

**Spotsylvania County, Virginia**  
**Public Safety Committee Meeting, January 13, 2021 Minutes**

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MEMBERS PRESENT: Ernest Bartosh, Citizen Representative, Committee Chairman  
Jay Cullinan, Fire Chief, FREM  
Matthew Embrey, Emergency Management Coordinator, FREM (*entered the meeting at 2:25 p.m.*)  
Barry Jett, Board of Supervisors, Livingston District  
Kevin Marshall, Board of Supervisors, Berkeley District  
Jane Reeve, Director of Information Services (IS)  
Troy Skebo, Major, SCSO

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ed Petrovitch, County Administrator  
Becky Skebo, 911 Communications Manager

STAFF PRESENT: Donna Curry, Secretary, FREM

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Bartosh called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Mr. Bartosh opened the floor for nominations for Chairman. Mr. Marshall nominated Mr. Bartosh. There being no additional nominations, Mr. Bartosh closed the floor for nominations. Chief Cullinan seconded the motion. Ayes: Cullinan, Jett, Marshall, Reeve, Skebo (Troy). Nays: None. Absent: Petrovitch, Skebo (Becky). Abstain: Bartosh.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mr. Bartosh opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Mr. Jett nominated Mr. Marshall. There being no additional nominations, Mr. Bartosh closed the floor for nominations. Major Skebo seconded the motion. Ayes: Bartosh, Cullinan, Jett, Marshall, Reeve, Skebo (Troy). Nays: None. Absent: Embrey, Petrovitch, Skebo (Becky).

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY

Mr. Bartosh opened the floor for nominations for Secretary. He nominated Donna Curry. Mrs. Reeve seconded the motion. Ayes: Bartosh, Cullinan, Jett, Marshall, Reeve, Skebo (Troy). Nays: None. Absent: Embrey, Petrovitch, Skebo (Becky).

### DETERMINATION OF MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2021

Mr. Marshall moved, seconded by Mr. Jett and carried, to approve the 2021 meeting schedule as follows:

- April 14;
- July 14; and
- October 13.

Ayes: Bartosh, Cullinan, Jett, Marshall, Reeve, Skebo. Nays: None. Absent: Embrey, Petrovitch, Skebo.

### **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Mrs. Reeve made a motion, seconded by Mr. Marshall and carried, to adopt the meeting minutes of October 14, 2020 as presented. Ayes: Bartosh, Cullinan, Jett, Marshall, Reeve, Skebo. Nays: None. Absent: Embrey, Petrovitch, Skebo.

### **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**

Mrs. Reeve reported on the following:

- **NG911:** will replace the 911 Verizon system and be a fiber network (replace current copper); however, this project has been postponed until 2022 due to AT&T not being able to meet the March deadline. She indicated that it will be spring of 2022 before the project is implemented.
- **New Public Safety System:** continues to move forward and it is still scheduled to go live in October 2021.

Major Skebo stated that with regard to the new Public Safety System Project, staff had wanted to visit other agencies that are currently using the software in an effort to get ideas from them. Unfortunately, they have been unable to do so due to the pandemic. Major Skebo stated that something could be done virtually; however, Mrs. Reeve stated that it is better to see the system in action due to its complexities.

Major Skebo also commented on the outstanding job that Mrs. Reeve and her staff have done during the pandemic. Mrs. Reeve stated that it certainly has made everyone do things differently. She indicated that the new "norm" is more virtual and thanked the Board of Supervisors for approving the funding to meet those challenges.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### STATUS OF PUBLIC SAFETY CAPITAL PROJECTS

- Apparatus Update: Chief Cullinan reported that two (2) new ambulances will be arriving in May, 2021. The replacement for Rescue 5 will be completed in approximately five (5) months.
- Station expansion/replacement: Chief Cullinan reported on the following project:

Station 6 Expansion Project: the renovations for Station 6 are continuing through the Code Compliance and technical review process.

Station 3 Replacement Project: a contract had been awarded to the same firm that is designing Station 6 for the Station 3 Replacement Project.

Station 12 Construction Project: Station 12 will be constructed with basically the same design as Station 3; however, the project will be staggered due to funding.

Rappahannock Regional Training Center (RRTC) Classrooms: the proposed classrooms at the Regional Training Center will be going out for bid and will be used primarily for Emergency Services training and not as a joint facility.

- Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) for Apparatus: Chief Cullinan reported that the Board of Supervisors approved the MDT installations at its meeting on January 12, 2021.

Major Skebo stated that the Public Safety Building is due for expansion over the next three (3) years and noted that the Sheriff's Office has outgrown its space in the building. He indicated that discussions need to take place for the best options for both the Sheriff's Office and Fire/Rescue.

Mr. Bartosh suggested that both departments work with the Planning and Zoning Department to determine a ten (10) year plan of what types of services will be needed.

Major Skebo stated that the Sheriff's Office has proposed a substation at Four Mile Fork which would be helpful as law enforcement is having to change the way it responds to calls. He indicated that Mr. Petrovich was interested when Major Skebo previously discussed it with him. He also stated that the Sheriff's Office needs to have discussions with FREM with regard to space needs.

Mr. Bartosh inquired if one of the rooms at the RRTC could be used as a back-up Communications Center and Emergency Operations Center. Chief Cullinan stated that it all comes down to money.

Major Skebo reported on the status of the following Capital Projects:

- Animal Shelter Project: The Animal Shelter is up and running with a ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled once Phase 2 is completed.
- Courthouse Project: Kudos to Josh Knight for pushing on the completion of the Courthouse Project, which should be completed in June/July, 2021.
- Firing Range: The Firing Range Project should be completed in the next couple months.

#### STATUS UPDATE REGARDING STAFFING – FREM

Chief Cullinan reported that FREM currently has no vacancies. He indicated that FREM is beginning an application process to create an eligibility list for the next Recruit Academy which will begin late June or early July, 2021. Chief Cullinan reported that the current Recruit Academy is going very well. He stated that the Volunteer Academy is going well and appears to be one of the better groups that they have had in a while. Chief Cullinan noted that the Paramedic Program is winding down from the last group with the final students testing.

With regard to volunteer staffing, Chief Cullinan reported that the Spotsylvania Volunteer Fire Department is doing very well and staffing more frequently at Stations 1 and 4. He stated that the Spotsylvania Volunteer Rescue Squad currently has stabilized staffing; however, Chancellor Volunteer Fire/Rescue continues to struggle. He noted that the agency has had no new members in the past six (6) months.

#### STATUS UPDATE REGARDING STAFFING - Sheriff

Major Skebo reported that the Sheriff's Office currently has eight (8) vacancies with six (6) of those due to the retirement of seasoned officers. He concluded by saying that their last academy was held in December and they are currently conducting a hiring process.

Major Skebo stated that the Sheriff's Office has been advised by the Human Resources Department that the volunteer auxiliary officers have no insurance coverage if they are injured in the line of duty. There are currently six (6) auxiliary deputies and they are trying to find a way to provide some type of coverage for them.

Mr. Bartosh inquired about the Jail Board situation and funding issues. Major Skebo stated that jail continues to struggle with staffing and funding. The Jail Board continues to work to resolve these issues with the new Superintendent. Mr. Bartosh

asked if there was a plan in place if the issues are not resolved. Major Skebo indicated that the jail would begin to send inmates to other facilities.

Major Skebo reported that the weapons transition that was scheduled for the replacement of service weapons has been delayed and is now anticipated for the end of January, 2021.

#### INSURANCE SERVICES OFFICE (ISO) CLASSIFICATION PROCESS

Chief Cullinan stated that after waiting three (3) years, he had finally received the County's new ISO rating which had improved from 5/10 to 2/10. The new classification will go into effect on April 1, 2021. He indicated that a Class 1 rating will be achievable with the implementation of the new CAD. Chief Cullinan stated that citizens and businesses should see a decrease in property insurance rates. He concluded by saying that FREM will likely request a rescoring next year, as this last one was based off of 2017 information.

#### 911 CENTER PERSONNEL CLASSIFICATION LEGISLATION UPDATE

Major Skebo reported that not much has changed with regard to the Personnel Classification legislation that is currently being considered. It appears to be stalled in Committee at the moment.

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

The Volunteer Policy has been delayed until the County gets closer to the new CAD implementation.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### 2020 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Mr. Marshall moved, seconded by Chief Embrey and carried, to approve the 2020 Annual Report of the Public Safety Committee as presented and forward to the Board of Supervisors for review. Ayes: Bartosh, Cullinan, Embrey, Jett, Marshall, Reeve, Skebo (Troy). Nays: None. Absent: Petrovitch, Skebo (Becky).

#### DISTRIBUTION OF VESTS TO FREM PERSONNEL

Chief Cullinan reported that all of the bullet proof vests have been distributed to the field, as well as, command staff. He stated that a \$50,000 donation had been received for this purchase and the additional funds needed were used from the Department of Fire Programs grant. FREM will be training with the Sheriff's Office so that everyone is operating in concert.

### CHANCELLOR VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE (CVFR) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

Chief Cullinan stated that he had met with the Chief and President of Chancellor Volunteer Fire and Rescue (CVFR) in addition to County Administration and the Board of Supervisors concerning the need for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). He indicated that the discussions included concerns with the agency's lack of participation from FREM's perspective and the lack of involvement in decision making from the agency's perspective. Chief Cullinan was advised to draft a MOU for consideration; however, it had to be put on hold due to the COVID vaccination rollout. He will formalize the document to include lists and the meeting between FREM and CVFR will be moderated by Board of Supervisors members. Chief Cullinan noted that he has scheduled meetings around CVFR's schedule and their representatives still did not attend the meetings. He reported that CVFR has not responded to a patient in six (6) months and the Medical Director has issues with this. CVFR has not staffed an ambulance since May, 2020. Chief Cullinan stated that CVFR continues to maintain various sets of gear and vehicles; and is currently investing money into old Station 5 as a training and conference center.

Mr. Marshall stated that this is not cost effective for County citizens.

A brief discussion ensued concerning the possibility of non-compliance with the MOU. Following the discussion, the Committee encouraged Chief Cullinan to pursue the MOU with CVFR.

### COVID-19 VACCINATION PRIORITIZATION

Chief Cullinan stated that FREM has been in constant contact with the Health Department and expressed concerns with lack of coordination from the Virginia Department of Health for the region. He explained that discussions began in late November regarding vaccination planning which involved their own internal planning with approximately twelve (12) nurses administering the shots throughout the region. Chief Cullinan thanked the Board of Supervisors for approving the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to vaccinate employees by utilizing FREM providers. He noted that Chief Embrey has gotten the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) engaged to assist with helping to coordinate vaccination clinics. Chief Cullinan stated that he continues to try and make contact with the Task Force Leader for the region. He noted that FREM had partnered with Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center (SRMC) and fifty (50) individuals received the vaccination thus far and hoping to do an additional fifty (50) next week.

Chief Embrey stated that FREM is aggressively taking control of anything in the County that the Virginia Department of Health will allow.

Major Skebo stated that the Health and Safety Officer with the Sheriff's Office is coordinating vaccines for their staff.

Chief Cullinan reported that one weekend FREM had thirty (30) people out on leave with COVID. Major Skebo stated that three (3) of their employees had an exposure and all three (3) are now quarantined.

2021 NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK RESOLUTION

Chief Cullinan made a motion, seconded by Major Skebo and carried unanimously to approve the following resolution as presented and forward to the Board of Supervisors for its consideration at the next available meeting:

A RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF  
NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK  
APRIL 11-17, 2021

WHEREAS, public safety dispatchers and call takers are the first and most critical contact our citizens have with emergency services; and

WHEREAS, emergencies can occur at any time requiring law enforcement, fire suppression or emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS, when an emergency occurs, the prompt response of law enforcement, firefighters and paramedics is critical to the protection of life and preservation of property; and

WHEREAS, the safety of the public and first responders is dependent upon the quality and accuracy of information provided by public safety dispatchers and call-takers; and

WHEREAS, public safety dispatchers and call-takers are a vital link for our law enforcement and fire personnel by monitoring their activities by radio, providing information during fluid situations, and ensuring their safety; and

WHEREAS, public safety dispatchers and call-takers have contributed substantially to the apprehension of criminals, suppression of fires, and treatment of patients; and

WHEREAS, each public safety dispatcher and call-taker has exhibited compassion, understanding and professionalism during the performance of their job; and

WHEREAS, the Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors would like to recognize and honor the contributions of all Spotsylvania County Communications personnel in the public safety arena for their continued efforts to preserve public safety through our 9-1-1, non-emergency lines, and the dispatch of first responders to thousands of calls for service each year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors that the week of April 11-17, 2021, be duly recognized as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week and honor the men and women of Spotsylvania County Communications, whose diligence and professionalism keep Spotsylvania County citizens, visitors and property safe.

Ayes: Bartosh, Cullinan, Embrey, Jett, Marshall, Reeve, Skebo (Troy). Nays: None.  
Absent: Petrovitch, Skebo (Becky).

2021 NATIONAL EMS WEEK RESOLUTION

Chief Cullinan made a motion, seconded by Major Skebo and carried unanimously to approve the following resolution as presented and forward to the Board of Supervisors for its consideration at the next available meeting:

A RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF  
NATIONAL EMS WEEK  
MAY 16–22, 2021

WHEREAS, emergency medical services is a vital public service that the members, both volunteer and career, of the Spotsylvania County Department of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Management (FREM) stand ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours per day, seven days per week, 365 days per year; and

WHEREAS, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those experiencing sudden illness or injury and FREM plays a critical role in public outreach and injury prevention, while constantly evolving in its role as an important member of the healthcare community; and

WHEREAS, FREM responders will be the first to respond to terrorist or natural disaster events and are consistently training to respond to any possible occurrence, which will benefit the citizens and visitors to Spotsylvania County daily through the knowledge, skills, and ability of these highly trained individuals, who engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education opportunities in order to enhance their life saving skills.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors that the week of May 16-22, 2021, be duly recognized as National EMS Week and honor the men and women of the Spotsylvania County Department of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Management, whose diligence, professionalism, and service keep Spotsylvania County citizens, visitors and property safe.

Ayes: Bartosh, Cullinan, Embrey, Jett, Marshall, Reeve, Skebo (Troy). Nays: None.  
Absent: Petrovitch, Skebo (Becky).

**REPORTS**

JANE REEVE, DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES (IS)

Mrs. Reeve reported that the County will now have full internet redundancy due to the CARES Act Funding. She stated that IS is gearing up for a continuity plan. She stated that they were given nearly four (4) weeks to spend \$800,000 which they did and installed two (2) towers that now provides 5g service. She indicated that she was very proud of her department for getting this completed by the deadline.

Mr. Bartosh inquired if this would resolve the issues with First Net. Mrs. Reeve stated that it would not but IS is still working with AT&T to get the issues resolved as it is not a coverage issue.

TROY SKEBO, MAJOR, SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Major Skebo stated that the Sheriff's Office is limiting its interactions with the public regarding response to certain calls. He explained that the laws have changed and the Commonwealth's Attorney does not prosecute certain misdemeanor cases due to limited staffing. Major Skebo reported that grand larceny used to be charged for stealing \$200. Now the amount has increased to \$1,000. With regard to shoplifting, retailers are now permitted to obtain their own warrants. He further explained that, due to the political climate, the nursing industry is refusing to draw blood from non-consenting patients for driving under the influence (DUI) charges. Major Skebo stated that a regional meeting has been planned to further discuss these issues.

Mr. Bartosh requested that this item be added to the next agenda for further discussion.

MATTHEW EMBREY, DIVISION CHIEF OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Chief Embrey stated that Emergency Management recently conducted a practice exercise for the first nuclear drill in the State. He indicated that the exercise went very well and noted that the actual drill is scheduled for February 23, 2021. He stated that the Emergency Operation Plan update is due in April this year and will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for review and approval soon.

ERNEST BARTOSH, CITIZEN REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Bartosh had nothing to report.

JAY CULLINAN, FIRE CHIEF

Chief Cullinan had nothing additional to report.

KEVIN MARSHALL, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, BERKELEY DISTRICT

Mr. Marshall had nothing to report.

BARRY JETT, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, LIVINGSTON DISTRICT

Mr. Jett had nothing to report.

ED PETROVITCH, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Petrovitch was absent.

BECKY SKEBO, 911 COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Mrs. Skebo was absent.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Bartosh moved, seconded by Chief Embrey and carried to adjourn the meeting at 3:46 p.m. Ayes: Bartosh, Cullinan, Embrey, Jett, Marshall, Reeve, Skebo (Troy). Nays: None. Absent: Petrovitch, Skebo (Becky).

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be held on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Public Safety Building/Community Room, located at 9119 Dean Ridings Lane; Spotsylvania, VA 22553.