



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

MINUTES

July 11th, 2019 6:30pm

Clarke County Government Center – Meeting Room AB

Attendees: Matt Hoff, Chairman
David Weiss
Tony Roper
Jay Grim
Diane Harrison
Bryan Conrad
Doug Lawrence

Absent: Andrew Nicholson

Staff: Brian Lichty
Melanie Radford

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

1. Mr. Conrad made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was passed with all in favor.
2. Public Comment - Mr. Jason Burns read the following statement to the Commission. (see attached)
Mr. Harold Rohde expressed that he wanted to comment about the mediation attempt between Boyce and the Association. There were several items which were laid out at one meeting and the representatives were there for, for more than an hour probably closer to two, there were a multitude of items that were brought up, cause of concern or areas that they felt needed to be addressed. He came to last month's meeting expecting to hear a report of the topics that were found, the issues of concern, maybe some steps towards mediation and to read a couple of paragraphs that said we don't feel that it is going to happen, not a question was asked by this Commission, what was the heartache, what is the issue, how can we resolve it. You glossed over it and said thank you for your time, really appreciate it, I know you put in a lot of hard work there. It makes it seem as though you all really do not care. I don't know what's going on. You have representatives from your volunteers who are willing to provide input, willing to come to these meetings and to be afforded 3 minutes upfront to say something and watch things go on. When I was Chief it irked me to no end when a question was asked, your chief is sitting right here who knows that answer, the representative may not know all of the specifics of that answer, but yet you cannot provide correct information in a timely fashion to this Commission. I had something else I was going to talk about but my brain has already derailed now so thank you.
3. Mr. Roper made a motion to approve the June 13th, 2019 minutes. The motion was passed with all in favor.

The attached minutes are DRAFT minutes. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information, statements and decisions recorded in them, their status will remain that of a draft until such time as they are confirmed as a correct record at the subsequent meeting.



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4. Committee Reports
 - Standards - (see attached) Mr. Lichty reviewed with the group. Discussion-Mr. Grim confirmed that the asterisk at the bottom means there were changes reflected in the report.
 - Technology – Mr. Roper reported that the implementation of the next phase of radio project will be delayed by approximately 30 days while they explore some other options that will ultimately benefit both the performance and the budgetary impact to the County.
 - Budget/Preparation - Nothing to report
5. Unfinished Business
 - Blue Ridge Staffing Request - Mr. Lichty examined the last month's data from June 2019 with the group. Mr. Roper verified that the position was funded in the new budget as of July 1st, 2019 and awaiting the response from the Safer grant for filling position. Mr. Lichty confirmed and stated due to this, there is no need to vote on this topic any longer.
 - Incentive program review - Mr. Lichty reviewed with the group. All 3 companies met the criteria for the quarter and will all be awarded.
 - Strategic Plan Review - Strategy 1 update/review (see presentation attached) Discussion and action notes taken by Mr. Lichty.
6. Report from the Director of Fire and EMS – (see attached) Mr. Lichty reviewed with the group. Discussion-Mr. Roper inquired how the Red Cross Shelter drill went. Mr. Lichty indicated it went well, it was detailed and he learned a lot including some misconceptions on what the County does and doesn't do. Mr. Lichty has provided Boyce a copy of the draft from Blue Ridge and Enders for the review of the Fire and Rescue Agreement. Chairman Hoff stated that the information was disseminated at Boyce's company meeting last night and everyone was given an August 1st date to have input back to either Chief Coffelt or Director Lichty. Mr. Grim asked if there was any feedback from Boyce on the functionality, usefulness of the MDT's. Mr. Lichty stated there have been some learning curves, there were some issues with ImageTrend but have been taken care of, and there was a LifePak issue downloading into the computer but that has been resolved. Mr. Lawrence asked if anyone will be hired in next 30-60 days. Mr. Lichty explained that no hiring can be done until after he has received the grant answer. Mr. Grim inquired if there was any elaboration on the "other" category, what it comprises of, for the provider errors that he could bring back to his company to pay attention to. Mr. Lichty explained that it could be many different things like not obtaining a facesheet from Inova, missing data fields, etc. The biggest one is narratives. He understands that we may be a little stricter, but the numbers don't lie. We are doing a really good job in our collections, where some counties that money isn't quite as important, the little tweaks, it is to us. We are billing at that highest level and getting paid appropriately.
7. New Business-Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Grim raised some concerns over the lack of identification of mutual aid companies upon dispatch. Mr. Lichty reviewed the IAM responding changes, the implementation of the CAD monitoring stations and MDT's. Mr. Lichty stated he will review this policy with Director Hess and return next month with comments. Mr. Grim brought up concern regarding the Commission member

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structure and terms coming to expiration. Mr. Grim made a motion stipulating the Citizen at Large cannot be an active member of any company. After discussion among the group, Ms. Harrison recommended this topic be held off due to the Strategic Plan review and made a motion to table this discussion until next month. Mr. Grim agreed and amended his motion to table until next month so everyone has additional time to discuss with their companies. The motion was passed with all in favor. Mr. Grim had one more item, based on Mr. Burn's statement he would like for there to be the opportunity to table items and the representatives bring it back to their companies prior to voting. Chairman Hoff stated that everyone has that right and is standard parliamentary.

8. Summary of required action -
 - Talk to Director Hess about dispatch concern
 - Next month to bring forward of the strategic plan the existence and structure.
9. Mr. Lawrence made a motion to adjourn. The motion was passed with all in favor at 7:41pm.

All meeting documents will be distributed at meeting. Next meeting is on August 8th, 2019 at 6:30pm in the Clarke County Government Center – Meeting Room AB

Minutes Transcribed by Melanie Radford

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Jason Burns — Public Comment Fire & EMS Commission Meeting
7/11/19

Everyone at this table is responsible for allowing the County to violate their Contract with the stations and yet you do nothing about it. At last commission meeting it was decided that no further talks would occur in reference to Boyce withdrawing from association. This is just another action by the commission that you say one thing and then decide a meeting or two later to change your mind. Examples Are budget process, incentive program, and now you decide to no longer mediate the Boyce situation.

I have spoken to this group before about the lack of effort put forward toward matters which I feel are extremely important. Some examples are: not reading budget packets, some had never read County contract, and not understanding statistics. You as a group have no idea what is going on in the stations. When Mr. Grim asked for stats of who's staffing calls, he was met with "no that's not system, that would split career and volunteer". This is contrary to when I advised commission that stats were not accurate, and we should look at response as one system. This was met with "no we want to see individual station stats, not system stats". Multiple attempts have been made to correct bad data without success, which led to a request for Staffing at 8 to remove the liability the false stats were placing on our station. The short evaluation period ended, and nobody will give an honest answer when asked how many calls did career staff impact responses. Why should they, you as a group never asked. Instead your group supported 5 more positions, including placement of career staff in Boyce who never requested staffing. A quick look would tell anyone looking at statistics that the real need for coverage is in the town of Berryville.

I do appreciate this group stopping Director Lichty from taking our four for life and fire programs funds. I also appreciate the Sheriff stepping up during budget process and

making a motion to increase our stipend from the County because the budget process was a disaster.

The commission was supposed to be a group that looked out for all entities involved. Instead you have allowed the association to be pushed out and allowed volunteers to speak at a citizen's comment portion of your meeting with a three-minute limit. We have one rep on commission who is placed in a position to vote on items before it goes back to membership. Perhaps the planning commission can operate this way. A volunteer organization gives all members say since they are the workers that make it happen. Decisions this group and the County have made are costing volunteers more money. The County forced us into using vendor for hose, pump and ladder testing that cost more than our normal vendor, while we paid the bill. Then recently Director Lichty advises Chief White that the insurance company had denied our claim to repair faulty wiring in station due to water damage, followed by telling us we had to pay out of pocket for repairs due to a deer strike to ALS 8 that would later be reimbursed. Chief White contacted insurance rep to find out that was incorrect, we did not have to front the money. Then asked agent about denial of other claim, Chief White was advised there was never a claim submitted for what the director said was denied. We almost spent over 12000 dollars to make repairs because of a lie. The insurance approved the claim to make repairs once forced to make the claim.

You say you want a system, your actions show otherwise.