

Spotsylvania County, Virginia
Public Safety Committee Meeting, July 11, 2018 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Greg Benton, Board of Supervisors, Livingston District
Ernest Bartosh, Citizen Representative, Committee Chairman
Jay Cullinan, Fire Chief, FREM
Roger Harris, Sheriff, SCSO
Becky Skebo, 911 Communications Manager, SCSO
Matthew Embrey, Emergency Management Coordinator, FREM
(entered the meeting at 2:43 p.m.)
Jane Reeve, Director of Information Services (IS)
Mark Cole, Deputy County Administrator

STAFF PRESENT: Donna Curry, Secretary, FREM

ABSENT: Kevin Marshall, Board of Supervisors, Berkeley District
Mark Taylor, County Administrator

CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

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

A plaque presentation was made to Teresa Switala for her service as Secretary to the Public Safety Committee since its establishment in 2014.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Sheriff Harris made a motion to adopt the meeting minutes of April 4, 2018, as presented. Mr. Benton seconded the motion and carried. Ayes: Benton, Bartosh, Harris, Cullinan, Skebo, Cole, Reeve. Nays: None. Absent: Marshall, Embrey.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PUBLIC SAFETY PROJECTS STATUS REPORT

Mrs. Reeve provided a status update on the following projects:

- Public Safety System;
- Digital Alert;
- ImageTrend; and
- County website overhaul

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PSC EMAIL ADDRESS UPDATE

Mr. Bartosh inquired about the establishment of a joint email address for the Public Safety Committee which was previously discussed at the April 4, 2018 Meeting. Ms. Reeve stated that the email address has been established for the Committee; however, she needed to establish the parameters for the email address which would include the usage and a designated person to check it and respond to inquiries.

By consensus, the Committee designated Mrs. Curry to be the point of contact for the email address.

LAKE ANNA MARINE PATROL

Sheriff Harris updated the Committee on the status of the Lake Anna Marine Patrol. He stated that the Sheriff's Office is maintaining patrols on the lake every weekend and holiday. He reported that they are looking to purchase a second patrol boat as the dive boat is not suitable for patrolling. Sheriff Harris indicated that the Louisa County Sheriff's Office does not have the manpower to patrol the lake. It was noted that Orange County does not patrol the lake as there is only shallow water in their respective locality.

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE CHARTER REVIEW

The Committee reviewed and discussed the proposed revisions to the PSC Charter.

Mr. Cole noted that the County Attorney's Office is in the process of reviewing various County committee charters and by-laws.

Mr. Bartosh inquired about the appointment terms of the citizen representative. Chief Cullinan suggested changing the term of the citizen representative to "at the pleasure of the Board of Supervisors".

A brief discussion ensued including: opportunity for a fresh perspective; the possibility of adding an additional citizen representative to the roster; the possibility of adding a school representative to the roster (as suggested at the previous meeting); the responsibility of school security; the current School Safety Committee; and where to draw the line on appointees to the Committee.

Mrs. Reeve noted that there is a missing link with regard to technology and the Schools. Chief Cullinan suggested that the Schools be invited to make presentations to the Committee without adding a representative to the Committee roster.

Mrs. Reeve made a motion to table the recommendation of adding a school representative to the Committee at this time. Chief Cullinan seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Mr. Bartosh asked Mrs. Curry to make the proposed changes to the Charter as discussed and forward to the Committee members for review.

Mr. Benton made a motion, seconded by Sheriff Harris and carried unanimously, to forward the revised Charter, pending consensus of the Committee, to the County Attorney's Office for review.

CLARIFICATION OF ITEMS SENT TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Mr. Bartosh noted that, following the last Committee meeting, items were sent to the Board of Supervisors as a Board Communication which included the following recommendations:

Summary/Analysis: At its meeting on Wednesday, April 4, 2018, the Public Safety Committee discussed the possibility of having a representative from the Public School system appointed to the Public Safety Committee (PSC). In light of the recent tragedies around the nation, the Committee felt that it would be beneficial to have input from the School system with regard to public safety issues. It was also noted that National Public Safety Telecommunications Week will be observed the week of April 8th - 14th.

Mr. Bartosh stated that no response was received from County Administration or the Board of Supervisors. Therefore, he was seeking clarification of how the items should be submitted to the Board.

Mr. Cole stated that the Board Communication is the proper method for getting information to the Board members. No further action was requested or taken.

PROPOSED PARADE AT THE STARS AND STRIPES EVENT

Mr. Cole stated that there had been a recent discussion concerning the addition of a parade at the Stars and Stripes event next year and inquired of the potential impacts from the public safety perspective.

A brief discussion ensued including: who would manage the parade (planning and executing); the need for additional resources; and the need for additional funding from the County.

By consensus, the Committee suggested that the County develop a Committee to discuss the true impacts and costs associated with such an endeavor before committing to a parade during the Stars and Stripes event.

REPORTS

JANE REEVE, INFORMATION SERVICES (IS)

Mrs. Reeve stated that she had nothing to report.

JAY CULLINAN, FIRE CHIEF

Chief Cullinan stated that Recruit Academy 20 is scheduled to begin on Monday, July 16th with 25 individuals. He indicated that there are 11 new positions and the remaining 14 will fill current vacancies.

A brief discussion ensued concerning the recent pay study and the need to look at a mechanism for moving people through pay bands.

He reported that there has been an annual increase of 1,000 calls thus far this year and he expects that number to double by the end of the year. He explained that last year, the crews were responding to 40 calls per day and noted that there were 70 calls yesterday (combined EMS and fire calls).

He concluded by saying that the next Volunteer Academy is slated to begin on September 11th.

MATTHEW EMBREY, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Chief Embrey stated that much planning went into the Stars and Stripes event to include moving the Command Post to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) which provided depth. He noted that the cooling stations and water distribution were very successful. Chief Cullinan commented that Chief Embrey has done a very good job with expanding the depth of the Command staff for the Stars and Stripes event.

Chief Embrey noted that the VOPEX drill is scheduled for Tuesday, July 17th. He stated that the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) has been very complimentary of Spotsylvania County and has referred to the staff as "rock stars" with regard to the VOPEX drill.

GREG BENTON, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, LIVINGSTON DISTRICT

Mr. Benton commented on the recent pay study and his lack of confidence in the information. He stated that he would like feedback from the Fire Chief and the Sheriff.

ERNEST BARTOSH, CITIZEN REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Bartosh stated, on behalf of Mr. Marshall, thanks to the FREM staff and Sheriff's Office for their hard work and support of Stars and Stripes Event.

BECKY SKEBO, 911 COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Mrs. Skebo commented on the new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system and briefly noted some of the new capabilities of the system. Mr. Bartosh inquired whether there is a contingency plan for training if the Marshall Center is not available. Mrs. Skebo suggested the possibility of one of the schools and Mrs. Reeve indicated that Germanna Community College or Mary Washington University could be alternative locations.

Chief Cullinan stated that Mrs. Reeve's team has done an outstanding job with the new Public Safety System. Mrs. Reeve stated that a new person has been assigned as the Geographic Information Services (GIS) technician for Public Safety. Sheriff Harris stated that Mr. Pusso and Ms. Magee had done an excellent job with the new body cameras that were purchased by the Sheriff's Office.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Harris stated that Chief Embrey had made a good decision to move the Command Post to the EOC during the Stars and Stripes Event. He reported that the Sheriff's Office is in the process of having a new storage building constructed behind the Public Safety Building. Sheriff Harris noted that the new school resource officers will be in place at the beginning of the school year. He thanked Chief Cullinan for FREM's assistance with the summer camps. He indicated that the Sheriff's Office is looking to expand the number of patrol areas and noted that smaller areas provide better service. Sheriff Harris stated that they seem to have a daily issue with gun shots throughout the County, so they are working with GIS to develop a map identifying and distinguishing subdivisions within agricultural zones; and thanked Mr. Benton for his assistance. He concluded by announcing the upcoming charity basketball game between the Sheriff's Office and FREM. The event, Guns and Hoses, will be held on Friday, August 17th at Chancellor High School beginning at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chief Embrey made a motion, seconded by Sheriff Harris and carried unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 3:34 p.m. The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be held on Wednesday, October 3, 2018 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Public Safety Building.