

Spotsylvania County, Virginia
Public Safety Committee Meeting, April 3, 2019 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ernest Bartosh, Citizen Representative, Committee Chairman
Greg Benton, Board of Supervisors, Livingston District
Roger Harris, Sheriff, SCSO
Jason Irby, Deputy Fire Chief, FREM (designee for Fire Chief)
Kevin Marshall, Board of Supervisors, Berkeley District
Jane Reeve, Director of Information Services (IS)
Troy Skebo, Major, SCSO (designee for 911 Communication Manager)
Mark Taylor, County Administrator

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jay Cullinan, Fire Chief, FREM
Matthew Embrey, Emergency Management Coordinator, FREM
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

Mrs. Reeve made a motion, seconded by Major Skebo and carried, to adopt the meeting minutes of January 9, 2019 as presented. Ayes: Bartosh, Benton, Harris, Irby, Marshall, Reeve, Skebo, Taylor. Nays: None. Absent: Embrey.

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 asked Bobbie Magee to update the Committee on Central Square. Ms. Magee reported that they are currently working with Inform on pricing negotiations for the new contract which will take the place of the former contract with Superion. Mr. Benton inquired if the County will be receiving credits for what has already been spent. Ms. Magee indicated that yes there will be credits issued; however, there is anticipation of a cost increase due to changes with increased functionality.

A brief discussion ensued including: service life with this new technology, efficiency and ease of extracting information, and the enhanced resources with the new system.

Mrs. Reeve noted that, due to the delay of the new CAD system, the old CAD system will need to have an upgrade. She provided a status update on the following projects:

- NG911: IS is currently moving forward with this project; and
- County website: IS is in the process of upgrading the County website. The new site is scheduled to go live toward the end of summer.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

STATUS OF THE PROPOSED PUBLIC SAFETY COMPENSATION PLAN

Chief Irby stated that FREM has received thirteen (13) resignations this year and noted that the Department lacks the infrastructure within to keep up with the attrition rate, as well as Recruit Academies. He concluded by saying that the overtime situation will remain about the same or potentially increase as this trend continues.

Discussion ensued including: implementation of the third phase of the Evergreen Study, cost of living adjustments, the pros and cons of hiring personnel who lack the skills and education of the profession, recruitment difficulties when salary is the key issue, proposed compensation plan would allow the County to expand the pool of resources, the need to fix the starting point and the progression point, the need to offer the proposed compensation to all County employees, attraction versus attrition, training employees for other departments to capitalize on the County's initial investment, the need for a path for pay increases without having to go through a special pay adjustment, the presentation of the proposed plan to the Board of Supervisors, professional recruiters, and planning for progression.

STATUS OF PUBLIC SAFETY CAPITAL PROJECTS

Sheriff Harris stated that the Sheriff's Office continues to make progress with the construction of a metal building in the back of the Public Safety Building which will be used for housing gear that should not be left out in the elements. He indicated that the completion of the project is estimated to be 60-90 days. Sheriff Harris stated that there continues to be an issue with the definition of a subdivision. He indicated that thousands of man hours have been consumed researching this issue which has a direct impact on the County's Shooting Ordinance and Noise Ordinance. He thanked Mrs. Reeve, County staff, and the County Attorney's Office for their assistance.

Mrs. Reeve noted that a Subdivision layer will be added to the Geographic Information System (GIS) map and stressed the importance of keeping the information up to date. Mr. Taylor clarified that a subdivision designation is based on the definition of a subdivision. Mrs. Reeve stated that some of the areas may be controversial. Mr. Marshall cautioned the Committee and stated that the areas need to be reviewed carefully.

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

- Station expansion/replacement:
Company 3 is currently in the land acquisition phase.

Mr. Marshall reported that he had discussed the possibility of purchasing land from the owner; however the individual was not interested in selling. He then contacted another property owner who he has not heard back from. Mr. Marshall indicated that he is also aware of another piece of property that he is trying to obtain information on.

FREM staff met with Procurement regarding the proposed expansion of Company 6 to evaluate six (6) bids which were received from engineering firms.

- Two (2) ambulances have arrived to the County. One is in service and the other will be in a week or so.
- An additional engine and tanker were on order from E-One; however, the vendor has been difficult to deal with so the order was canceled on March 14, 2019 per Chief Cooper. He stated that they are currently waiting for the Fire Chief to sign off on the new order with a new vendor.
- Tower 1 and Rescue Engine 8 have been delivered to Virginia. The anticipated timeframe for putting them in service is 30-60 days.
- Fire Boat – the proposed fire boat will be going to the Board for its consideration on April 23, 2019.

Mr. Benton inquired if there will be an insurance rate reduction for Lake Anna home owners. Chief Irby stated that information has been submitted to the Insurance Services Office (ISO) and FREM is currently awaiting an answer back. Mr. Benton inquired if it is a true fire boat. Chief Irby confirmed that it is and noted that it includes a fire pump. Mr. Marshall inquired if the ISO rating would benefit citizens in Louisa County. Chief Irby stated that he was not sure.

- ALS ventilator packs and IV Pumps will be going to the Board for its consideration on April 23, 2019.

STATUS UPDATE REGARDING STAFFING

Chief Irby stated that Recruit Academy 21 is scheduled to graduate in July, 2019 which will fill current vacancies in the field. He noted that a hiring process is presently underway for establishing another Recruit Academy in early fall.

Major Skebo stated that sixteen (16) new positions will help with staffing School Resource Officers and noted that all schools will be fully manned in August. He concluded by saying that a new Academy will begin on April 22, 2019.

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

Chief Irby stated that the Volunteer Policy has been delayed until the County gets closer to the new CAD purchase. He concluded by saying that new screening processes have made a huge improvement.

NEW BUSINESS

2019 NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK RESOLUTION AND 2019 NATIONAL EMS WEEK RESOLUTION

Mr. Benton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Marshall and carried unanimously to approve the following resolutions 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 14-20, 2019**

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 14-20, 2019, 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.

**A RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF
NATIONAL EMS WEEK
MAY 19-25, 2019**

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 19-25, 2019, 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, Benton, Harris, Irby, Marshall, Reeve, Skebo, Taylor. Nays: None. Absent: Embrey.

BACK-UP EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC)

Mrs. Reeve requested that this item be added to the agenda. She stated that she wants to keep this issue in front of the Commission as it will take effort to plan and make recommendations. She noted that this project is not currently in the County's Capital Improvements Plan (CIP).

Discussion ensued including: there is a definite need for a back-up facility, potential availability at the future FREM Training/Logistics Center; County system connectivity is available at that location, possibly have a triple function as a dispatch training center, the facility is currently scheduled for construction in FY22-23 timeframe, and current back-up operation is the Sheriff's Office Command Trailer.

REPORTS

BECKY SKEBO, 911 COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Mrs. Skebo was absent but Major Skebo shared the following in her absence:

House Bill 1629 – 911 Saving Account, currently in the Education and Labor Committee, would move 911 dispatchers from the standard occupation classification to a high stress occupation classification where they would receive a hazardous duty supplement. Other localities have stated support of the proposed bill. Mr. Bartosh inquired if there is any additional cost associated with the bill. Major Skebo indicated that the benefits would be coming from the state level and he is not aware of any local level funding needs. He reported that Text to 911 is moving forward. Mr. Pusso stated that he is currently working to establish a schedule and indicated that it could be 6-8 months if not sooner. He noted that it will require a software upgrade to the phone system.

JANE REEVE, DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES (IS)

Mrs. Reeve stated that the Regional Preparedness Advisory Committee for Inter-operability (RPAC-I) is maintaining a higher level of interoperability. She made a recommendation that Mike Christie and Matt Embrey be appointed to the Committee to represent Spotsylvania County.

Major Skebo made a motion to appoint Mike Christie and Matt Embrey as Spotsylvania County representatives to the Committee. Chief Irby seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Ayes: Bartosh, Benton, Harris, Irby, Marshall, Skebo, Taylor. Nays: None. Absent: Embrey.

JAY CULLINAN, FIRE CHIEF

Chief Cullinan was absent but Deputy Chief Jason Irby shared the following in his absence:

The Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP) Policy has been revised and is currently being reviewed by the County Attorney's Office. There was a consensus within the agencies to revise the policy with the intent to present it to the Board of Supervisors in May, 2019.

MARK TAYLOR, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Taylor invited the Committee members to his farewell celebration on Friday, April 5, 2019 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. He wished everyone well.

GREG BENTON, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, LIVINGSTON DISTRICT

Mr. Benton had nothing to report.

KEVIN MARSHALL, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, BERKELEY DISTRICT

Mr. Marshall had nothing to report.

ROGER HARRIS, SHERIFF

Sheriff Harris announced that his department has two (2) new licensed polygraphists. He stated that they had been traveling to Fairfax to complete the tests for licensing. He concluded by saying that no department has ever had two (2) examiners in one school.

Major Skebo reported that the Sheriff's Office has received numerous complaints concerning car dealerships and the car carriers unloading in the middle of the road. A brief discussion ensued including: current zoning regulations, safety issues, and the need for a dedicated loading/unloading area.

Sheriff Harris reported that there had also been concern with another County business that had a similar issue. He stated that the issue was resolved by dedicating a certain spot and installing signage which noted it as a loading/unloading area.

MATTHEW EMBREY, DIVISION CHIEF OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Chief Embrey was absent.

ERNEST BARTOSH, CITIZEN REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Bartosh thanked Mr. Taylor for his time and service to the County and the Public Safety Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:24 p.m. The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be held on Wednesday, July 10, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in the Public Safety Building/Community Room, located at 9119 Dean Ridings Lane; Spotsylvania, VA 22553.