



Clarke County Fire & EMS Commission
101 Chalmers Court, Suite B
Berryville, Virginia 22611
(540) 955-5132

MINUTES

June 14th, 2018 6:30pm

Clarke County Government Center – Meeting Room AB

Attendees: Matt Hoff, Chairman
David Weiss
Tony Roper
Jacob White
Diane Harrison
Van Armacost
Bryan Conrad

Absent: Andrew Nicholson

Staff: Brian Lichty
Pam Hess
David Ash

Chairman Hoff called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

1. Mr. Armacost made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was passed with all in favor.
2. Public Comment - None
3. Mr. Roper made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 10th, 2018 meeting. The motion was passed with all in favor.
4. Committee Reports –
 - Standards – (see attached) Mr. Lichty reviewed and discussed. Mr. Roper asked questions regarding response times, averages, confirmed with Mr. Lichty compared to national standards. Ms. Harrison questioned the

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difference with urban compared to Clarke. Mr. White noted an error made on Boyce's dispatch to hospital time. Mr. Lichty will correct.

- Technology – Nothing to report at this time.
- Budget/Preparation
 - i. Budget Update – (see attached) Ms. Harrison went over process recommendation to improve organization and timeline. Mr. Conrad made a motion to accept the recommendation with the additional item of a detailed form for all companies to use. Voting For-Mr. Roper, Ms. Harrison, Mr. Conrad, Mr. Weiss. Voting Against- Mr. Armacost, Mr. White. Motion passed.

5. Unfinished Business

- Volunteer Incentive Program-(see attached) – There was a discussion regarding enroute response times and what is achievable. Mr. White asked if a different incentive option could be chose for each station instead of one option for all. It was stated the decision would be up to the commission. Mr. White, Mr. Armacost and Mr. Conrad reviewed and discussed Option 2 again and it appears this one would be a better choice taking out the County career staff hours. Mr. Conrad made a motion to rescind the prior action of implementing Option 3 and to have Mr. Lichty write up a formal proposal for Option 2. The motion was passed with all in favor.
- Blue Ridge Staffing Request Costs & Review – Mr. Lichty distributed the email from Chief Burns at the meeting-Mr. Weiss explained that the Board voted and passed the recommendation from the commission. If these terms of the recommendation is not met than that doesn't abide by their vote to approve. Mr. White explained that some of the points of contention from Chief Burns are due to the reporting requirements that are listed. Submittal of a Blue Ridge staff schedule just isn't attainable. Mr. Weiss explained that the Board is trying to take actions to help and are willing to be somewhat flexible but not when met with contempt, Chief Burns has to be willing to be flexible too. Mr. Lichty explained that adjustments can be made, that is part of the evaluating monthly process but there has to be a starting point. A

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schedule for the personnel to be at Blue Ridge has to be made and what policies of the station will need to be met daily by them. Mr. Weiss mentioned that the Board approved the recommendation because the evaluation process looks at the whole system, is to be reviewed monthly and any adjustments could be made as needed.

6. Report from the Fire and Rescue Association – (see attached)-No questions or comments.
7. Report from the Director of Fire and EMS – (see attached) Ms. Harrison announced that the Town of Berryville is behind schedule on the water maintenance project. Mr. White asked how the storm assessment went. Mr. Lichty explained that the State did announce an emergency declaration hoping some litigation can be given to homeowners for assistance.
8. New Business - Mr. Weiss recommended that he doesn't participate in voting since he is just a liaison, then allowing the Chairman to vote in the event of tie. Mr. White is requesting to be replaced on the Budget Subcommittee. Chairman Hoff will attempt to contact Mr. Nicholson to see if he would be interested. Chairman Hoff announced that he will be out of town for the next meeting in July so Ms. Harrison will be chair that evening. Mr. Lichty explained that the fire chiefs requested to be added to the email distribution list for the Fire and EMS Commission packets, it was agreed there were no issues on including them. Mr. Lichty stated the new individual binders started tonight. He will keep and return them each meeting adding each new packets monthly. Mr. Lichty went over the three handouts that are being distributed during the open informational sessions for Hospital Transports, Provider's actions and the new Treated Not Transported. Mr. White spoke up on behalf of the volunteer system that they feel very disfranchised, doesn't feel it went through the commission correctly and is the information being conveyed appropriately. Mr. Weiss is hopeful that the handouts and the information posted will help to lessen confusions that are out there, confirmed that these were discussed and asked if there were any oppositions by the commission and nothing was said. Mr. Weiss explained that by doing this, only the patients using the system are billed, not the ones that don't. If you receive a service, there

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is no reason not to pay for that service. The Board has a financial responsibility and the new fees are a direct correlation of rising expenditures to include stipend increases, the new incentive program, etc. Mr. White expressed his belief, as well as trying to be an advocate for the volunteers, that this would be changing the volunteer system. Mr. Weiss being just as passionate as Mr. White, had to respectfully disagree. He stated that the County is not trying to destroy the volunteer system, as being accused of, but changes have to be made. Mr. Armacost expressed his concern that donations could be effected by the new billing changes but Mr. Weiss stated that there is nothing statistical that shows a decline in donations. Ms. Harrison stated that a lot of the residents are expressing their surprise that this hasn't been done before now. Mr. Armacost asked why the County doesn't just increase taxes to cover the expenditures instead. Mr. Weiss noted that future tax increases may be needed but the Board is trying to mitigate by using the other available options first, this is a balancing act.

9. Mr. Roper made a motion to adjourn. The motion was passed with all in favor at 8:14 pm.

Next meeting is on July 12th, 2018 at 6:30pm in the Clarke County Government Center – Meeting Room AB

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