



Samuel A. Bryant  
Director

## AMHERST COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY

P.O. BOX 140, 119 TAYLOR STREET, AMHERST, VIRGINIA 24521  
EMERGENCY 911 ~ BUSINESS 434.946.9307 ~ FAX 434.946.9470 ~ COMMUNICATIONS 434-946-9300

### Amherst County Emergency Services Council Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2019 at the Amherst Fire Department 7 PM

ESC Council members in attendance: Charlie Goodin, Danny Tucker, Joey Mallott, Sam Bryant, Tom Martin. Jimmy Ayers-Chairman of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors.

Fire & EMS in Attendance: Glenda Hash, Jarred Scott, Joey Greer, Mike Alger.

Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag, call the meeting to order by Tom Martin.

Discussion on the volunteer Rescue Squads participation in covering 911 Emergency Medical Service calls in Amherst County. Tom Martin stated that this is an important topic of discussion by all that needs teamwork, understanding and respect by all.

Going around the room to individual Rescue Squad Captains for discussion on membership.

Amherst Captain Charlie Goodin stated that she has sent e-mail out trying to engage her membership in order to run EMS calls. Charlie stated that there are times that their members run third provider with career Amherst County Public Safety members. She has one new member who has not tested for their EMT as of yet. They are in clinical rotations right now. Charlie stated that she does not have the answer on how to get her membership out to run EMS calls. Her members cite competing priorities, having two jobs due to having children in college. She has no solution to offer to make a difference in call coverage and participation.

ACPS EMS Captain Jarred Scott was called from the floor by Tom Martin and asked if the third provider added value or not? He answered: Some growing of the EMS Provider takes place, some precepting takes place, he also stated that it was not very often to have a third provider riding and it added little value to call coverage. He stated that there was more support from the Fire Department side presently.

Amherst Life Saving & First Aid Crew member Glenda Hash spoke up from the floor in support of the third provider riding with ACPS members.

Tom Martin stated that this does not help with the response to calls when additional help in the form of call coverage is needed. It seems difficult to get a volunteer staffed ambulance out. Sam Bryant brought up a continued standard of care concern. Tom Martin asked how sustainable this was. No real answer given other than it is not. Sam Bryant spoke of the current Medical Director Dr. Marilyn McLeod leaving the area and the new Medical Director Dr. Wendy

Wilcoxson moving into her place as the BREMS Regional Medical Director. Tom Martin stated that the consideration to have a third provider on an ACPS ambulance on Thursday evenings and one weekend a month may be worth a coverage try.

Monelison Captain Vickie Padgett spoke of call response and coverage of her organization by meeting with all members to cover calls more than the eighteen hours a month. She stated that Jim Fontaine was present. She stated that there are a couple of members that will not keep their radio on. RW Woody comes out, two others have children and one other does not come out. She spoke of no third provider on a ACPS truck at this time and that there have been times that this helped with a blended crew in the past. Talk of eight shifts a month for volunteer coverage on a volunteer staffed ambulance. Robert and Morgan are covering some Saturdays for four to six hours. Tom Martin asks how sustainable this is? Vickie Padgett answers that they are doing the best that they can do.

Exercise on the eraser board by Tom Martin: True or False? The ACPS Career Staff came into existence to support the volunteer organizations and now we are one hundred and eighty degrees off. The overall answer by all was true.

Tom Martin asked Charlie about relationships between ACPS members and volunteer members, she stated that everyone is included in Thursday night dinners and weekend lunches. Food together and chores together works well. They all work well together and also supplies are checked together and this also works well. They try to make it comfortable for the ACPS members and it works well. She stated that it has cost 41 K to maintain the building at the Amherst Life Saving & First Aid Crew.

Tom Martin posed the same question to Vickie Padgett asking about the relationship between volunteer members and ACPS members. She stated they get their supplies from ACPS and keep some at their station. She said that she does not see the ACPS members as she works. She used RW as example of picking up EMS supplies through ACPS. Some discussion on an ambulance being moved to Amherst and there was a patient bleeding. Strained relationships were discussed between Monelison Volunteer Rescue Squad membership and ACPS members. The question was asked is this perception or reality by Tom Martin. Vickie stated that it had cost them thirty-eight to forty-one thousand dollars to maintain the building and keep it going. Tom Martin conveyed to Vickie Padgett that there is a strained relationship in

Amherst County Administrator Dean Rodgers stated that the county was paying high rent in these buildings. Tom Martin stated that this was a fair statement with the costs associated and presented tonight.

Tom Martin described the meeting that was missed by some members to address the low salaries for ACPS members and our 911 Tele-communicators and the market value up to 200K

needed to get salaries in line. This will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for consideration for a one cent tax increased used for this purpose.

Discussion on the environment at the Monelson Volunteer Rescue Squad building. Examples were given by Sam Bryant for instances that have created an uncomfortable atmosphere at the Monelson Volunteer Rescue Squad. These included ACPS members being complained about for washing their vehicles, camera installation and observation of daily activities. RW Woody spoke up from the floor stating that the Amherst Fire Department had cameras. Tom Martin stated that they did not need the cameras. Sam Bryant discussed how the Monelson Rescue Station was in the busiest territory for EMS calls and the feeling of being mistreated while assigned to that station. A statement was made that the volunteer members are trying to support the career ACPS members by Danny Tucker of the Pedlar Fire Department.

Glenda Hash spoke from the floor that the Amherst Life Saving & First Aid Crew membership was dying. Their membership and leadership are trying to bring the building up to top shape. Examples include: New windows-14K, painted 12K, the kitchen is next with parking lot work also. Discussion on Handicapped access, Generator maintenance and a small hold to get some of the work done.

Discussion on Volunteer EMS assimilating into ACPS as Pedlar Fire & Rescue did in the recent past. Charlie Goodin stated that members of the Amherst Life Saving & First Aid Crew were open to this. Vickie Padgett stated that all Monelson Rescue assets will go to the Monelson Volunteer Fire Department. Discussion between Sam Bryant and Charlie Goodin on how that would work and a future based on teamwork.

Amherst County Administrator Dean Rodgers spoke of the importance of us all working together for a common goal. Not doing so strains people and those we serve. Attributes to no extra help and sharing a facility with a land lord. We should think about recruiting, friendships, and those close to us that may help. Amherst County has been covering the fuel and insurance to assist volunteer agencies. Dean would like to see big crews and equipment. No having to focus on buildings. Focus on your role in the organization.

Tom Martin stated that the Fire Departments are covering their calls for service, let's stop talking and debating on the issue of not covering calls by Volunteer EMS members. Our Emergency Service Council asked the Rescue Squad Captains to come to this meeting with answers that have not been given. The I don't know answer is not good enough for our Amherst County Board of Supervisors.

Pedlar Fire Chief Danny Tucker gave the example of what his department Pedlar Fire & Rescue was able to do. They were proactive as they could not sustain the EMS part of the organization by running a few calls a year and expect funding from county government. They wanted no waste of tax payer money. This was very tough to hear and do. They got through it and now Amherst County pays one half of the utilities at the Pedlar Fire Station where ACPS members are stationed with an in-service ambulance.

Discussion on a vote by the Amherst County Emergency Services Council needed in the future to recommend to the Board of Supervisors on whether or not to fund the Volunteer Rescue Squads in Amherst County in the future. Joey Mallott and Tom Martin discussion.

Captain Charlie Goodin spoke of the coverage they provide to the fall festivals and how this keeps the ACPS members from having to do this also.

Captain Vickie Padgett stated that it would be a miracle if they made it through this year and the Monelison Corporation would have to make a decision. Other members may just walk away.

Tom Martin stated that there was progress made tonight. Dean Rodgers stated that the budget was done and there was no wiggle room. Tom Martin asked that we use the coming year to improve relationships. Dean Rodgers asked that there be a way forward and to please speak to the respective corporate boards about your intentions to dissolve and come into Amherst County Public Safety. Please bring this information back to the Amherst County Emergency Services Council.

There was additional discussion on of the volume of county fairs and events covered by Volunteer members. Glenda Hash made the comment that this saves ACPS money.

Comments on the sentiment related to Rescue Squads in general and looking for a path forward for all including the respective boards. There may be a dissolution on what it would look like to join ACPS as a volunteer member. What does this look like? Bring answers to the July 2019 ESC meeting. Discussion on new volunteers and tenured members of organizations.

Pedlar Fire Chief Danny Tucker stated that he would let the ESC know about the need for staffing at his Fire Station when he came back to a meeting.

Tom Martin thanked everyone in attendance and also said this was hard.

Motion made by Danny Tucker to adjourn and seconded by Sam Bryant to adjourn from the ESC meeting.