

MEETING MINUTES

Public Safety Committee (PSC) Meeting
Wednesday, April 5, 2017
1:00 p.m.

Attendance: Greg Cebula, Board of Supervisors, Berkeley District (Chairperson)
Timothy McLaughlin, Board of Supervisors, Chancellor District
Mark Taylor, County Administrator
Jay Cullinan, Fire Chief
Roger Harris, Sheriff
Matt Embrey, Emergency Management Coordinator
Jane Reeve, Director of Information Services
Becky Skebo, 911 Communications Manager

Others Present: Troy Skebo, Major, Sheriff's Office
Teresa Switala, Administrative Assistant to the Fire Chief

Absent: Ernest Bartosh, Citizen Representative (Vice Chairperson)

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Cebula called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Justin Langridge, President, Spotsylvania Career Firefighters Association, shared feedback on the County's recent Evergreen Compensation Study. He stated that he felt that fire/rescue personnel were not being equally compensated in comparison to other jurisdictions. He also commented on: how citizens are being affected; fair market wages; mid-point salaries; and making salary adjustments a priority to employees.

Mr. Langridge stated there are staffing issues on nights and weekends that reduce the level of services to the citizens.

Mr. Langridge asked for consideration of appointing a Career Firefighters Association member to the Public Safety Committee. He stated that this individual could contribute to some of the committee's goals.

Mr. Langridge concluded by asking the group to support waiving the residency requirement for the County Fire Chief.

PRESENTATIONS

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Equipment Demonstration:

Lieutenant DJ Epps, EMS Supervisor, FREM, gave an overview of the position of EMS supervisor and provided demonstrations on the following equipment:

- Lucas 2 Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Device: an aid in performing CPR; ability to do more with less people; there is no longer a need to detail as many units; every first out ambulance has a Lucas Device; and these devices are also being added to fire engines.

Chief Cullinan commented that these devices allow more time on scenes to care for the patient and potentially save their life. He noted that since the Department has received the devices there has been a significant increase in cardiac arrest saves.

- Video Laryngoscope: these devices help to provide better visibility of airways which increases better intubation rates; and, with the assistance of Rescue Squad Assistance Grant funds, the Department will be receiving four (4) additional scopes to give to the busier ambulance companies.

Lieutenant Epps also provided an overview of the Rapid Sequence Induction (RSI) program and the new Power-LOAD™ cot fastener systems on the ambulances.

Sheriff Harris shared his appreciation for the partnership that the Sheriff's Office and FREM has.

Sheriff Harris also commented on the following: the public's expectations; Narcan; number of Opioid overdoses and fatalities; and referenced a recent incident that the Sheriff's Office had administered three doses of Narcan before the patient responded to the treatment.

Mr. Cebula also shared his appreciation for the Public Safety partnership.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chief Embrey made a motion, seconded by Sheriff Harris and carried unanimously, to approve the Minutes of the January 4, 2017 Public Safety Committee meeting as presented.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Public Safety Technology Update:

Mrs. Reeve reported on the following: the new CAD system (finalizing Phase 1); replacement of the Tone Alert System; Circuit Court cameras (project is almost complete); FirstNet; NG911; and radio issues that are being addressed.

Mrs. Reeve concluded by saying that with the Board of Supervisors (BOS) adopted Budget more resources are contingent for Public Safety.

Sheriff Harris commented on the radio volume control. Chief Embrey replied that FREM has been dealing with the same issue and noted that there is a feature for a standardized setting which can be modified.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Sheriff's Office Matters:

Major Skebo reported there was an infrastructure incident that occurred on April 4th at the Rappahannock Electric Cooperative substation in Paytes. He stated that the suspect had cut a fence for the purpose of stealing copper wire. He noted the incident included an explosion that resulted in a power outage. The suspect was later arrested in Louisa County at another substation.

Major Skebo also reported that there was a recent security issue at the Public Safety Building involving a landscaping contractor. He noted that this matter is being addressed. Sheriff Harris stated that the individual is banned from the property of the Public Safety Building.

2. George Washington Regional Committee (GWRC) Hazardous Mitigation Plan:
Chief Embrey introduced Jacob Pastick, with the Planning Department, whom he has been working with regarding the GWRC's draft Hazardous Mitigation Plan.

Both Chief Embrey and Mr. Pastick provided an overview of the Plan and explained that the purpose of the Plan is to identify hazards that could potentially threaten the County.

Mr. Pastick also distributed a draft Summary of the Plan and asked for feedback. He concluded by stating that the plan will go to a Public Hearing in May and will need to be updated every five (5) years.

Mrs. Reeve stated that she has concerns with the Summary that was distributed as there are items that affect IS, including: GIS standards which affect NG911; standards need to be compliant; such efforts usually affect IS's budget and needs to be included in the process; impact to future CRW applications; and funding issues as well. She concluded by saying that communications are needed for this project to be successful and that there needs to be more of an organizational approach.

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

1. Matt Embrey, Emergency Management Coordinator:
Chief Embrey reported on the following: Winter Storm Jonas (finalized FEMA paperwork); Emergency Operations Plan (confidential); Radiological Emergency Planning (including future drills); and the annual Stars and Stripes Spectacular event that is being held on July 1st (July 2nd is the rain date).

Chief Embrey announced that he is Chairman of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and that this group is working to create a Regional Hazardous Plan.
2. Jay Cullinan, Fire Chief:
Chief Cullinan distributed a report concerning response times.

He also reported on the following: OPTICOM and the possibility of utilizing the system in the County; current hiring process, noting that prior training is not needed for this academy; installation of exhaust removal systems; retention concerns; and concerns with Chancellor Volunteer Fire and Rescue staffing at Station 5.

Chief Cullinan concluded by introducing the following two new Acting Deputy Chiefs: Jason Irby (Support Services) and Steve Cooper (Operations).
3. Jane Reeve, Director of Information Services (IS):
Mrs. Reeve had no additional information to report.
4. Mr. McLaughlin, Board of Supervisors, Chancellor District:
Mr. McLaughlin had nothing to report.
5. Greg Cebula, Board of Supervisors, Berkeley District:
Mr. Cebula reported on the following:

Eagle Scout: Nathan Hinkson who presented his Eagle Scout project (Emergency Preparedness for Spotsylvania County residents) at the October 2015 PSC Meeting has achieved his Eagle Scout rank and will be attending the April 11th BOS meeting for recognition.

Fairview Road Bridge (Partlow): The Bridge is scheduled to be completed within four weeks as the delay on this project stemmed from the wrong beams being ordered. Mr. Cebula stated that the bridge closures detour affects response times for public safety.

Lake Anna (Department of Game and Inland Fisheries) Update: Mr. Cebula reported that he attended two stakeholder meetings regarding the dangers of wake surfing and noted that this is a statewide issue. He stated that no action has been taken and that the Lake Anna Advisory Committee is applying for no wake buoys.

Mr. Cebula concluded his report by thanking the group for adjusting their schedules for this PSC meeting.

6. Mr. Bartosh, Citizen Representative:

Mr. Bartosh was absent.

7. Mr. Taylor:

Mr. Taylor thanked the BOS for its work on the budget. He also stated that the recent pay study is currently being reviewed for options.

8. Sheriff:

Sheriff Harris announced that Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week is April 9-15.

Sheriff Harris also reported that the Sheriff's Office is putting the Threat Assessment Team back into action. He requested that if the group knew of any facilities that would like to have an assessment done to let him know.

Sheriff Harris asked Chiefs Embrey and Cullinan if there was a list available for the weight limits of the bridges in the County. Chief Cullinan replied that a spreadsheet is available containing that information.

9. Becky Skebo, 911 Communications Manager:

Mrs. Skebo reported on the status of the 911 telephone systems upgrade, including the ability to text 911 in the future.

Mrs. Skebo announced that National Telecommunications Week (recognizing 911 Dispatchers) is April 9-15.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. Reeve made a motion, seconded by Chief Embrey, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 2:15 p.m. The next Public Safety Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 28, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. in the Community Room in the Public Safety Building, 9119 Dean Ridings Lane.