



# Amherst County EMERGENCY SERVICES COUNCIL

May 14, 2014

Danny Tucker called the meeting to order at 1900. Opening silent prayer was made and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was made.

A motion was made by Vickie Padgett and seconded by Trent Richie to approve the April 9, 2014 minutes. Motion carried.

## **TRAINING:**

Gary advised that Jeff Tanner and Charlseas Goodin have completed the EMT class schedule for the fall. More information will be distributed to promote the class.

Trent Richie discussed the Fire Attack / Firefighter I class. Trent advised that he has talked to Don Brown in regards to doing a "blended" class which consists of on line and some classroom for both programs. Trent advised that the online classes must be done within 60 days before doing some practicals such as PPE. Trent advised that the class will be using the sixth edition and that those taking the class will also need Hazmat OPS for Fire Attack and Firefighter I to get their certification. A discussion was held in regards to using the computer lab at the high school to give all students access to a computer and to take class as a group. The ESC was in agreement to use the blended approach for the Fire attack and Firefighter I class

Dates for Skills drill will be announced.

The BLS continuing education weekend will be held on June 28-29 at Amherst Life Saving Crew.

The Chiefs will meet following this meeting to determine which funded Virginia Department of Fire Programs classes they would like to apply for in order that the form can be completed, signed by all Chiefs and the Director of Public Safety and submitted to VDFP.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Gary advised the ESC that the Board of Supervisors was looking at changing the funding process for FY 2014-FY 2015. Gary stated that the only process that has changed, at this time, is the application that must be completed to receive any funding. The Board of Supervisors voted that any agency outside of the County government must complete this application, not just fire and EMS agencies. Gary distributed the application to all agencies and advised to see the list of items on the last page that is also required.

Gary also advised that the Board discussed, with no action taken, the possibility of paying common monthly invoices such as electrical, phone; heating oil/gas to see if that would assist the volunteer agencies. Gary also advised that the Board discussed holding the capital money until it is needed instead of just disbursing to the agencies. Gary advised that they are not cutting the money but just holding onto it until it is needed. The agency would then come through the ESC

and then to the Board to get funding for capital equipment. Gary also advised that the Board discussed in order to get capital money for vehicles that the agency would have to agree to co-title any new vehicle purchased after a certain date to the County. Gary advised the Board took no action on these matters and wants input from the ESC.

A discussion was held regarding these matters. In regards to capital funds, the question was asked if the funds are not used, will the money roll over each year for each specific agency.

Glenda advised that the agencies have not asked for more money in several years and the agencies manage their money well which has allowed them to save money along the way. In addition, part of their money comes from donations, memorial etc.

Charlsea advised that they put money in bank and draw interest as well.

Trent advised that the current disbursement method is better way to handle the funding.

Ernie advised that the Chiefs and Captains watch budgets for their respective departments. He also asked what is the chance Board members would visit each fire and rescue department to learn more about the operations?

Vickie advised that Monelison Fire and Rescue put money into separate accounts for operation, capital, four for life, ATL etc to more accurately account for usage.

In regards to co-titling, the question was asked if they would have to put every person name on title that made a donation and would the truck have to go to lowest bid. Gary advised that no, personal names would not go on title but the county has a significant amount of money tied up in emergency vehicles over the years and insure the same vehicles with no ownership. This also helps to ensure that the equipment would be there in case an agency elects to close down operations – the county would have the equipment to continue to serve.

Robert Curd also advised that some of it is being driven by legislature such as the Medicare /Medicaid billing issues with the EMS agencies last year where the County had to sign a lease to use the volunteer equipment of which some was purchased with County funds.

A motion was made by Ernie Cash and seconded by Trent Richie to leave funding processes for the County volunteer fire and EMS agencies in place utilizing the current system with no changes. Motion carried.

Date for recognition dinner to be determined.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

The ESC discussed the issues being experienced by some of the rescue squads with the current oxygen supplier that they receive their oxygen which include overbilling or billing for tanks not delivered. Gary will check with local vendors and get quotes and distribute to the squad for them to decide what they would like to do.

Ernie advised that he attended an event at Concord Fire and Safety regarding turnout gear and the possibility of looking at a new vendor for the gear – Lion. He will get some samples to review and compare against the current vendor – Morning Pride. He stated that the new gear is lighter in weight.

Gary also advised for any department to submit invoices for turnout gear by the end of June for reimbursement. There is a limited amount of money and depending on the request will determine how the money will be split amongst the agencies.

Trent advised the ladder truck is out of service. It has failed state inspection and the UL inspection noted issues on the outriggers, winch on the ladder and other matters. Amherst Fire Department will review the cost of repairs and determine if the truck should be repaired or begin reviewing the need to replace.

The ESC agreed to have monthly meetings to address the fire and EMS study. The next meeting will be on June 18, 2014 and address focus area #2: Recruitment and Retention.

A motion to adjourn was made by Cheryl Tomlin and second by Trent Richie. Motion carried.

Respectively Submitted  
Gary M. Roakes