

MEETING MINUTES

Public Safety Committee (PSC) Meeting
Wednesday, July 13, 2016
2:00 p.m.

Attendance: Greg Cebula, Board of Supervisors, Berkeley District
Mark Cole, Deputy County Administrator
H. Monty Willaford, Fire Chief
Matt Embrey, Division Chief of Emergency Management
Jane Reeve, Director of Information Services
Becky Skebo, 911 Communications Manager
Ernest Bartosh, Citizen Representative
Timothy McLaughlin, Board of Supervisors, Chancellor District
Roger Harris, Sheriff

Others Present: Joe Sposa, Deputy Chief of Operations, FREM
Teresa Switala, Administrative Assistant to the Fire Chief

Absent: Mark Taylor, County Administrator

CALL TO ORDER

Chief Willaford called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mary Lou Collier voiced her concerns on the need for Sheriff's Office vehicles to have cameras, especially with the number or recent incidents.

She concluded by thanking Public Safety personnel for "protecting the citizens."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Bartosh made a motion, seconded by Sheriff Harris and carried unanimously, to approve the Minutes of the April 6, 2016 Public Safety Committee meeting as presented.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Public Safety Technology Update

Mrs. Reeve distributed an updated Information Services (IS) projects listing. She expanded on: implementation of the new radio system; Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD); fiber installation at the fire/rescue stations; Sheriff's Office body cameras; data analytics; state mandates; and the Cedar Forest Elementary School radio tower.

Mrs. Reeve also reported that the new radio system is projected to go-live in the September/October 2016 timeframe. Mr. McLaughlin inquired about the go-live date changing from July to September/October and shared his concerns with regard to the change.

Mrs. Reeve explained that the radio project includes processes which involve the School Board (for the Cedar Forest Elementary School tower), the County Attorney's Office, the

Board of Supervisors, and the Federal Government.

Mr. Bartosh inquired about a "resolution for school radios." Mrs. Reeve replied that the schools have over 500 radios and they too will be going onto the new system.

Mr. Bartosh also inquired about cell phone coverage at the new stations 5 and 11. Mrs. Reeve replied that IS needs to put Bi-Directional-Amplifiers (BDA's) at those stations for signal enhancing.

Mr. Cebula inquired about the status of replacing Spotsy Alert. He commented on the recent loud Amber Alert notification that he had received. Chief Embrey reported that Cooper Notifications (SpotsyAlert vendor) has merged with Everbridge and noted that they are currently working on data transfers. He stated that there should be a way to modify the weather alerts.

8CALL90

Chief Sposa provided a brief overview of 8CALL90, including:

- it has migrated into a back-up system for when there are radio failures;
- there is an 8CALL90 system on Chancellor's tower but when the radios fail, there is no radio coverage in the areas of stations: 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, and part of 1;
- when the radios go down, staff has to rely on cell phones and there is minimal cell phone coverage in the areas of stations 2, 3, and 9;
- the 8CALL90 at Chancellor is going to be expanded to Livingston to help with radio communications in the southern end of the County;
- the signal strengths need to be re-evaluated;
- Schools now have 8CALL90;
- the need to identify funds to add additional 8CALL90 in the County; and
- the risk to public safety and citizens when the radio system goes down.

Mr. Cebula shared his concerns with regard to the radio system.

Mr. Bartosh inquired about data back-up in the event of a storm.

Mrs. Reeve advised there is a back-up option in an undisclosed location. She stated that 8CALL90 is only a temporary back-up option that it is not to be utilized for extended periods of time. She also noted that cell phone service providers would need to construct additional towers to improve cell phone communications, as BDA's would not help.

Chief Sposa stated that even with having fiber in the stations, there still has been a loss of cell phone capabilities. Mrs. Reeve stated that fiber-cuts are going to reoccur. She noted that POTS lines could be brought back into the stations as a back-up in an effort to help prevent additional related issues.

Action Item: Mrs. Reeve asked that Chief Sposa submit a work order in reference to asking for a solution to this matter.

New Response District

Mrs. Reeve publicly thanked her staff, especially David West, for all of their time with the New Response District Project. She reported that both new Stations 5 and 11 would be reviewed at the same time for mapping. She concluded by saying that there was additional data through TomTom™ to help with this project.

New Stations Update

Chief Willaford reported that the stations are progressing. However, concrete may need to be re-poured at Station 11 and that there were concerns with not having curbing and gutters at both stations.

New Apparatus Update

Chief Willaford reported that all apparatus has been ordered and that all but two pumpers have arrived.

Station Exhaust Removal System

Chief Willaford reported that a grant is in process to install station exhaust removal systems. He noted that the grant will not cover all stations; however, they all would be done in time.

NEW BUSINESS

Water Safety Resolution (Lake Anna)

Ann Heidig, Chairperson, Lake Anna Advisory Committee; Jean McCormick, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and Wake Surfing Sub-Committee Chairperson; and Maureen Daniels, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, spoke on behalf of safety issues concerning the sport of "wake surfing" on Lake Anna noting the dangers to the boating public, escalating erosion, and sea wall damage.

Ms. Heidig requested support from the Public Safety Committee for Lake Anna Advisory Committee's request to the Board of Supervisors to regulate Wake Surfing on Lake Anna.

Mr. Cebula made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bartosh, and carried unanimously, supporting a Resolution to regulate Wake Surfing on Lake Anna.

NIMS Unit Identification

Chief Willaford reported that FREM has not been NIMS compliant with regard to Unit Identifications. He stated that the department is doing away with naming certain apparatus as "wagons" and that anything with a pump would be identified as an Engine; and that anything that transports a patient would be identified as a Medic.

Mrs. Reeve told Chief Willaford to ensure that these unit identifications were also changed with the radios.

Combination System Staffing Update

Chief Willaford reported that Chancellor Volunteer Fire and Rescue (CVFR) is still not able to staff Station 10 and that the career staff continue to staff this station. He noted that the only station that CVFR is able to staff at this time is Station 5.

Career Staffing Update

Chief Willaford reported that FREM just graduated an academy and that there continues to be turnover. He noted that an additional eighteen personnel were hired to staff Station 11 and to help fill the vacant spots.

Mr. Cole advised that, per County policy, the exiting employee is responsible for reimbursing the County for their training.

Sheriff Harris commented that the Sheriff's Office does not have legal support for such matters to enforce the County policy.

A brief discussion ensued concerning retention of personnel and new hire agreements.

County Proffer Impacts

Chief Willaford reported that there are new State laws that went into effect in July that affect Spotsylvania County Public Safety. More information should be available in the future.

VDOT Project: Thornburg Intersection

Chief Willaford reported that staff has been meeting with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) with regard to getting a quick and safe solution for Station 8 personnel to enter Route 1 from Station 8 (Thornburg).

VDOT is going to install a traffic control signal directly in front of Station 8 that will turn red to stop the traffic when the station gets a call, and another signal nearby that will notify the company when it is safe to pull onto Route 1.

SAFER Grant

Chief Willaford reported that FREM applied for a SAFER grant and that no updates are available at this time.

Career Market Adjustment/Stipends

Chief Willaford stated that a Career Market Adjustment was reviewed in the mid-2000's during the struggling economy. He noted that Stafford County had a market adjustment done this past July and that their pay is significantly higher in comparison to Spotsylvania County.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that a Pay Study is being constructed.

Career Development

Chief Willaford stated that he has not forgotten about the request from the Board of Supervisors and that he and Major Wells would be working on it.

Mrs. Skebo commented that her staff would be in favor of a "step-program" and noted that "it would be an incentive."

Public Safety Pay Scale

Chief Willaford commented that other counties are doing away with traditional pay scales and wondered if Spotsylvania would be interested in other options as well.

A brief discussion ensue concerning bonuses verses step-levels.

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

1. Greg Cebula, Board of Supervisors, Berkeley District:
Mr. Cebula had nothing to report.

2. Timothy McLaughlin, Board of Supervisors, Chancellor District:
Mr. McLaughlin had nothing to report.
3. Mark Cole, Deputy County Administrator:
Mr. Cole had nothing to report.
4. H. Monty Willaford, Fire Chief:
Chief Willaford had no additional information to report.
5. Roger Harris, Sheriff, Sheriff's Office:
Sheriff Harris had nothing to report.
6. Matt Embrey, Emergency Management Coordinator:
Chief Embrey had nothing to report.
7. Jane Reeve, Director of Information Services:
Mrs. Reeve had no additional information to report.
8. Becky Skebo, 911 Communications Manager:
Mrs. Skebo had nothing to report.
9. Ernest Bartosh, Citizen Representative:
Mr. Bartosh commented on the need to provide Mrs. Reeve/Information Services Public Safety's priorities.

Mrs. Reeve commented that the committee needs to "keep the focus" with regard to re-prioritizing objectives.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Cebula made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bartosh, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 3:50 p.m. The next Public Safety Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 5, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in the Community Room in the Public Safety Building, 9119 Dean Ridings Lane.