

August 24, 2021  
Regular Meeting

**Pittsylvania County Fire and Rescue Commission  
Regular Meeting  
August 24, 2021**

**VIRGINIA:** The Regular Meeting of the Pittsylvania County Fire and Rescue Commission was held on August 24, 2021 in the Board Meeting Room, 39 Bank Street, SE, Chatham, Virginia. Chairman - SouthWest Quad - F&R Rep Bryan Fox, called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. The following members were present:

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Chuck Angier	NorthWest Quad - Citizen Rep	Present	6:22 PM
Tim Duffer	Southeast Quad - F&R Rep	Present	6:21 PM
Bryan Fox	Chairman - SouthWest Quad - F&R Rep	Present	6:21 PM
Kermit King	Northwest Quad - F&R Rep	Present	6:21 PM
Bobby Lovelace	SouthWest Quad - Citizen Rep	Absent	6:22 PM
Ben Meeks	NorthEast Quad - F&R Rep	Present	6:20 PM
Ronald S. Scarce	Board of Supervisors Rep	Present	6:26 PM
Keith Scruggs	Vice Chairman - NorthEast Quad - Citizen Rep	Present	6:21 PM
Bert Sellers	Southeast Quad - Citizen Rep	Present	6:22 PM

**AGENDA ITEMS TO BE ADDED**

1. Motion to Add Agenda Items  
Implementation of the ARPA review committee.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Tim Duffer, Southeast Quad - F&R Rep
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Ben Meeks, NorthEast Quad - F&R Rep
<b>AYES:</b>	Angier, Duffer, Fox, King, Meeks, Scarce, Scruggs, Sellers
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Lovelace

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Motion to Approve Agenda

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Tim Duffer, Southeast Quad - F&R Rep
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Ben Meeks, NorthEast Quad - F&R Rep
<b>AYES:</b>	Angier, Duffer, Fox, King, Meeks, Scarce, Scruggs, Sellers
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Lovelace

**MINUTES APPROVAL**

1. June FRC Meeting Minutes Approval

**SUMMARY:**

For the FRC's review and consideration, attached are the June FRC Meeting Minutes.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT AND FUNDING SOURCE:**

Not Applicable.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

County Public Safety Staff recommends the FRC approve the June FRC Minutes as attached and presented.

**MOTION:**

"I make a motion to approve the June FRC Minutes as attached and presented."

June FRC Meeting Minutes Approved Ronald Scearce moved, Keith Scruggs Second

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Ronald S. Scearce, Board of Supervisors Rep
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Keith Scruggs, Vice Chairman - NorthEast Quad - Citizen Rep
<b>AYES:</b>	Angier, Duffer, Fox, King, Meeks, Scearce, Scruggs, Sellers
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Lovelace

**PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

**HEARING OF THE CITIZENS**

None

**FIRE AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION REPORT**

Chief Dean Fowler spoke to keep responders in mind lengthy transports. Fire and Rescue Association would like to thank the Board of Supervisors for the approval of funds to agencies.

**COUNTY STAFF REPORTS**

1. County Public Safety Director's Report (Staff Contact: Christopher C. Slemp)

**SUMMARY:**

The following is the County Public Safety Director's Report:

**(1) CIP Update:**

Mt. Cross Fire and Rescue has purchased truck intended to be used as a brush truck. The truck has been sent to have the pump and tank placed on it and will be in service soon.

Cascade Fire and Rescue has not purchased the apparatus it was originally attempting to. Upon further investigation, it was determined that piece of equipment had mechanical issues and Cascade passed on the purchase. Cascade is attempting to find a similar piece of equipment.

**(2) Update on the Music Festivals:**

County Public Safety Staff continues to finalize the Fire and Rescue Plans with for the Labor Day weekend Gospel Event and the Blue Ridge Rock Festival (September 9 -12). The Gospel Event will have a small crowd; however, the Rock Festival will have over 30,000 people in attendance each day. Over thirty (30) fire and rescue providers will be working these events, comprised of both volunteer and career County Public Safety Staff.

**(3) Rescue 1 sale**

The old Rescue 1 was sold as directed by the Board of Supervisors last year and the funds from that sale will be placed in the apparatus capital fund.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT AND FUNDING SOURCE:**

Not applicable.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Not applicable. Informational only.

**MOTION:**

Not applicable. Informational only.

Update on last capital improvement funds FY2022, Mount Cross purchased a pickup truck to be used for a brush truck. Cascade has a truck that they were looking at and found issues with it and back away. They have about found something. Update on the Music Festival. Labor day Gospel concert. Following weekend, Rock Festival and 35,000 People. 30 Fire and EMS on site, volunteer and carrier. Sold the old Resuce 1 the end of July, and funds going into capital fund.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

No items for unfinished business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Fire Ground Accountability System Guidelines (Staff Contact: Christopher C. Slemph)

**SUMMARY:**

The County's 2015 Fire and Rescue Study suggested having standardized fire ground accountability system guidelines ("Guidelines") that all County Departments follow. This improves safety on the fire ground and complies with NFPA 1500 (Standard of Fire Department Occupational Safety, Health, and Wellness Program) and NFPA 1561 (Standard on Emergency Services Incident Management System and Command Safety). The attached Guidelines have been worked out and agreed upon by the Fire and Rescue Association. Several of the County Departments are already using similar guidelines. The accountability tags have been ordered and some are in use presently.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT AND FUNDING SOURCE:**

There is minimal financial cost to adopt these Guidelines and said costs will be covered under the County's Public Safety Budget.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

County Public Staff recommends the FRC approve the attached Guidelines.

**MOTION:**

"I make the Motion to approve the attached Guidelines."

Fire and Rescue studies suggested and brings us into compliance. Meeks questioned about when the accountability boards would be complete and showed concern about the RIT policy. Director Slemph is going to get samples to several Chief's and get their input.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Chuck Angier, NorthWest Quad - Citizen Rep
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Tim Duffer, Southeast Quad - F&R Rep
<b>AYES:</b>	Angier, Duffer, Fox, King, Meeks, Scarce, Scruggs, Sellers
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Lovelace

2. SOG Allowing Non-Affiliated EMS Providers to Operate under the County's Public Safety EMS License (Staff Contact: Christopher C. Slemp)

**SUMMARY:**

The County Public Safety Department has recently had requests from EMS certified volunteers who belong to fire agencies that are not EMS licensed, desiring to affiliate with and operate under the County Public Safety Department’s EMS license and Operational Medical Director (“OMD”). This will allow the provider to practice EMS when needed and recertify their certification under the County Public Safety’s EMS license and OMD. For the FRC’s review and consideration, attached is a Standard Operating Guideline (“SOG”) titled “Non-affiliated EMS Providers” allowing the above.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT AND FUNDING SOURCE:**

None.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

County Public Safety Staff recommends the FRC approve the attached SOG as attached and presented.

**MOTION:**

“I make the Motion approving the SOG as attached and presented.”

Director Slemp explained the importance to in order to keep providers certified. B. Meeks showed concern and get these providers engaged in a department as recruitment. Director Slemp explained a lot of these providers are in the outlying areas. Also, the deputies that were certified they could fall under public safety if the Sheriff chose to. D. Fowler made mention of the providers in the 640 area and Laurel Grove areas and have seen the benefits.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Keith Scruggs, Vice Chairman - NorthEast Quad - Citizen Rep
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Ronald S. Scarce, Board of Supervisors Rep
<b>AYES:</b>	Angier, Duffer, Fox, King, Meeks, Scarce, Scruggs, Sellers
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Lovelace

3. Board of Supervisors' Communications (Supervisor Scarce)

**SUMMARY:**

At the Board of Supervisors’ (“Board”) August Business Meeting, the Board decided the following issues/items related to the County’s Volunteer Fire and Rescue Agencies”

- (1) Voted to approve the release of CIP funds to Cool Branch Fire Department and Cool Branch Rescue Squad to match their funding raising efforts between July 1 and September 30, 2021, in an amount up to but not exceeding \$230,000.

(2) Approved \$1,000,000 of the County's COVID ARPA Funds be directed to eligible uses for Volunteer Fire and Rescue Agencies. The Board directed the FRC recommend to its Finance Committee the best uses of said funds to benefit the County's Volunteer Agencies.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT AND FUNDING SOURCE:**

Not applicable.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

None. For informational purposes only.

**MOTION:**

None. For informational purposes only.

Mr. Scarce spoke about the Board voted to approve release of funds to match of fundraising for Cool Branch up to not to exceed \$230,000. Also, the board approved funds One million dollars of ARPA funds to be directed to fire and rescue agencies and the commission make those recommendations. B. Fox spoke with individuals to join the committee and they understand the significance of the policies outlined to appropriate funds. T. Duffer, K. King, C. Slempp, D. Fowler, T. Barber have agreed to be members of committee.

4. Climax Request for Capital Reserve Funds (Staff Contact: Christopher C. Slempp)

**SUMMARY:**

The County maintains a Capital Reserve Fund ("CRF") for volunteer agencies who have an unforeseen financial need. The FRC has the responsibility of hearing any request for CRF use and then making a related recommendation to the Board of Supervisors ("Board"). As evinced by the attached, Climax Fire Department ("Climax") has requested CRF funding for an unforeseen 1999 Freightliner Fire Truck ("Truck") engine failure. Climax has submitted evidence that the Truck was properly maintained, and this was unforeseen. It has also submitted evidence of financial need. The cost to repair the Truck is \$6,886.43. The current policy allows for an agency to receive up to \$,4000 from the CRF, if approved by the Board.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT AND FUNDING SOURCE:**

The CRF has adequate funds to cover Climax's request.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

County Public Safety Staff recommends the FRC recommend to the Board Climax's use of CRF funds, not to exceed \$4,000, to assist with the repair of the Truck as presented.

**MOTION:**

"I make the Motion recommending to the Board Climax's use of CRF funds, not to exceed \$4,000, to assist with the repair of the Truck as presented."

C Slempp spoke about the request for \$6,000 in engine repair from capital funds. Under current policy they can receive up to \$4,000 from that fund. Proper maintenance has been done. Chief JT Smith spoke on behalf of the dept. 1998 Freightliner with computer issue and multiple parts have had to be fixed. This is the main engine for first due area. Looking at doubling call volume. Repair

is almost complete. K. King spoke for the dept on great upkeep and maintenance of station. B. Meeks spoke on behalf; and always help with mutual aid.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Tim Duffer, Southeast Quad - F&R Rep
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Kermit King, Northwest Quad - F&R Rep
<b>AYES:</b>	Angier, Duffer, Fox, King, Meeks, Searce, Scruggs, Sellers
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Lovelace

## **MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Bert Sellers - No matters

Chuck Angier - Attended Cool Branch business meeting spoke about snake bite call, only One anti-venom in the area transported to Franklin County and also committed on the quality of the vehicle and spoke about the vehicle industry and how many miles were on the truck for repair in Climax.

Dean Fowler - No matters

Ronald Searce - Spoke and had questions that were answered by Director Slempp about diversion of hospitals in the area and finding treatment for COVID for yourself online with therapeutic drugs.

Ben Meeks - Spoke on diversions reference Rock Festival. Director Slempp spoke about protocols for festivals and treating on location or utilizing urgent care facilities during their hours. An EMS supervisor will be on site checking with the hospitals. Condolences to K Scruggs in the loss of his brother.

Tim Duffer – Thanked volunteers. Also request to add Moment of Silence to beginning of meetings.

Kermit King – Thanked volunteers and Public Safety.

Keith Scruggs – Thanked the board for the funding.

Bryan Fox – Sympathy to Keith Scruggs. Thanked Cascade for being good stewards of the money for their truck. Thanked volunteers.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn by Bryan Fox. Adjournment at 7:17 PM.