



**AMHERST COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES
COUNCIL**

**119 Taylor Street
Amherst, Virginia 24521
(434) 946-9307
EMERGENCY DIAL 911
April 10 2024**

MEETING MINUTES for April 10, 2024 Meeting

Location: County Administration Building @ 1800

IN ATTENDANCE:

Council Members:

**Amherst Fire Department-
Amherst Life Saving-
Monelison Fire Department-
Pedlar Fire Department-
Monelison Rescue Squad-
Amherst County Public Safety-**

**Board of Supervisors-
Sheriff Department-**

**Steve Drummond, 1st Assistant Chief, Chair
Charlsea Goodin, Captain
Rick Hunter, 2nd Assistant Chief
George Napier, Chief
R.W. Woody, Captain
Bradley Beam, Director
Marcia Gilpin, Office Manager/Scribe
Chris Adams
L. Jimmy Ayers, Amherst County Sheriff**

Public Attendees-

**Jeff Tanner, AFD, 2nd Assistant Chief
Shannon Daniel, MFD, Associate Member
Jason Friend, MFD, Associate Member
Jarred Scott, Amherst Public Safety Deputy Director
Ben Bond, Amherst Public Safety EMS Division Mgr.
Brooke Coleman, 911 Communications Division Mgr.
H. Lee Day, Pedlar Fire Department
Yvette Hunter, Monelison Rescue Squad
Sam Bryant, Amherst Life Saving**

- I. The ESC Meeting was called to order at 18:00 by Chair, Steve Drummond.**
- II. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Steve Drummond and Lee Day led the Invocation.**
- III. Approval of Minutes:**
 - A. The minutes were presented for the March 28, 2024 Meeting for Approval. Motion was made by Steve Drummond to approve. Motion seconded by Brad Beam. Unanimous vote**

by Council Members to approve.

IV. Old Business

A. Joint BOS Meeting Action Items

1. **SOG Development – Draft copies of edited SOG items 1 -4 by Brad Beam were distributed to members and asked to present these comments to their respective departments for review and edits. Bring edits to next ESC Meeting, Council Members were also requested to review the next four (4) SOGS for next meeting. Will be discussed at the next meeting and a vote will be taken to accept changes on SOG Items 1-4.**
2. **Volunteer Recruitment Strategies – Discussion on age requirement for volunteers currently at 18 years and above. The current age of 18 is the age requirement for an individual to drive a County vehicle.**

Concerns were brought to the Council regarding the Background Check procedure for potential members and volunteers. Rick Hunter stated that in the bylaws of the Monelison Fire Department that a background check is rule; that if there is present any criminal history, the individual cannot join as a volunteer member. This is making it extremely difficult to recruit new members. Suggested that a Waiver Form accompany the Volunteer Application for the applicant to sign authorizing the background check,

Ben Bond mentioned that the school system is doing background checks. He will check to see if it would be possible to partner with them.

Sheriff Ayers brought up that the Sheriff Department uses the State Police for Background checking and suggested that Ben Jamerson be contacted to obtain their procedure

Steve Drummond mentioned the possibility of allowing 16-17 year old individuals to do “ride-a-long” or shadowing whereby the person would be third but not AIC.

Brad Beam stated that he would contact surrounding counties to find out their procedures for background checks and give feedback to the council. He suggested that the ESC develop a policy that would be used county wide.

3. **The Volunteer Application has been made electronic. Questions were compiled and sent to the County Attorney for input. Once it is approved by the County Attorney, it will be published on County Website. Once the application has been submitted, it will come to Marcia and she will then forward to the appropriate department, or, it can be dropped by or mailed to the Public Safety office.**
4. **Name Change –A Public Hearing will be in May at the Board of Supervisors meeting.**
5. **Authority and Accountability**

6. Mission, Vision, and Value Statement development

7. ESC Meeting Frequency- In order to complete the review and edit of the SOGs it was decided to meet monthly. The next meeting was discussed and decided to be Wednesday, May 8, 2024.

8. Recruitment – The Volunteer Application has been made electronic. Once it is approved by the County Attorney, Brad will send members the link upon receiving the Attorney's review remarks. It will then be published on County Website.

9. Ordinance Update – County Attorney is tweaking remarks. A Public Hearing will be held.

V. New Business

A. Joint BOS Meeting Action Items

1. SOG Development – SOG Items 1-4 – Draft Revisions were given out to the Council Members to review with their respective departments. Comments will be discussed at the next ESC Meeting.

VI. Matters From The Floor-

1. Rick Hunter inquired if the County was trying to take over the Volunteer Fire Departments. Board of Supervisor Representative Chris Adams stated that the BOS is not trying to override volunteer departments. He said the Board has the same responsibilities and goals as the volunteer departments have. That is to serve the taxpayers, citizens and visitors of the County of Amherst. They want the departments to have the best equipment available to service the people, but there must be rules and accountability.

2. Rick Hunter inquired as to the procedure for signs. Brad Beam discussed the problems that were present with the former sign company requiring a switch to another company. The new company has been doing fast installs. Sign issues need to be forwarded to Marcia Gilpin in the Public Safety Admin office. It was also discussed that a sign problem can be reported to Dispatch and they in turn will forward that information to Marcia.

3. Brad Beam announced that there is scheduled a County-wide Burn training to be held at the Fire Training Facility on April 18,

4. Radio Coverage Issue was discussed by Brad Beam. He and Brooke Coleman met with L3Harris to obtain information regarding the best possible radio equipment for the next 5 years. He brought up the Dual Band whereas Amherst Radios could communicate with the radios in Nelson and Rockbridge Counties via a Dual Band. Brooke brought two (2) Demo Radios to give out to try. They were given to Pedlar Fire and to Monelison Fire to try out due to their remote location coverages.

5. Jason Friend asked the County to define "Certified Fire Fighter". In the SOG's. There was some concern regarding the color of helmets due to the practice of some department members purchasing their own helmets rather than using a department

issued helmet.

6. Shannon Daniels brought up for discussion the quotes received for the replacement of the Air Compressor at Monelison Fire Department. Their preferred vendor would be Bauer at the higher price of \$95, 000 due to the fact that the system would be compatible to the systems at Amherst Fire and Pedlar Fire. At their last system inspection, Stallion Air stated that their current system is not in compliance. The low quote came from Artic at ~\$61,000.

After discussion on the floor it was suggested that the ESC approved going to the Board of Supervisors for reimbursement to Monelison Fire for the lower quote of \$61,000. This will allow Monelison to make the decision as to going with the lower quote or going with the quote from Bauer and making up the price difference themselves. Motion was made by Steve Drummond and seconded by George Napier. Unanimous vote by council members to approve motion. Brad Beam will submit request to the Board of Supervisors at their next evening meeting in May.

7. George Napier brought to the floor the desire for Glad Manufacturing to have members from each department to tour the Glad facilities and asked members to offer him available dates.
8. Brad Beam stated that Grief will be having a “Backout/Shutdown” on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 and Thursday, April 18, 2024.

- VII. Motion to Adjourn – Motion was made to adjourn by Steve Drummond. Motion seconded by Rick Hunter. Meeting adjourned at 19:05.