



**AMHERST COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES  
COUNCIL**

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

**EMERGENCY DIAL 911**

**March 28, 2024**

**MEETING MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING**

**Location:** County Administration Building @ 1800

In attendance:

Amherst Fire Department -	Steve Drummond, Chair
	Jeff Tanner, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief
Amherst Life Saving-	Charlsea Goodin, Captain
Monelison Fire Department-	Steve Owen, Assistant Chief
	Jason Friend, Associate Member
Monelison Rescue-	R. W. Woody, Captain
Pedlar Fire Department-	George Napier, Chief
	H. Lee Day
Amherst Public Safety-	Bradley Beam, Director
	Marcia Gilpin, Office Manager/Scribe
911 Communications-	Brooke Coleman-911 Communications Manager
Board of Supervisors Representative-	Chris Adams
News & Advance Representative-	Justin Faulkener

- I. The ESC Meeting was called to order at 18:05 by Chair Steve Drummond.
- II. Steve Drummond led the Pledge of Allegiance and Jason Friend led the Invocation.
- III. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes were presented for the January 10, 2024 Meeting for Approval. Motion by Steve Drummond to approve. Motion seconded by Steve Owen. Unanimous vote by council members to approve.

#### **IV. Old Business - Fire Training Facility**

Brad Beam discussed how the Sunday, March 24, 2024 live burn training exercise for Instructors/Chiefs went well. Were able to determine where to “tweak” areas. There will be a county wide (meaning the five volunteer departments and available Department of Public Safety personnel) live burn training event on Saturday, April 20, 2024.

Brad mentioned that an electrical meter was donated to Chief Tom Martin at the Amherst Fire Department. An old tractor trailer was donated to the facility and transported to the facility by Chris Adams. Volunteers cleaned and painted the trailer. Also, bleachers were built to accommodate any viewers attending. Installation of Garage and Carport to take place possible next week (April 1-5),

Work days need to be scheduled going forward with the hope that volunteers will step up.

Brad Beam also mentioned that monies had been appropriated/approved for another future department wide Banquet. Time will allow for a better planning of such.

#### **V. New Business**

##### **a. Joint BOS Meeting Action Items**

1. SOG Development – There currently is a total of 21 SOGs (Standard Operating Guidelines). Last update was November 2018. After discussion, it was decided to separate SOGs into smaller groups. For the next meeting of the Council suggestions from members for the first four (4) SOGs are to be forwarded to Brad Beam prior and would be discussed.
2. Volunteer Recruitment Strategies- Several suggestions were brought up and discussed in regard to recruitment strategies. Chris Adams and/or Brad Beam to approach Dr. William Wells about scheduling Career Days at schools; scheduling work days at the departments whereby interested individuals could experience what goes on in the department and perhaps have some hands on. Charlie Goodin brought up the issue about students attending EMS class at CVCC for roughly 3-4hours in the morning. Since the students want to experience and participate in the activities at school, it leaves them no time to volunteer.
3. EMS Volunteer Volunteering with the County- Discussion regarding the possibility of posting the volunteer application on the County Website in order to be more accessible to the public. The hope is that at some point soon volunteers and career personnel will be working together.

**On a Special Note:** Charlseas Goodin, Amherst Life Saving Captain gave an update on the dissolution of their corporation and merging with the Public Safety Department effective June 30, 2024. An additional three months will be taken by ALS to clear any bills, etc. The ALS covers roughly 40 various events within the northern part of Amherst County yearly and hopes to continue to do so.

4. Name Change- It has been discussed that the name “Amherst Public Safety” be changed to **“AMHERST COUNTY FIRE AND EMS”**. The term Public Safety seems to infer other items such as Sheriff, Public Works, etc. Chief Steve Drummond stated that the name change would better reflect what Public Safety really does, Fire and EMS. This new name change would also be a reflection of all of the departments, career and volunteer cooperating.
5. Authority and Accountability- Brad Beam discussed that the County Attorney, Mark Popovich has drafted an ordinance change that the board will be evaluating to change the County Code to be made legally and make recommendations.

An example was presented as:

Two departments being in disagreement and cannot obtain a common result – this would be presented to the Emergency Services Council membership for resolution.

Jason Friend suggested that all review the Amherst County Code of Ordinances 11.5, Items 1 & outline as well as the Code of Virginia Title 27.

6. Mission, Vision, and Value Statement development- Suggestion were made as follows:
  - A Mission Statement be developed as currently there is no Mission Statement for Fire and EMS.
  - Hold a workshop for interested citizens of the County.
  - Offer field trips to the Fire Training Facility
7. ESC Meeting Frequency- It was decided to hold monthly meetings rather than quarterly

## **VI. Matters From The Floor**

1. Steve Owen, from Monelison Fire Department submitted three proposals for the replacement of the Air Compressor at MFD. MFD is asking for the Emergency Services Council to reimburse them for the cost of replacing the compressor. The three price quotes were a wide range of prices. It was suggested that MFD obtain clarification as to what each vendor is offering for their price quotes, and will be re-addressed at the next Emergency Services Council Meeting on April 10.
2. Discussion was held regarding upcoming big ticket expense items being presented by October as to incorporate into the CIP budget process.

3. Discussion regarding having private citizens added to the Emergency Services Council as non-voting members. It was suggested that the individual have familiarity with Fire & EMS. This was tabled for now.

**VII.** Motion to Adjourn –

Motion to adjourn made by Steve Drummond. Seconded by Steve Owen. Meeting adjourned at 19:45. Next meeting to be held Wednesday, April 10, 2024.