

FIRE AND EMS COMMISSION

Minutes of the December 12th Working Session

Attendees: Tony Roper, Jacob White, Frank Davis, Beth Leffel, Bryan Conrad, David Weiss, Matt Hoff, Laure Wallace

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 am.

Agenda: On motion of Beth Leffel and a second by Bryan Conrad, the agenda for the meeting was approved.

Minutes: On motion of Tony Roper with a second from Matt Hoff, the minutes of the Nov. 18th meeting were approved with one typing correction. All members, except Beth Leffel who was absent from the November meeting voted to approve the minutes.

Action Items from Workgroup and from the Commission Meetings:

The action items from the workgroup were reviewed for additions and updated. Action items for Commission members were also reviewed with no updates. The Commission engaged in a discussion on Fee for Service based on responses from the Volunteer Fire Companies. Chair Wallace raised a concern about the management of funds gained through Fee for Service. Her concern was that there should be an agreement that states these funds are dedicated to Fire and EMS and will not be used for other County operations. In addition, she felt that the County should not automatically consider this income as a revenue stream to replace funds already provided by the County for Fire and EMS since the workgroup's recommendation to do fee for service was based on the need for additional funding for equipment, capital improvements, and other expenses that currently require volunteers to spend long hours in fund raising which has had an impact on recruitment and retention. After discussion, the Commission felt that this should be further addressed when it was clear how much money would be realized from Fee for Service and that the budgetary questions would be managed by the Director and Commission and any concerns about allocation of funds can be addressed at that time. No plans are being made to cut the current allocations to the volunteer companies based on potential income and the expectation is that county funding will continue unless we find there is a surplus of income from Fee for Service.

Strategic Planning:

The Commission began a 3 hour discussion of Strategic Planning, considering the role of the Commission, the specific reasons for doing Strategic Planning, the process to develop of a Mission Statement, Value Statements, Vision Statements, Goals, Measurable Outcomes and Priorities, and who should be involved in each of those steps. In addition, the group developed a timeline for the process which has a tentative completion date in May of 2015. A separate document titled "Clarke County Fire and EMS Strategic Planning Process, 2014" lays out the plan for the Commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:34 pm.