days ago. He was an incredible guy. He was a member for Ringgold Fire and Rescue. He's funeral is tomorrow in Danville at 11am.

Bert Sellers: Nothing

Keith Scruggs: a lot of these calls can be stressful, please know the citizens thank you and appreciate you. We did a reset tonight on what the commission is about. One team and One system are part of our mission/vision statement. We must trust one another throughout the county. Let's reset so we can continue to move further.

Bryan Fox: I appreciate every one of you. This commission is here for you. If you have a bad call or have trouble dealing with these kinds of calls please call me. Do not try and carry it around. Talk to people. Let us know you need help. My Challenge to each commission in each quadrant gets to know the members, and agency and talk to them. I want to thank everyone for being here.

13.) Adjournment: Bryan fox made a motion to adjournment and Brian Garrett seconded the motion.