

Spotsylvania County, Virginia
Public Safety Committee Meeting, July 8, 2020 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ernest Bartosh, Citizen Representative, Committee Chairman
Charles Carey, Captain, Sheriff's Office
Mark Cole, Deputy County Administrator
Jay Cullinan, Fire Chief, FREM
Matthew Embrey, Emergency Management Coordinator, FREM
Barry Jett, Board of Supervisors, Livingston District
Kevin Marshall, Board of Supervisors, Berkeley District (*entered the meeting at 2:26 p.m.*)
Jane Reeve, Director of Information Services (IS)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Becky Skebo, 911 Communications Manager

STAFF PRESENT: Donna Curry, Secretary, FREM

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Bartosh called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Bartosh asked if there were any additions or deletions to the minutes of January 8, 2020. Chief Embrey stated that he had two (2) edits with regard to the upcoming exercise with the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). He requested that the wording be changed to the following: *"Chief Embrey reported that the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) has joined forces with the Traffic Incident Management System (TIMS) for a haz-mat based exercise which will include law enforcement, hospitals, and A. P. Hill. He explained that the exercise would be similar to the previous exercise on Interstate 95."*

Mr. Jett made a motion, seconded by Chief Cullinan to approve the minutes as revised. Ayes: Bartosh, Carey, Cole, Cullinan, Embrey, Jett, Reeve. Nays: None. Absent: Marshall, Skebo.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Bartosh presented a plaque to Mr. Greg Benton for his dedicated service to the Public Safety Committee while serving on the Board of Supervisors from 2018-2019. Mr. Benton thanked the Committee for the plaque and for allowing him to serve in this capacity.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Bartosh opened the floor for public comment. There being none, the public comment period was closed.

INFORMATION SERVICES (IS) PUBLIC SAFETY PROJECTS STATUS REPORT

Keith Pusso, IS Division Director of Public Safety, reported on the following:

- NG911: Fairfax County has gone live and is the only locality to do so at this point. He stated that there is no update as to when Spotsylvania County will go live and indicated that he is also waiting on work to be completed by Verizon.
- Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD): CAD training is currently underway. He indicated that the Project is moving along very well and anticipates going live toward the fourth (4th) quarter of CY21 (approximately October 4, 2021).

Mrs. Reeve reported that the Geographic Information System (GIS) has been completely overhauled and is now a GIS Hub. She stated that the purchase order has been submitted to purchase separate devices for the front and rear of the fire apparatus.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

STATUS OF PUBLIC SAFETY CAPITAL PROJECTS

Chief Cullinan updated the Committee on the status of the following Capital Projects:

- Apparatus Update: FREM is about to take delivery of two (2) tankers and an engine which are currently located with the vendor in Richmond. He indicated that engineering is currently underway for a new heavy rescue which will replace a 2001 vehicle. The new fire boat is in service and in the process of establishing a home which will most likely require the construction of a dock. Chief Cullinan stated that two (2) ambulances are anticipated to be delivered within the next six (6) months.

- Station expansion/replacement:

Station 3 Replacement Project: Chief Cullinan reported that the Station 3 Replacement Project is moving forward with the parcel of property on Wallers Road, which is owned by the County.

Station 6 Expansion Project: Chief Cullinan indicated that the Station 6 Expansion Project is in the permitting process phase and is moving forward in the current Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) process.

Training Center Project: Chief Cullinan stated that the Training Center Project has been put on hold for now due to the pandemic and limited CIP funds. He indicated that staff is preparing to begin Physical Agility Testing (PAT) soon. He explained that a long term location is needed in order to set up the testing course. He stated that FREM is currently researching options with a longer term lease to house the PAT course and a Logistics Center with funding from the CARES Act.

Mr. Cole stated that many of the CIP Projects have been put on hold this year which included Station 12

Captain Carey reported on the status of the following Capital Projects:

- Animal Shelter Project: The Animal Shelter Project is currently on schedule.
- Courthouse Expansion Project: The Courthouse Project is currently on schedule.

- Firing Range Project: Captain Carey stated that the Firing Range Project has been put on hold as the funding has not been released.

STATUS UPDATE REGARDING STAFFING - Sheriff

Captain Carey stated that the Sheriff's Office has hired six (6) individuals in the past six (6) months. He noted that there are currently seven (7) vacancies.

STATUS UPDATE REGARDING STAFFING – FREM

Chief Cullinan reported that FREM staffing is doing very well due to the implementation of the new Pay and Compensation Plan. He indicated that, at present, there are four (4) vacancies compared to more than twenty (20) at this same time last year. He stated that there is anticipation of a Recruit Academy in October/November timeframe; however, it will be much smaller in number.

With regard to volunteer staffing at the stations, Spotsylvania Volunteer Fire Department (SVFD) has had an increase of twenty-five (25) new members. Chief Cullinan stated that the Spotsylvania Volunteer Rescue Squad (SVRS) has had a slight increase and Chancellor Volunteer Fire and Rescue (CVFR) are maintaining twenty (20) to thirty (30) members. He indicated that he has asked CVFR to staff when they can; however, they do not contribute to base staffing.

INSURANCE SERVICES OFFICE (ISO) CLASSIFICATION PROCESS

Chief Cullinan stated that the data is still being reviewed by ISO, following a site visit in 2017.

911 CENTER PERSONNEL CLASSIFICATION LEGISLATION UPDATE

Captain Carey had no update regarding the proposed legislation. He stated that per Mrs. Skebo, there is one (1) Dispatcher vacancy and nine (9) call taker vacancies.

VOLUNTEER POLICY DEVELOPMENT FOR NEW COMPUTER AIDED DISPATCH (CAD) SYSTEM

The Volunteer Policy has been delayed until after the CAD training is completed.

NEW BUSINESS

PETITION FOR A TRAFFIC LIGHT TO BE INSTALLED AT THE INTERSECTION OF JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY AND LARKINCHEW ROAD

Mr. Bartosh stated that he had received correspondence from a citizen, which included a petition from community members, regarding safety concerns at the intersection of Larkinchew Road and North Point Drive. He indicated that he had planned to discuss this issue at the April 8, 2020 meeting; however, the pandemic caused the meeting to be canceled. Therefore, he forwarded the information to County Administration for review.

Mr. Marshall stated that VDOT had conducted a review of the site but didn't feel that a traffic light is warranted at this time. He indicated that he disagreed with the determination.

Mr. Bartosh suggested that the Committee send a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to request that VDOT reconsider its decision.

By consensus, the Secretary will draft a letter of recommendation to the Board on behalf of the Committee to request that VDOT reconsider its decision for a traffic light at this location due to the school traffic (both buses and individual), in addition to the industrial traffic associated with the County Fleet Maintenance facility located nearby.

In addition, the Secretary will draft a letter in response to the citizen from whom the initial safety concerns were raised with VDOT's decision and the Public Safety Committee's recommendation to the Board of Supervisor for reconsideration.

COVID-19 STATUS/IMPACTS

Chief Embrey provided an update to the Committee regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic including:

- The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was staffed consistently beginning March 17, 2020 – June 12, 2020 with virtual staffing on the weekends for a total of 84 days.
- The impacts of the Pandemic include: nearly 15,000 staff hours dedicated to the response since March 17th; cost estimates of over \$3 Million and climbing for staffing and supplies; and the closure of County offices and the extensive use of telework for staff.

Chief Embrey reported that the County has learned much during this disaster and indicated that it will be the new "norm" for disaster planning in the future. He indicated that future planning will include *"Planning for other disasters in the midst of COVID-19"*. He noted that due to having an excess of supplies from the H1N1 pandemic, the County had a good supply of resources; however, there was trouble getting needed supplies at peak times. He stated that face shields were received from Ford and hand sanitizer from Bowman. He also noted that there had been a number of homemade masks received from the public.

Mrs. Reeve commented on the impact of obtaining needed technology and indicated that they had to "rethink" how to do business. She noted that they had trouble getting laptops due to availability for purchase. Mr. Cole complimented Mrs. Reeve's staff on their rapid response to getting those who were teleworking online. "They did an outstanding job!"

CIVIL UNREST STATUS/IMPACTS

Captain Carey stated that three (3) demonstrations were held and all were peaceful with no issues. He indicated that the Sheriff's Office is working with Civic Associations including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and ministry leaders in an effort to schedule events throughout the year to deter unrest here. He reported that they continue to actively work on it and are currently helping the City of Fredericksburg with their issues as well. Captain Carey noted that the counter-protest group was very peaceful as well. He indicated that the Sheriff's efforts to reach out to the community on a regular basis has been very positive; however, the Pandemic has hurt many of the programs this year.

Mr. Marshall inquired about vandalism issues. Captain Carey indicated that there were no more than "normal".

REPORTS

JANE REEVE, DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES (IS)

Mrs. Reeve had nothing to report.

CHARLES CAREY, CAPTAIN, SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Captain Carey had nothing to report.

BECKY SKEBO, 911 COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Mrs. Skebo was absent.

KEVIN MARSHALL, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, BERKELEY DISTRICT

Mr. Marshall had nothing to report.

BARRY JETT, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, LIVINGSTON DISTRICT

Mr. Jett stated that he was looking forward to serving on the Committee.

MATTHEW EMBREY, DIVISION CHIEF OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Chief Embrey stated that Emergency Management is planning for the upcoming regional exercise with additional planning for the next two (2) months. He also noted that they are in the process of printing brochures for public safety agencies regarding hazardous spills.

MARK COLE, DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Cole voiced his appreciation for everyone's efforts during the Pandemic. He complimented the County Administration and the Board of Supervisors for the County's sound fiscal policies so that furloughs were avoided.

JAY CULLINAN, FIRE CHIEF

Chief Cullinan stated that he was very happy to be working on non-COVID work. He distributed statistical data to the group. He noted that there had been a significant decline in calls in April due to people not wanting to go to the Emergency Room during COVID. However, call volumes have now rebounded.

ERNEST BARTOSH, CITIZEN REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Bartosh had nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chief Cullinan moved, seconded by Mrs. Reeve and carried, to adjourn the meeting at 2:56 p.m. Ayes: Bartosh, Carey, Cole, Cullinan, Embrey, Jett, Marshall, Reeve. Nays: None. Absent: Skebo.

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be held on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Public Safety Building/Community Room, located at 9119 Dean Ridings Lane; Spotsylvania, VA 22553.