

September 28, 2021
Regular Meeting

**Pittsylvania County Fire and Rescue Commission
Regular Meeting
September 28, 2021**

VIRGINIA: The Regular Meeting of the Pittsylvania County Fire and Rescue Commission was held on September 28, 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 6:30 PM. The following members were present:

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Chuck Angier	NorthWest Quad - Citizen Rep	Present	6:19 PM
Tim Duffer	Southeast Quad - F&R Rep	Present	6:18 PM
Bryan Fox	Chairman - SouthWest Quad - F&R Rep	Present	6:19 PM
Kermit King	Northwest Quad - F&R Rep	Present	6:21 PM
Bobby Lovelace	SouthWest Quad - Citizen Rep	Absent	6:20 PM
Ben Meeks	NorthEast Quad - F&R Rep	Absent	6:22 PM
Ronald S. Scearce	Board of Supervisors Rep	Absent	
Keith Scruggs	Vice Chairman - NorthEast Quad - Citizen Rep	Present	6:17 PM
Bert Sellers	Southeast Quad - Citizen Rep	Absent	6:21 PM

AGENDA ITEMS TO BE ADDED

Updated Agenda packet with added Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

1. Motion to Add Agenda Items

Vote to amend the agenda for the Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Keith Scruggs, Vice Chairman - NorthEast Quad - Citizen Rep
SECONDER:	Kermit King, Northwest Quad - F&R Rep
AYES:	Angier, Duffer, Fox, King, Scruggs
ABSENT:	Lovelace, Meeks, Scearce, Sellers

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Motion to Approve Agenda

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

MINUTES APPROVAL

1. August FRC Meeting Minutes Approval (Staff Contact: Christopher C. Slemph)

SUMMARY:

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

FINANCIAL IMPACT AND FUNDING SOURCE:

Not Applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

MOTION:

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

Motion to approve with additions and corrections.

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

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

HEARING OF THE CITIZENS

None

FIRE AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION REPORT

Dean Fowler request for everyone to keep the volunteers and families in your thoughts and prayers sick and dealing with COVID.

COUNTY STAFF REPORTS

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

SUMMARY:

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

(1) The Command Boards that will be used with the Fire Ground Accountability System have been reviewed by the Fire and Rescue Association and agreed too. The County's Public Safety Department is in the process of getting quotes for the Boards prior to ordering.

(2) The Blue Ridge Music Festival was held September 9 - 12, 2021. The County's Public Safety Department used both all its career staff and many volunteer providers to cover the EMS and fire services for the event. Additionally, the operations involved all County 911 dispatchers and

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Animal Control Officers serving in various roles. EMS providers treated hundreds for mostly minor injuries and transported less than thirty (30) patients off site. The hours worked were work long and busy; however, all should be commended for their professionalism and excellent service to the event's attendees. They exemplified the best of the County. The Country Music Festival is the first weekend in October and County Public Safety Staff and others are planning for that now.

FINANCIAL IMPACT AND FUNDING SOURCE:

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

Not applicable. For informational purposes only.

MOTION:

Not applicable. For informational purposes only.

Director C Slemp seconded what D. Fowler stated about everyone dealing with Covid. Fire Ground Accountability policy and boards have been selected and looking at different options and prices

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No items for unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Board of Supervisors' Communications (Ronald S. Scarce)

SUMMARY:

At the Board of Supervisors' ("Board") September 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 \$4,000 of Capital Reserve Funds to assist Climax Volunteer Fire Department with the repair of a 1999 Freightliner.
- (2) Voted to use ARPA funds to give a \$500 stipend/incentive to any volunteer fire and rescue member who has answered at least eight (8) calls between January 1, 2021, and August 31, 2021, and is fully vaccinated by October 31, 2021. The County Public Safety Department is creating a report to track payment of the stipends/incentives.

FINANCIAL IMPACT AND FUNDING SOURCE:

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For informational purposes only.

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MOTION:

None. For informational purposes only.

Director C Slemp covered for Mr Scarce.

B. Fox advised DATC holding a vaccine clinic this Thursday Pfizer 9/30

SUMMARY:

At the August FRC Meeting, Chairman Fox appointed an ad hoc committee (“Committee”) to review the guidelines surrounding American Recovery Plan Act (“ARPA”) funds. The Board of Supervisors (“BOS”), at their August Meeting, appropriated \$1,000,000 to be used by the County’s Fire and Rescue Agencies. After meeting and reviewing the guidelines, the Committee has suggested that the funds be divided and allow each volunteer fire and rescue agency to apply for up to a maximum of \$43,000. An agency can apply to use their funds for more than one (1) project, but they may not exceed \$43,000 total funding. An application packet is being developed and will be distributed among the agencies. The committee will start accepting applications on November 1, 2021, with a deadline to apply by March 31, 2021.

When necessary, the committee will review, grade, and make recommendations back to the FRC as to funding recommendations. Once an award is made the agency will have up to twelve (12) months to complete their project(s).

ARPA funds are rather restrictive. Federal purchasing guidelines will need to be followed. Some suggested uses are SCBA replacement, improvements to stations, such as HVAC, ventilation improvements, touchless fixtures and switches, improving sleeping quarters, other general station improvements, and air cleansing systems for both stations and ambulances.

FINANCIAL IMPACT AND FUNDING SOURCE:

ARPA Funds,

RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee recommends the FRC approve the proposed process for applying for ARPA funds as presented and send the same to the BOS for approval.

MOTION:

“I make the Motion to accept the Committee’s recommendation for the use of ARPA funds as presented and recommend the same for approval by the BOS.”

Director C Slemp, committee has meet and reviewed guidelines. Each department can apply for a maximum of \$43,000 and they can apply for several different projects. Have about 2 years to use the money. They are in the process of developing the application packet. Starting 11/1/2021 to March 2022.

C Angier inquired if these expenses have to go back to the board for approval and Director Slemp is going to check on that.

K. King asked if there was money left over what would happen with the left-over funds. Director Slemp advised that if there is money left several options are out there to use for air packs or other projects.

B. Fox asked if there is an education piece of the packet and Director C Slemp advised that everyone is welcome to call and consult with him as well.

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K. King advised that there would be a packet put together with instructions and the application.
K. Scruggs asked if the department had already incurred an expense, they can go back to March 2021 and request funds.

Director Slempp stated we are going to lean on Mrs. Vanderhyde in finance and there is a lot of restrictions.

D Fowler tried to find a guideline or who could say yes or no. Also, that the CAREs act referred to infrastructure as well.

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

3. Hospital Diversion (Staff Contact: Christopher C. Slempp)

SUMMARY:

Over the past couple months, hospitals diversions have become a daily issue for County Rescue agencies. This is causing extended patient transport times and an overall negative impact on not only the County's EMS system, but the overall health care system in the region. A resurgence of COVID cases is partly to blame for this issue; however, as the region grows and its economic develop continues to excel, having good health care will be one of the keys to the success of the region. This also includes having adequate bed space. County Public Safety Staff requests the FRC discuss this issue to solicit possible solutions.

FINANCIAL IMPACT AND FUNDING SOURCE:

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

County Staff recommends the FRC consider all alternatives to help solve this issue and possibly request the Board of Supervisors to take this matter up with the region's health care providers.

MOTION:

For the FRC's consideration.

K King spoke about diversion text messages and long turnaround times. Hoping we can come up with something that can work for everyone.

T Duffer spoke on behalf of the south end agencies and the local hospitals and area. We have got to have a solution. Hospital does have staffing issues. It has been questioned by the hospital that could we transport to a doctor's office. However, we have to follow the Medicare and insurance guidelines. It is affecting the volunteers greatly.

D. Fowler spoke on how we need to educate the public so they understand the strain. Also look at the people who don't have ways to access care.

Director C Slempp spoke to the hospital on their diversion policy. They have also written to protocol to test during the Rock Festival, some of the local facilities state they cannot accept ambulance

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patients. Several Chiefs have also talked to him about expanding Gretna ER. They are also looking at Protocols on COVID diversion protocols. Some of the liability is too great.

C Slemp spoke about talking with Social Services and Adult protective services to get the patient the help they need. Staff is talking weekly with them to get the proper help they need.

B Fox spoke about being honest with the patient and letting them know where the hospital stands and wait times.

T Duffer spoke about options as far as getting into the legislative body. To take liability off.

D Fowler stated the majority of the calls that we are running do not need to go to the ER.

T Duffer spoke about diversion in bigger cities and here lately every hospital in the region has been on diversion.

Mobile hospital was discussed and there again we run into staffing issues.

T Duffer recommended the Board of Supervisors talking to Centra and Danville Sovah.

D Fowler spoke about potential growth and planning for the future.

Director Slemp spoke about talking to the hospitals also about the data.

B Fox request Director Slemp and/or the Board of Supervisors talking to the local hospitals

Director Slemp will request Mr. Scarce take this back to the board.

K Scurggs requested that for now, short term deliver patient to the closest facility regardless of diversion. And let them triage.

C Slemp advise they can go to the closest hospital, depending on the provider decision.

D Fowler requested to start education now

B Fox request and that the commission would like to participate in the media releases.

D Fowler requested that an abuse log be sent back to the director for patients in each departments area.

B Fox and Director Slemp spoke about the Community Paramedic program.

T Duffer request the process start with legislatively to support the Community Paramedic program and some insurances are seeing the effect of the program.

MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS

T Duffer - thanked the team with the medical tent at the Rock Festival. At times it was extremely busy.

K King - spoke and echoed Public Safety and Dispatchers and law enforcement along with VDOT workers that made the event possible. Wished Get well wishes to Troy Talley

C Angier - Thanked Volunteers

K Scruggs - no matters

B Fox - Thanked White Oak Church for their hospitality. Great job by everyone and thanked Board. Next Concert postponed till spring. Remember those who are sick and their families.

ADJOURNMENT

7:47