

FIRE AND EMS COMMISSION

Minutes of the October 5, 2015 Meeting

Commission Attendees: Present: Laure Wallace, Matt Hoff, Jacob White, David Weiss, Bryan Conrad, Frank Davis. Present by phone: Beth Leffell. Absent: Tony Roper.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Electronic Meeting:

The Commission agreed, by unanimous vote, to hold this meeting as one of two electronic meetings that can be held during the calendar year. The reason for selection of this meeting was to allow Beth Leffell, who was out of town to attend the funeral of a family member, to participate in the meeting.

The Agenda:

The Chair provided an updated version of the agenda for review. Bryan Conrad moved to approve the amended agenda, with a second from Matt Hoff. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Minutes of the September Meeting:

Matt Hoff moved to approve the minutes of the September minutes, seconded by Bryan Conrad and approved by unanimous approval of the Commission.

Director's Report:

- Attended the Emergency Managers meeting in Winchester
- Pam Hess and Frank Davis met with amateur radio operators to build a relationship for emergency situations. The weekend of the predicted hurricane, radio operators were on stand-by in case of need.
- Frank attended a 2-day conference in Roanoke on Prevention and Public Information. Good information was provided on reduction of calls through good public education. Some of this work is already begun with targeted outreach.
- Frank participated in suicide awareness program put on by the VFW.
- A career staff meeting was held to focus on closer relationships between the career and volunteer staff.
- Note that there will be an all-hands meeting tonight following the Commission meeting to talk about the first year.
- The Director has been talking with the REC about storm response.
- Note that there has been a 7% drop in call failure rate from 16 – 9%.
- In preparation for the predicted hurricane, the EOC was readied.
- Great response by all companies for preparation for the predicted hurricane.

Fire and EMS Representative Reports:

- Elections through the Fire and Rescue Association voted a new member to the Commission and agreed to keep Matt Hoff on the Commission. The proposed new member will be sent to the Board of Supervisors for approval at their October meeting.
- Jacob reported that Jason asked about one insurance policy for the whole county rather than individual companies providing their own insurance. This follows up on an initiative already begun in the county.
- The Association proposed and adopted a new by-law change that addressed the process for election of members to the Fire and EMS Commission. A copy is attached to the meeting minutes.

Strategic Planning:

Laure Wallace reported on the presentation to the BOS and said that there was unanimous approval for the plan. Next steps in strategic planning are to build an annual plan.

Committee Reports:

Reports were provided on the Technology and the Performance Standards Committee (see attached reports from these committees). The Budget Committee will report out at the meeting in November.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Commission elected Beth Leffel as the new chair with Matt Hoff as the vice chair.

It was agreed that the Budget Committee would address not only the FFS for money but also the total budget process. This committee will provide a report at the November meeting outlining past budgets, the changes to the budgets with the new Director and additional staff, and make suggestions of possible usage of the FFS monies that meet the criteria of being focused on EMS and helping to improve system performance.

It was agreed to send meeting agendas to the Fire and Rescue Association the Friday before their monthly meetings to ensure good communications and encourage attendance at Commission meetings.

David Weiss gave special thanks to Jacob White for his excellent service to the Commission and noted that his knowledge and perspective would be missed.

NEXT MEETING:

October 12th 6:30 – 8:30 pm

