



AMHERST COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES COUNCIL

**119 Taylor Street
Amherst, Virginia 24521**

(434) 946-9307

EMERGENCY DIAL 911

March 12, 2025

MEETING MINUTES

Location: County Administration Building @ 1800

IN ATTENDANCE:

Council Members:

Amherst Fire Department
Monelison Fire Department
Pedlar Fire Department
Amherst County Fire/EMS
Amherst County Sheriff Department
Amherst County Board of Supervisors

Steve Drummond, 1st Assistant Chief, ESC Chair
Joey Malott, Chief
Mike Alger, Assistant Chief
Bradley Beam, Chief
Jimmy Ayers, Sheriff
Chris Adams

Non-Voting County Members:

Amherst County 911 Communications
Amherst County Fire/EMS

Brooke Coleman, Division Manager
Marcia Gilpin, Office Manager/Scribe

Public Attendees:

Lee Day – Pedlar Fire Department
Shannon Daniel – Captain, Monelison Fire Department
Major J.E. Begley – Amherst County Sheriff Department

- I. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Steve Drummond.
- II. The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Lee Day and Steve Drummond respectively.
- III. Approval of Minutes:

Approval of January 8, 2024 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were presented for the January 8, 2025 meeting for approval. Motion to approve minutes was

made by Steve Drummond and seconded by Joey Malott. Motion carried.

IV. Old Business

SOG Approval

Not a lot of headway was made at last months meeting in regard to the Radio SOG . Amherst Fire likes the current adopted procedure and Monelison Fire likes how they do it. Brad mentioned trying to find common ground. Chief Beam stated that Amherst Fire marks up on quiet channel, MFD marks up on OPS channel. Steve Drummond suggested some form of common ground. Once call is marked “call cover”, need to find out what is coming but on a quiet channel. Brad said it is not the responsibility of the Dispatch Center to keep track of call participants. Steve clarified that the command person, who marks up “call covered”, clarified the “how many” specifics. Discussion on the floor regarding Radio Use. Chief Malott said there is a need to know who is responding to the call. Chief Beam said he likes that a probationary member markup with a “P” in front of their department member ID#. The Radio Use SOG was tabled until next meeting for future discussion to allow meeting attendees to further discuss with their departments and try procedure for next few weeks with their department.

Command Board/ICS

Brad presented a sample command board to the participants. It was agreed upon that the Command Board/ICS needs to be simple and uniform across the county. Chief Beam suggested that McBride Sign Company would create Board/Sticker overlay and the stickers. Command vehicles and the other Vehicles have command boards on – board. Also find a hand-held board so also would have the overlays and stickers.

A motion made to use the presented standardize boards by Steve Drummond. Second by Joey Malott. Motion carried.

For those who have already purchased their boards, Chief Beam said that they would need to provide the sizes of their boards so Sticker Overlays could be ordered. He asked that each department member go back to their departments to discuss and bring back input to next meeting so stickers can be ordered. Chief Beam wants to adopt the standard and set-up training. Chief Malott will leave a sample of their board at the MFD Station 1 for Chief Beam.

The Eight (8) Formatted Draft SOG’s were presented to the Board of Supervisors at their March 4, 2025 meeting. The Board mentioned there were some areas that were not quite ready for prime time, i.e, grammatical things, that needed to be cleaned up before approval is given. Jason Friend (MFD) reviewed and critiqued text of each SOG and made some suggestions. Brooke Coleman is reviewing and proofing the edits made. Brad Beam will present them to the Board of Supervisors at their first meeting in April.

V. New Business

Chief Beam discussed the direction given by the SOG to talk with Town of Amherst Police Chief, R. Watts about attending. Chief Watts was very interested in coming. However, the caveat is that the Town Meetings are generally held the same night at ESC meetings are, second Wednesday of the month.

VI. Matters From The Floor

Major Begley discussed the concerns with "ECO" transports for Mental Health Evaluations. Amherst Sheriff Department will do a Courtesy Transport whereas Officer will notify Dispatch to alert CENTRA EC that a transport is being made and is enroute. The individual will have to place possession in a possession bag that will be locked in trunk in the back and also the Individuals would be searched but not handcuffed due to being transported in the Officer's vehicle. Officer would then drop the individual at the doorway of Centra Emergency and then return to duty and leave Centra. At that time, if the individual changes their mind, they are free to leave.

Major Begley inquired as to the possibility of holding a "Joint Summit" when the children are out of school for the summer to hold an "Active Shooter" summit. He suggested that outside sources be sought out who have had Active Shooter Practice. Brad stated that the school is on-board with this. Training for SRO's. Will try to plan for evening training.

Chief Beam informed the members that Amherst County Fire & EMS has received state certification for an NAEMT Training Site, Paramedic/FF Kenny Malloch is a certified instructor.

Brooke Coleman announced 911 Communications week the week of April 14-18 and asked that any departments wishing to provide a meal, lunch/dinner for the days Monday thru Friday, to contact Marcia so meals can be coordinated for both day and evening dispatch shifts. Evening time would be roughly 7:00 - 730 pm, whereas lunch would be 1130-130 time frame.

Chris Adams discussed the BOS Budget Meeting previously held today. Taking a beating, \$222,000 short-fall to have a balanced budget in budget. Does not add in any supplemental amounts or capital improvement plans. Amount is only to keep the doors open. The one budget item affecting the Emergency Services Council is the \$118,000 set aside yearly is on the chopping block. This is a rolling fund, accumulating for volunteer departments to request. ~\$330,000 amount in line now. County is in a real tight spot. Does not affect ATL funds or other volunteer budget items. Bottom line would be not adding the additional \$118,000 this year. Once the figures come back after re-assessments, the County will have a better idea as to what amount is available to the County. There is another budget meeting scheduled for March 18. We know we need to provide services. Sheriff and Public Safety are getting the biggest hit, budget year.

In regard to Public Safety Department, BREMS office is closing June 30 this year and last year state mandate required establishing the Pharmacy. Sheriff is sacrificing vehicle that they need, Public Safety needs ambulance. Most important areas are Police, Fire & Safety, and Education.

Personal and Property Taxes may improve but we just do not know the bottom line as to funding.

Lee Day brought up the situation regarding the Mr. Daniel and the River Road incident. Documentation i.e, as to a near-miss report. Important to establish a record.

Joey Malott brought up that Jason Friend of MFD wants to finish their rules and regulations and asked for guidance on the under 16 age for individual becoming an active member. Monelison Fire has a 14 year old that wants to join. Brad stated that the County Regulation (€ 11.5-17) states age of 16 and 17 are authorized with parental consent to work with, and participate in activities.

Minors fourteen (14) years of age and fifteen (15) years of age shall not participate in firefighting or support activities at the fire scene, enter a burning structure, enter a structure which contains burning materials, or engage in any other activity prohibited by law. Minors under fourteen (16) years of age shall not participate in any activity related to firefighting, no call responses. They are allowed to do station chores.

Departments should have specific written rules pertaining to membership additions.

Discussion between Brad Beam and Mike Alger in regard to being better partners with the Pedlar Fire Department. Four employees of ACF&E that will be rotating to Pedlar Station on their shift (Larry Barbour, Rorer Payne, Andy Taylor and Clay Maddox) starting April. They will be trained to check the Pedlar Apparatus and will responding Pedlar Fire apparatus to fire calls in Pedlar's first due area, they will not routinely response to a Mutual Aid call.

Discussion was brought up to change the meeting frequency to by-monthly now that the SOPs are near completion. No objection.

Brad instructed Marcia to let Jarred Scott know he has to attend the next meeting in Brad's absence.

VII. Motion to Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn was made by Steve Drummond. The motion was seconded by Joey Malott. Motion carried. The next Emergency Services Council meeting was agreed to be held on Wednesday, May 14, 2025. Location will be the Administrative Conference Room at 153 Washington Street.