

PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes; August 25, 2020
Chatham Community Center; Gallery Room; 6:30 p.m.;
115 South Main Street, Chatham, Virginia 24531

1. CALL TO ORDER

Fox called Meeting to Order at 6:30 p.m. Scarce introduced to new commission member from southwest region, Bobby Lovelace. Fox welcomed Lovelace to Commission.

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 Scarce	X	
Keith Scruggs	X	
Bert Sellers		X
Bobby Lovelace	X	

County Staff Members present: Christopher C. Slemp, Michael Lee; David M. Smitherman; J. Vaden Hunt, Esq.

Association Representative present: Dean Fowler.

3. ANY ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO AGENDA

Addition of Cascade Fire and Rescue funding discussion (under Agenda Section 8).

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Scarce, second by Duffer, to approve Agenda. Motion unanimously passed by Commission Members present.

5. MINUTES APPROVAL

Motion by Scruggs, second by Duffer, to approve August Commission Meeting Minutes. Motion passed unanimously by Commission Members present.

6. PRESENTATIONS

None

7. FIRE AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION REPORT

Fowler stated the Association has presented all agencies with proposed accountability SOGs, proposed Rapid Intervention Team SOGs, and qualifications of Fire Chief recommendations.

Fowler also noted that Mike Neal has been elected as the new Association Vice President for the coming year. All other Association Officers remained the same.

8. OTHER FIRE AND EMS AGENCY REPORTS

Jerome Adams, Cascade Volunteer Fire Department Board of Directors' Chairman, thanked the Commission for allowing him to speak. He stated, for the past eighteen (18) months Cascade VFD has made tremendous strides in providing services for the Cascade Community, as well as, equipping themselves for surrounding areas if needed. Adams further stated that the nucleus of volunteers is not what it was twenty (20) to twenty-five (25) years ago. Which means, that strides and efforts need to be made in a different direction or mode to continue to provide service. He thanked the County for sacrifices and funds they have provided through the years. His agency has tried to be conservative in their spending. Adams also stated monies in the past were allocated to Cascade, but that those funds were not spent, because he is a firm believer that you must justify the necessity to spend funds. He also stated that Cascade has consistently maintained good, clear accounting for any funds going out and coming in. Said we are all working for a common cause, to provide service to the citizens of Pittsylvania County.

Matt Hunt, Assistant Cascade VFD Chief Cascade VFD, thanked the Commission for allowing him to speak. Stated he is thankful for the CARES Act money received. Spoke about his agency's budget assumed they were going to get monies that was allocated in the April 28th Commission Meeting when they were approved for transport. The squad is looking for money, which is out there. They are not looking for anything extra. They took over a 32-mile square area. They are budgeted \$11,491 below just a regular volunteer fire department that's not a Rescue Squad or Fire and Rescue. Stated the difference between them and the lowest paid fire and rescue squad combined in the same building is \$18, 461. We had talked about \$30,000 start-up, understands that is supposed to go toward the building, but he is requesting a revision, knows revisions have been done in the past in the middle of the year. Stated that last month they transported seventeen (17) calls. They have been one hundred percent (100%) for eighteen (18) months. Said they are the underdog, and they have held their end up for a long time. Requesting this be pushed up to the Board as far as some financial help. Thanked for everything done for them and the opportunity to transport.

9. COUNTY STAFF REPORTS

Slemp stated the following for his Public Safety Director's Report:

- Via CRF funds, County Staff is working on acquiring defibrillators for agencies that do not have defibrillators.
- County Staff has also been delivering PPE supplies to agencies. If any agency needs additional PPE, please let County Staff know.
- The Board of Supervisors ("Board") has approved an EMS Station for Hurt area.
- County Staff and Board representatives met the 640 squad President again; all parties are still negotiating their wind down.
- Cool Branch is still in negotiations with the County and Franklin County regarding County service cessation and funding cessation, which was extended another thirty (30) days via Board Resolution.
- Danville Life Saving crew is in talks with the County regarding coming aboard the County's radio system.

- The Board has requested a volunteer agency Capital Inventory update, which County Staff has already begun.
- County Staff, utilizing FEMA funds, is working on acquiring generators for Cascade, Climax, Cool Branch, and Renan.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Strategic Plan

Slemp spoke on the Strategic Plan, (“Plan”), which needs to be completed. He discussed what items need to be included in the Plan. Slemp suggested to structure the Plan using main goals, objectives, and actions. Motion by Duffer, second by Garrett, to adopt Plan structure. Motion passed unanimously by all Commission Members present.

The Commission further discussed the Plan and suggested tentative goals dealing with recruitment, retention, County-wide standardization and SOPs. Slemp stated he will continue to work on the Plan’s goals, objectives etc., after several were discussed. The Commission agreed this was a good starting point.

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. Board of Supervisor’s Comments

Scarce stated the Board approved the following related to fire and rescue at its August Board Meeting:

- Approved attached Vehicle Use Agreement
- Approved the following CARES Act expenditures: \$1.3 million for six (6) ambulances, all agencies should have at least one 2016 or newer ambulance in their fleet
- Adopted the Public Safety slogan “One service, one team.”
- Approved the splitting EMS of funds (*see* Board packet) from disbanded 640 to those covering their previous service area; \$3,750 each would go to Chatham, Gretna, Blairs, Tunstall, Mt. Hermon, Bachelor’s Hall, and Cascade; Further agreed \$2.700 would go to the budget line that pays the “per call” amount to out-of-County agencies.
- Denied the \$30,000 building fund requested by Cascade, because there is no budgeted amount for this approval and CARES Act funds cannot be used for this type item; The Board will try to address this issue in November and it would be a priority at that time.

Fowler questioned whether the “4 for Life” application had to be done by February of each year as in the past.

12. MATTERS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS

Scarce: nothing

Slemp: Stated that the “ship is in the right direction,” and he could not be prouder of all agencies.

Angier: nothing

Garrett: nothing

Duffer: nothing

Sellers: nothing

Scruggs: nothing

Fox: Thanked all who came to Commission Meeting.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Scruggs, second by Garrett, to adjourn Meeting. Motion passed unanimously by Commission Members present. Fox adjourned the Meeting at 7:30 p.m.