



AMHERST COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES COUNCIL

119 Taylor Street
Amherst, Virginia 24521
(434) 946-9307
EMERGENCY DIAL 911
MEETING MINUTES
October 11, 2023

Location: County Administration Building @ 1800

In attendance:

Amherst Fire –	Steve Drummond
	Jeff Tanner
Amherst Life Saving –	Charlsea Goodin
Monelison Rescue –	No Representative
Monelison Fire –	Joey Malott
Pedlar Fire –	George Napier
	Lisa Tomlin
Public Safety –	Brad Beam
	Jarred Scott
	Ben Bond
County Administrator –	Jeremy Bryant

- I. The ESC Meeting was called to order at 18:00.
- II. Brad Beam led the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. Approval of Meeting Minutes
The minutes were presented for the July 19th, 2023 Meeting, the August 23rd, 2023 Emergency Meeting, and the September 6th, 2023 Emergency meeting.
Motion by Brad Beam to approve the minutes for all three meetings. Second by Charlsea Goodin.
Unanimous vote to approve.
- IV. Old Business
 - a. Brad Beam gave update on Fire Training Building and Ground Breaking Ceremony Specifics. A work day for October 12, 2023 was discussed. There was also discussion about a “Hose Uncoupling,” Ceremony in early November was discussed.
- V. New Business
 - a. Joint Christmas Party – Steve Drummond
 - There was a discussion about holding a Christmas Event involving all agencies in early January. Drummond advised that he would get back to the Chiefs and Captains with a date.
 - Brad Beam advised that \$3000.00 had been put into the budget for a Volunteer

Appreciation type of event. He advised that Public Safety could assist with paying for the venue for the event.

- Sweet Briar was discussed as a possible option.

b. Travis Howze Event – Steve Drummond

- Speaker on the topic of PTSD and treatment
- He has been booked to come to Amherst on May 10th, 2024 at 9 am
- The event will be at either Sweet Briar or the Madison Heights Community Center
- Steve Drummond made a motion for the Emergency Services Council to pay \$2000 for the event. The total cost is \$8500.
- Second by Joey Malott.
- Unanimous vote to approve.
- Rockbridge coverage discussed

VI. Matters from the Floor:

a. County Administrator Introduction – Jeremy Bryant introduced himself to the committee. He thanked the members of the committee for all that they due for the citizens of Amherst County

b. Radio Discussion – George Napier

- Harris has provided radio coverage maps for Amherst County
- Rocky Tower has limited wattage due to the equipment that the FAA has at the site. Options to petition for a wattage increase are being discussed
- Federal Government is about to do a site audit at the Rocky Tower for a separate issue. This will allow the opportunity to discuss the matter further.
- There has also been discussion about adding tower to Rockbridge Tower sites to assist Big Island and Pedlar coverage areas.
- There is an issue with a Bedford Site that Brad Beam and Jeremy Bryant have been involved in.
- Verizon is assessing the Larkin Tower for a cell tower.

c. Discussion of the Capital Fund – George Napier

- George Napier asked how the Capital Fund works, and who the point of contact is.
- Brad Beam discussed the history of the Capital fund. The Board of Supervisors had agreed to pay for Fire and EMS apparatus purchases in full via the apparatus replacement schedule. The previous Capital Fund was cut in half. That money was then given to the ESC annually for CIP related purchases for the agencies that are represented by the council. The money does rollover. It has been used to pay for the burn building and several station repairs for departments in recent months. The ESC votes on recommendations to spend those funds.

d. Discussion of the Virginia Fire Services Board Survey – George Napier

- George Napier had concerns about the lack of a search and rescue team listed in the survey results.
- Brad Beam advised that there were several contested items in the survey. The Board

of Supervisors asked for a work session with the Fire Chiefs and Public Safety staff to discuss the survey results and plans moving forward.

- Several items were discussed as opportunities to expand on existing teams. All departments were offered the opportunity to train on the Command Trailer before The County Fair. A pause was discussed for a, “reverse 911,” option to assist during searches.
- e. Fuel Pump Upgrades
 - Fuel pump upgrades are being completed by the school system. Training and keys will be provided when the updates are complete
- f. Public Safety Shift Training
 - 2024 dates and times will be sent out to Agency Chiefs and Captains
- g. New Medical Director
 - Dr. Long has been out twice since August. She will be riding along with Public Safety Staff on October 19th, 2023.
- h. Monthly Fire Training
 - Command Trailer Training will supplement monthly fire training in October
- i. Central Virginia Firefighters Association meeting will be at Amherst Fire on October 19th, 2023 at 7pm.
- j. Fire Academy will start on January 5th, 2024.
- k. Live Fire Instructor Class 1403 – 10/21/23
- l. Rockbridge will hold FF I and FF II Train the Trainer in January
- m. Flow testing is in progress for all Amherst County Agencies
- n. Passport tag processes were discussed
- o. Monelison Fire Department has purchased Grip Hoists
- p. Jeremy Bryant discussed the VDEM EOC Table Top Exercise that the County Departments had participated in on October 9th, 2023. He discussed the importance of revising and training on those types of plans.

Motion to adjourn at by Charlsea Goodin. Second by Brad Beam. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 19:29.