

MEETING MINUTES

Public Safety Committee (PSC) Meeting
Wednesday, January 6, 2016
2:00 p.m.

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

Others Present: Teresa Switala, Administrative Assistant to Fire Chief, FREM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Cebula made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bartosh and carried unanimously, to approve the Minutes of the October 7, 2015 Public Safety Committee meeting as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Nicholas Ignacio introduced himself as being the owner of a new business in Fredericksburg called "Electronic Threat Alert". Mr. Ignacio gave a brief overview of his business and explained that the purpose of the alerts is to help provide protection for families, businesses, schools, etc. (ElectronicThreatAlert.com)

Mary Lou Collier commended Chief Willaford for the award that he presented to Ann Heidig, previous Board of Supervisors Member, Livingston District. Ms. Collier also shared her concerns regarding the Sheriff's Office and Fire and Rescue capabilities, call volume, and staffing.

Kim Madison, Chief, Spotsylvania Volunteer Rescue Squad shared her frustrations concerning the County's new radio system that has not yet been implemented. She stressed the importance of the new radio system project needing to be expedited, noting that it could become a life safety issue.

Chief Madison also commented on the following: additional liabilities; outstanding known issues; additional stress on the 911 Communications staff; radio warranties; and two

incomplete towers.

Norman Brooks, Chief, Spotsylvania Volunteer Fire Department echoed Chief Madison's comments. He referenced an incident that took place today, stating that it is a serious issue when he has "crews in a structure that he cannot clearly communicate with and that the system needs answers".

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Public Safety Technology Priorities Report:

Mrs. Reeve distributed an updated Information Services (IS) priorities list. She also reported on the following: fiber installation at the fire and rescue stations; hiring a consultant to assist with the user requirements for Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD); expansion of Mobile Data Terminals (MDT) for FREM; body cameras for the Sheriff's Office; 911 telephone upgrades; mini evaluation of Spotsy Alert; future replacement of Firehouse to ImageTrend for FREM, which she has recommended to be incorporated into the new CAD system project; and electronic mapping systems.

2. New Apparatus Update:

Chief Willaford reported on the new apparatus that FREM purchased with FY15-FY17 funds. He noted that it saved money by bundling the purchases.

3. New Stations Update:

Chief Willaford reported on new Stations 5 and 11 that are currently under construction. He noted that both station projects are moving forward and that Station 5 would probably be completed before Station 11.

4. Old Sheriff's Office Move:

Chief Willaford reported that FREM's Logistics Division has been currently utilizing the old Sheriff's Office building for their logistics storage, but with the building getting ready for renovations, the stored items will soon be temporarily moved to the old Rescue Station 5.

Discussion ensued concerning the future storage of FREM's Logistics items; lack of storage space at the Public Safety Building; issues with the old Sheriff's Office building; and the need for a permanent logistics storage location.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Re-Districting of Fire and EMS Boundaries:

Mrs. Reeve reported that a purchase order has been issued to a company to purchase geospatial data that will be used in FireView.

Discussion ensued concerning re-districting Fire and EMS boundaries; evaluating routes; and response districts being adjusted in the new future mapping system.

2. VDOT Bridge Report:

Chief Willaford reported that FREM has been working with VDOT with regard to weight restrictions and maintenance of the bridges in the County. He noted that some of the larger pieces of fire apparatus are not able to cross some bridges; however, for those that can't, other alternative routes have been established to respond to incidents in those areas.

3. Priorities:

Mr. Bartosh inquired about the priorities of the Public Safety Committee. He asked the group if they felt they were meeting the expectations of the Board of Supervisors.

Discussion ensued concerning radio systems; IS resources; and IS priorities.

Sheriff Harris shared his concerns with the radio system noting the serious potential liabilities. He also thanked Chiefs Madison and Brooks for coming to the PSC meeting and also sharing their concerns.

Mrs. Reeve stated that with regard to technology, resources and funding are needed; and that currently IS's top five priorities are the top five items listed on the priorities list that she distributed to the group (P25 Radio System; Fiber Connectivity to all Fire and Rescue Stations; Tone Alert/Digital Notification System; New CAD System; and Expansion of MDT's for FREM).

Mrs. Reeve also confirmed the following: the radio project is a priority; a radio system status update was presented to the Board of Supervisors in October 2015 (she disseminated copies of the presentation to the group and to Chiefs Brooks and Madison); the contract with Harris was not approved until 2013; there are extensive federal license requirements and approval from Virginia State Police to co-locate on their tower; there was over a year delay on approvals; a tower can be built at Cedar Forest Elementary; the radio system is operational, however, the system should not be turned on until all towers are up and running; and warranties will be extended.

Discussion ensued regarding: a potential "5-year plan"; limited resources and funds to cover specific priorities; utilization of approved funds before July 1, 2016; digital alert notification system; fiber connectivity at the fire and rescue stations; memorandum of interoperability with other jurisdictions; testing radios with tree foliage; and comprehensive plans.

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 Taylor, County Administrator:
Mr. Taylor had nothing to report.

4. H. Monty Willaford, Fire Chief:
Chief Willaford commended the following: the Sheriff's Office for their annual Blue Christmas event; Spotsylvania Volunteer Fire Department for their "Santa Runs"; and to Chief Cullinan for representing Chief Willaford during his absences at specific meetings.

He concluded by mentioning that on February 1, 2016, he will be retiring from the United State Coast Guard after 31 years of service.

5. Roger Harris, Sheriff:
Sheriff Harris had nothing to report.

6. Matt Embrey, Emergency Management Coordinator:
Chief Embrey reported on various training drills that he has recently participated in, including: Mass Casualty Incident Management training with Virginia Railway Express; VOPEX; Threat Hazard Incident Risk Assessment (THIRA); and a Flu Exercise with the Virginia State Emergency Operations Center and the Virginia Department of Health.

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 had nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m. The next Public Safety Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in the Community Room in the Public Safety Building, 9119 Dean Ridings Lane.