



**AMHERST COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES
COUNCIL**

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

EMERGENCY DIAL 911

November 13, 2024

MEETING MINUTES

Location: County Administration Building @ 1800

IN ATTENDANCE:

Council Members:

Amherst Fire Department
Monelison Fire Department
Monelison Rescue Squad
Amherst County Public Safety
Board of Supervisors
Amherst County Sheriff Department

Steve Drummond, 1st Assistant Chief, ESC Chair
Joey Malott, Chief
R.W. Woody, Captain
Bradley Beam, Director
Chris Adams
J.E. Begley, Major

Non-Voting County Members:

911 Communications Manager
Amherst County Public Safety

Amherst County Public Safety

Brooke Coleman
Jarred Scott, Deputy Director
Ben Bond, EMS Division Mgr.
Marcia Gilpin, Office Manager, Scribe

Public Attendees:

Lee Day--Pedlar Fire Department
Jim Fontaine—Monelison Resuce Squad
Shannon Daniel --Captain, Monelison Fire Dept.
Jeff Hilty-- Monelison Fire Dept.
Jeff Tanner—Amherst Fire Department

- I. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Steve Drummond.
- II. Invocation was given by Ben Bond. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Steve Drummond.
- III. Approval of Minutes:

- a. Approval of September 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were presented for the September 11, 2024 meeting for approval. Motion to approve September 11, 2024 meeting minutes was made by Steve Drummond. Seconded by Joey Malott. Motion carried unanimously.

- IV. Old Business

- a. SOG development (CO Responses)

The final SOG Document (Carbon Monoxide Alarms and Suspected Carbon Monoxide Leaks) was presented to the attendees. Brad Beam requested that each department take back to their perspective departments for review and discussion, and bring their department comments back to the December 2024 meeting.

SOGs ideas from each department

Chief Beam asked if any additional SOG's need to be added. Attending members stated that there were no additions.

- b. Honor Guard

Discussion regarding formulation of the Honor Guard that took place. Chief Beam stated that Chief Tom Martin - Amherst Fire Department, Chief Joey Malott - Monelison Fire Department, Captain Joy Byrnes - Amherst County Fire/EMS have committed so far. Discussions within departments will continue and feedback give at December meeting.

Major Begley mentioned the possibility of a "Joint" County Honor Guard.

- c. Capital Budget Development

Chief Beam discussed the importance of receiving the input from each department regarding their potential needs for five (5) year plan. Steve Drummond – AFD and Joey Malott-MFD, both recommended that ESC members go back to their departments to discuss and bring potential needs to next meeting to give to Chief Beam.

- d. Formatting for SOG

Chief Beam gave an example of a Public Safety SOG and its format to each member attendee to discuss with their department members and return with input to the December meeting. After deciding on the format, a vote will be taken to approve the revised SOGs. Thereafter, Chief

Beam will present to the Board of Supervisors in January 2025 for their approval.

V. New Business

a. Incident Command/Accountability Board

An example of an Incident/Accountability Board was brought by Deputy Chief Jarred Scott. This is one he uses in his county vehicle. It is a portable, large board with Velcro type stickers that can be changed out. It is a portable board and mounts on dash board of the vehicle.

Chief Beam gave a printed handout showing possible samples. He stated that an Incident Command/Accountability Board would allow the Incident Command individual to have an individual take over the board while Command would direct the incident response. Chief Malott stated that Monelison Fire had purchase materials to construct several boards for their department.

b. Annual Joint Department Banquet

Chief Beam announced that the annual joint departmental banquet is scheduled for January 11, 2025, and is to be held at Sweet Briar College from 6 PM to 11 PM. He stated that the County has graciously agreed to pick up the tab for the expenses, including facility rental, servers, and food. Steve Drummond said he would verify that Amherst Fire Department would take care of obtaining the DJ for the event. A similar process would be implemented regarding the alcohol beverages.

Chief Beam stated that Brad Creasy, Executive Director of the Virginia Department of Fire Programs will be the guest speaker for the event.

c. Upcoming Training Events

Jeff Tanner discussed a number of upcoming training events that will be available.

Pace walk thru 12/5 @ 18:00

Spec pack and ropes 12/19 @ 18:00

FF 1 starting 1/6

Instructor 1 1/28

Surface water and passenger vehicle in 2026

Officer 1 in the summer

Officer 2 in the fall

Monthly Fire and EMS training (Jeff will send a schedule out)

NFA class in the summer

Vehicle rescue in the fall

Propane after the first of the year

RIT and survival in the fall

VI. Matters From The Floor

R.W. Woody, Captain-Monelison Rescue Squad (MRS) wanted to discuss on-going issues that MRS has been faced with over the past year regarding chain-of-command at the Captain/LT level. Woody began discussing the Rescue Squads Board of Directors (BOD) and conflicts the general Monelison Rescue membership has with their own BOD. Board Member Adams reminded Mr. Woody that this was probably not the venue to air grievances they had with their own Board of Directors and invited Woody to meet with himself and Chief Beam after the ESC meeting. Mr. Woody agreed that was probably best.

It was formally announced by Chief Beam that MRS had been notified that Amherst County would not be signing Monelison Volunteer Rescue Squad's Designated Emergency Response Agency (DERA) for the upcoming Office of EMS Inspection which is set to expire November 30, 2024.

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, December 18, 2024.