



**AMHERST COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES
COUNCIL**

**119 Taylor Street
Amherst, Virginia 24521
(434) 946-9307**

EMERGENCY DIAL 911

September 11, 2024

MEETING MINUTES

Location: County Administration Building @ 1800

IN ATTENDANCE:

Council Members:

Amherst Fire Department
Monelison Fire Department
Amherst County Public Safety
Pedlar Fire Department
Board of Supervisors
Amherst County Sheriff Department

Steve Drummond, 1st Assistant Chief, ESC Chair
Joey Malott, Chief
Bradley Beam, Director
George Napier, Chief
Chris Adams
Jimmy Ayers, Sheriff

Non-Voting County Members:

911 Communications Manager
Amherst County Sheriff Department
Marcia Gilpin

Brooke Coleman
J.E. Begley, Major
Amherst County Public Safety, Office Manager,
Scribe

Public Attendees:

Lee Day

Pedlar Fire Department

- I. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Steve Drummond.
- II. Invocation was given by Lee Day. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Steve Drummond.
- III. Approval of Minutes:
 - a. Approval of August 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were presented for the August 14, 2024 meeting for approval. Motion to approve August 14, 2024 meeting minutes was made by Steve Drummond. Seconded by Joey Malott. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Old Business

a. SOG development (Brush Fires, Hazmat, and MVA)

Brad Beam stated that the three (3) SOG's presented at the August 14th meeting were to be reviewed by each department for discussion and approval at this meeting. He asked if there were any changes that needed to be made, which there were none brought to discussion. He asked for a motion to approve. Steve Drummond made the motion to approve the three (3) SOG's. Motion seconded by Joey Malott. Motion carried unanimously to approve the SOGs.

Chief Beam stated that there was one SOG left for review from the 2012 SOG document. He will have Marcia email this to the members along with the Table of Contents of the original SOG Document for member review. He also asked if any additional SOG's need to be added that the members discuss with their departments and bring to next ESC meeting,

b. Honor Guard

Discussion regarding the possible forming of an Honor Guard that would include members from the departments. The guard membership usually tallies eight (8) members. Potential events requiring an Honor Guard would include sporting events of the community and schools, funerals, etc.

Steve Drummond from Amherst Fire and Joey Malott from Monelison Fire both stated that they have several members interested in this. Brad Beam also stated that Amherst Public Safety also had interested members. Sheriff Ayers and Major Begley both stated that their department as well has members interested. Chief Napier from Pedlar Fire stated that he would bring up for discussion and their meeting later this week.

Training for the designated members would take place prior to an event.

c. Capital Budget Development

Brad Beam discussed the important of the 5-year plan for the needs of each department. This should be discussed within each department and their respective members. Brad and Chris Adams will visit each department within the next few weeks to discuss each department's potential needs for the five (5) year plan.

V. New Business

a. Incident Command/Accountability Board

Discussion on the departments collectively designing an Incident Command/Accountability

Board. Also discussed was a possible "Portable Board" and a "Larger Board", both possibly using a Velcro type sticker. Brad Beam stated that he would bring some samples to the next meeting.

Sheriff Ayers discussed the Sheriff Department's last critical incident whereas the Public Safety Department and their resources, along with other agencies were an invaluable asset to them while conducting the sensitive investigation, allowing closure to a year long investigation. During this investigation, ACPS volunteered their Command Trailer and their Zumro tent. These items were a great asset for the participants to cool, hydrate, communicate and print valuable documents needed at a site. It was also noted that the Command Trailer was functional after arriving at 3 minutes and the Zumro Tent was operational at 17 minutes. He thanked all who assisted his department.

Major Begley stated that the Sheriff Department is 14 shy of valid AED's and they are working on a 50/50 grant with Public Safety for funds.

Brad Beam and Steve Drummond discussed the issues regarding Fire Alarms/calls to Fairmont Crossing. Fairmont is currently working towards correcting the various errors.

It was brought up by several about the possibility of having Building Layouts available. Brad Beam said he hoped that a preplanned walk thru would be obtainable for various facilities as Public Safety has now trained two (2) new Fire Investigators, Jon Thompson and Clay Maddox. He suggested that a 2-page, 2-sided preplan be prepared per building. It would be possible that 100 -150 plans could be prepared because of adding these extra Investigators. Asks that feedback regarding this be brought back to the next meeting. George Napier stated that a preplan of the Building Layout would be helpful for Pedlar Fire. Would be a great asset for a Medical Evacuation.

VI. Matters From The Floor

Major Begley noted that they have two (2) incidents upcoming that would require additional 911 Dispatchers on duty. One beginning Saturday, 9/14 beginning approximately 1900 hours. The second one weather permitting on Saturday, 9/21. Brooke Coleman stated that she is working on the additional staffing in the 911 area for this time frame. The Sheriff Department has funds available to cover the additional overtime for the extra Dispatcher working.

Additional traffic training for the SRO's is taking place over the next thirty (30) days that is increasing call volume to the 911 Dispatchers.

Major Begley complimented the Amherst Fire Department's Drone, he explained how much assistance it's been on recent scenes. It was discussed about possibly using Opioid Abatement Funds to fund some joint drones.

Brooke Coleman discussed the progress being made on the reprogramming and issuing of the new 200 radios. Seven (7) per department. All accessories for the 75's and or 95's being exchanged must be turned in as well. The new radios are coming with their own charging station, battery, antenna, clip, and mike. Will have to add SIM cards to the Chief's radios.

There will be a training video completed for U Tube by Brooke Coleman regarding the features of the new radios.

Nelson County has been added to coverage. Rockbridge County is still working to complete this. Town of Amherst is being added back to the coverage access.

Steve Drummond stated that next week (9/15-9/21) the Amherst Fire Department will be short three (3) volunteer members as they will be out-of-town attending training.

VII. Motion to Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn was made by Steve Drummond. The motion was seconded by Joey Malott. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 19:05. The next Emergency Services Council meeting was agreed to be held on Wednesday, October 9, 2024.