

***Spotsylvania County, Virginia
Public Safety Committee Meeting, April 4, 2018, Minutes***

MEMBERS PRESENT: Greg Benton, Board of Supervisors, Livingston District
Kevin Marshall, Board of Supervisors, Berkeley District
Ernest Bartosh, Citizen Representative, Committee Chairman
Roger Harris, Sheriff, SCSO
Steve Cooper, Deputy Fire Chief – Operations, FREM
Matthew Embrey, Emergency Management Coordinator, FREM
Jane Reeve, Director of Information Services (IS)

STAFF PRESENT: Donna Curry, Secretary, FREM

ABSENT: Jay Cullinan, Fire Chief, FREM
Becky Skebo, 911 Communications Manager, SCSO
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. He introduced the two new Board member representatives to the Committee – Mr. Benton and Mr. Marshall.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Bartosh opened the floor for public comment. There being none, he asked if there were any presentations to be made. Hearing none, he moved into the business of the meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Sheriff Harris made a motion to adopt the meeting minutes of January 3, 2018, as presented. Chief Cooper seconded the motion and carried. Ayes: Bartosh, Harris, Cooper, Embrey, Reeve. Nays: None. Abstain: Benton, Marshall.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PUBLIC SAFETY PROJECTS STATUS REPORT

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

- Public Safety System;
- ImageTrend;
- Ezzi.net;
- Text to 911;
- Radio Enhancements;
- Body Cameras;
- Crisis Track;
- CAD system; and
- Live Scan.

She reported that a vendor has been selected for the Public Safety System and that they are currently in contract negotiations. A formal announcement will be made once the contract has been signed. Mrs. Reeve stated David West had been promoted to a project management position and would no longer be managing the GIS system. She indicated that her department is working to replace the tone alert paging system in the Fire/Rescue stations and noted that a cooperative contract is available to the County. Mrs. Reeve reported that the Radio Project is still ongoing and stated that the County has now entered into the maintenance phase.

Mr. Marshall inquired about the Radio Project and questioned whether the radio replacements were "one for one". He explained that the Forestry Department doesn't have a new radio and that the County has always provided a radio to them in the past. Mrs. Reeve deferred to Chief Embrey for the response. Chief Embrey stated that the Forestry Department and adjoining localities that provide mutual aid to Spotsylvania County will be given a new radio; however, they must sign a loan agreement before the radios can be released. He explained that the Forestry Department has been provided a radio when they arrive on scene and will continue to do so until the loan agreement is returned. He noted a radio has been provided to the Lake of the Woods Fire Department in Orange County as the loan agreement was returned; however, none of the other stations in Orange County have received a new radio as they have not been trained on the new system.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Mr. Bartosh opened the floor for nominations for Chairman. Mr. Benton nominated Mr. Bartosh. Mrs. Reeve seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Mr. Bartosh opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Mr. Benton nominated Mr. Marshall. Sheriff Harris seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

CHARGE OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mr. Bartosh asked Mr. Benton and Mr. Marshall what is the expectation of the Public Safety Committee by the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Marshall stated that he envisioned the Sheriff's Office and FREM working together to resolve public safety issues. He noted that one area of concern is Lake Anna and the costs associated with patrolling the Lake. He indicated that it should not be up to Spotsylvania County to shoulder the financial burden.

A brief discussion ensued including the lack of support from other jurisdictions and interoperability issues with radio equipment.

Mr. Marshall stated that the Public Safety Committee should be an open forum for the public to attend to share public safety concerns. Mr. Benton stated that it would be a good avenue for parents to speak in support of school resource officers.

Discussion ensued including: public perception; limitations of the Committee as it operates in an advisory capacity; and the opportunity to provide justification for human resource needs in the various departments that support public safety.

Mr. Bartosh questioned whether it would be helpful to send Committee recommendations to the Board which would assist in keeping members informed of public safety issues in the County that could potentially require Board action and/or assistance.

Mr. Benton stated that an annual report from the Committee would be excellent, as well as, communications to the Board of recommendations by the Committee. Mr. Benton asked the members what they felt the direction of the Committee should be. Chief Cooper stated that it should be a long range planning committee and indicated that it should be forward thinking rather than reactive. Mr. Benton stated that he didn't want to get involved with the daily activities of the public safety departments, but would prefer to have information pertinent to the overall operation of public safety. He noted that the Board was recently surprised about an issue with Court Security which had been on-going for years. Mrs.

Reeve stated that the issue had been caught long ago but it had not been processed correctly through the budget.

Mr. Bartosh questioned whether a joint email address for the Public Safety Committee would be helpful or even possible. Mrs. Reeve indicated that she could establish a joint email address for the Committee.

Sheriff Harris commented on upcoming drills at Lake Anna with Dominion Virginia Power to better train for disasters. He stated that there have been training events with FREM concerning active shooters and noted that the cooperation between the two departments is the best that it has ever been.

PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO SYSTEM MEETING UPDATE

Mrs. Reeve reported that two monthly meetings have been held with the Radio Committee, which consists of groups who are primary users. She introduced Larry Kyle, Harris Radio Technician. She stated that the Radio Committee has been working very hard to incorporate the schools into the radio system. Mrs. Reeve indicated that the project is going very well and that eventually the meetings will change from monthly to quarterly.

LAKE ANNA MARINE PATROL

Mr. Marshall requested that this item be added to the agenda for discussion. He stated that Spotsylvania County seems to be footing the bill for Lake Anna marine patrols and he would like to see the burden shared with the adjoining localities.

Sheriff Harris stated that the County has tried to share the burden; however, manpower seems to be the issue for Louisa County. He indicated that better cooperation is received from the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Sheriff Harris reported that the County recently purchased a new patrol boat and is hoping that Dominion Virginia Power will contribute funds to offset the cost. He noted that the Sheriff's Office would like to sell the current boat and purchase another boat that will better meet the needs.

Discussion ensued including: other entities that could provide patrol assistance on the Lake; jurisdictional training opportunities; safety concerns related to alcohol abuse; and the need to have the adjoining jurisdictions do more with manpower and/or funding.

By consensus, the Committee requested that the Sheriff draft a letter to the Board of Supervisors advising the members of the issues concerning Lake Anna. The draft letter will be sent to the PSC members for review and then Chairman Bartosh will forward to the Board of Supervisors members via Board Communication.

REPORTS

FIRE CHIEF

Deputy Chief Steve Cooper reported the following on behalf of the Fire Chief:

- Staffing;
- Call Volumes;
- Status of the Current Hiring Process;
- Volunteer Fire Academy;
- Upcoming Civil Unrest Seminar;
- Mutual/Automatic Aid Update; and
- Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) for Volunteers.

INFORMATION SERVICES

Mrs. Reeve suggested that the Committee consider adding another member to its roster with the inclusion of a representative from the School system as they are very involved with public safety.

Mr. Marshall stated that he felt it would be a good idea to include the School system. Sheriff Harris stated that the School Safety Committee has been meeting monthly; however, it has increased to every two weeks since the recent school events nationwide. He also felt that it is a good idea.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REPRESENTATIVES

Neither Mr. Benton nor Mr. Marshall had anything to report at this time to the Committee.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Chief Embrey reported on the following:

- Planning for the upcoming Stars and Stripes event;
- Mandated review and revisions to the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP);
- Upcoming FEMA drills – dress rehearsal May 22nd; official drill July 17th; and
- Crisis Track – platform for damage assessment from natural/manmade disasters which can be accessed by both state and local agencies.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Harris reported on the following:

- Applied for a 911 Grant which would allow the County to partner with the City of Fredericksburg for back-up communications support;
- NG911;
- Ezzie.net;
- First Net;
- New Live Scan which is replacing the current one purchased in 2006;
- Body cameras for the deputies; and
- Upcoming dispatcher training in the Marshall Center. He indicated that there had been some discussion concerning the future use of that venue. Mrs. Reeve advised the Sheriff that he would need to address his concerns with County Administration.
- Telecommunications Week – April 8th – 14th. He encouraged the Committee and staff to visit the Communications Center and thank the dispatchers for the service that they provide to the County.

Mrs. Reeve made a motion, seconded by Chief Embrey and carried unanimously, to submit a resolution recommendation on behalf of the Committee to the Board of Supervisors recognizing Telecommunications Week.

CITIZEN REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Bartosh requested that the minutes of the Public Safety Committee be completed within two (2) weeks of the meeting and distributed to the members for review. He also requested that the PSC members review the Charter and be prepared to discuss proposed changes at the July 11, 2018 meeting.

The Committee agreed by consensus.

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY

Chief Cooper made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Reeve and carried unanimously to appoint Donna Curry as Secretary to the Public Safety Committee effective immediately.

Mr. Bartosh suggested that a thank you letter be sent to Ms. Mastin for her service to the Committee as Secretary. The Committee concurred. Mrs. Curry will draft a letter, on behalf of the Committee, for the membership to review and the Chairman to sign.

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 4:05 p.m. The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be held on Wednesday, July 11, 2018 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Public Safety Building