



AMHERST COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES COUNCIL

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

**MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 6, 2020**

Location: County Administration Building @1900

In attendance:

- J. Malott – Monelison Fire Department
- J. Friend - Monelison Fire Department
- S. Owen – Monelison Fire Department
- S. Drummond – Amherst Fire Department
- C. Goodin – Amherst Life Saving Crew
- D. Campbell – Amherst Public Safety – 911 Communications
- J. Toliver – Amherst Public Safety – 911 Communications
- S. Bryant – Amherst Public Safety

The ES Meeting was called to order at 1900 hours.

Prayer: - J. Friend
Pledge of Allegiance - All

Chairman J. Malott called the meeting to order at 1900 p.m.

Discussion of previous meeting minutes.

Motion to Accept Minutes of July 29, 2020 Meeting:

AYE: J. Malott, J. Friend, S. Owen, S. Drummond, C. Goodin, D. Campbell, J. Toliver, S. Bryant
NAY: NONE

There was no public citizen comment.

New Business:

1. Call Boxes at the following stations:

Elon

Box Bad – Box to be replaced by spare call box was determined by S. Bryant that this call box had been used four (4) times since 2018 and each time was a test only.

According to J. Friend, Station 3 is not located in a dead zone.

Pedlar

Call box works

Amherst Life Saving

Questionable

All call boxes at these three locations are tied into the land line telephone bill.

Should call boxes go bad, it was determined not to replace call box.

This topic will be revisited at a future meeting.

2. POV's (Personal Owned Vehicles) Responding to Incidents

Discussion: Unless members live close to station, Monelison Fire Department members respond in POV's. The use of POV's create possible accidents.

3. Modular 2 Training

26 People out of 30 training spaces occupied – social distancing (6 feet) and use of masks

4. Steve Drummond of Amherst Fire Department stated that the Air Compressor of Amherst Fire Department (Cascade System) is the oldest in the County (20+ years and has already been rebuilt once.) They have been obtaining several estimate/bids and would like to request funds from the County Emergency Services Council to subsidise cost.

Sam Bryant said a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors is needed for the request.

Jason Friend of Monelison Fire Department stated that the MFD compressor is 25 years old and should be replaced in approximately 5 years.

MOTION:

S. Bryant recommended that a \$50,000 request be made to the Board of Supervisors

Motion made by S. Drummond.

Motion seconded by J. Malott

5. Pedlar EMS Call Response & Relocation

Presentation to the Board of Supervisors by S. Bryant was as follows:

Concerns by citizens of the area that Pedlar serves that there is no medic representation during the day. (Pedlar Medic Unit stays at station for approximately 2 hours daily then has been relocating to Monelison Station until about 1800 – 1900 hour, then returning to Pedlar Station.)

Medic Unit Response Time 26 Minutes

Percentage of Calls since February 2020:

Monelison – 61%

Amherst – 31%

Pedlar – 4%

MOTION:

Move the Pedlar Medic Unit after initial 2 hours daily to Amherst Station and return to Pedlar Station around 1800 – 1900 hour.

Motion made by S. Bryant

Motion seconded by S. Drummond

6. Disconnect with some members in 911 Communication Center and Monelison Fire Dept. Members

J. Friend of Monelison Fire Department suggested there was some non-professional radio etiquette between Dispatchers and MFD members. Seemed to be discrepancy with toning Fire Departments vs Medic Crews to incidents.

J. Toliver, 911 Communications Dispatcher spoke that at times she has one call on a channel and another call comes in on the same channel that another dispatcher takes. This takes a little time for her to regroup and find her data. Suggested 1 channel per 1 dispatcher.

D. Campbell, 911 Communications Supervisor spoke about her work on Standard Operating Procedures for the 911 Communications Department.

Warnings from the State are sent if response times are greater than 20 minutes.

7. Discussion on Wrecker Usage for Vehicles on Incidents

S. Bryant referenced fire incident on 240 Ridge Crest (generator accident) where the Monelison Fire Engine was extensively stuck, and could have been badly damaged when dislodged by the wrecker from being stuck. However, wrecker company, Piedmont Fleet Services did a remarkable job and the cost was reasonable considering the amount of work involved.

S. Bryant stated that the normal company used County wide would be:

First – Cash's

Second – Piedmont Fleet Services

Because it was related to an incident response, our insurance company would cover expense up to \$20,000.

8. Discussion for Upcoming Meeting:

The normal upcoming meeting scheduled would be January 2021. However, a tentative meeting was mentioned to be held on Wednesday, December 9, 2020.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Motion made by S. Owen

Motion seconded by S. Drummond