



Frederick County Fire and Rescue Advisory Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

APPROVED

Date: October 12, 2020, 1900 hours

Location: WebEx Virtual Meeting

Attendance:

Battalion 1 (Todd Johnson)	Present
Battalion 2 (David Remsburg).....	Present
Battalion 3 (Susan Nicol)	Present
Battalion 4 (Micky Fyock)	Present
Battalion 5 (Allen "Frank" Davis)	Present
Career Rep (George Lane).....	Absent
Career Rep (Kevin Schmidt)	Present
Citizen Rep (Susan Reeder Jessee).....	Present
Citizen Rep (Gunnar Pedersen)	Present

Nonvoting Reps:

Frederick County Executive (Jan H. Gardner)	Absent
Jurisdictional Medical Director (Dr. Jeffrey Fillmore)	Present
Fire & Rescue Services (Chief Tom Coe)	Present
Volunteer Fire & Rescue Assoc. (President Alan Hurley).....	Present
Volunteer Fire & Rescue Services (Chief Kevin Fox)	Present
Local #3666 (President Stephen Jones).....	Present

Guests: None

**Frederick County Fire Advisory Board Meeting
October 12, 2020**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Todd Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL OF VOTING AND NONVOTING MEMBERS:

Absent was:

1. George Lane, Career Firefighter/Medic Representative
2. Jan Gardner, County Executive

III. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

None.

IV. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to approve September minutes: Moved by David Remsburg
Seconded by Micky Fyock

VOTE: YES: 8 NO: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 PASSED

V. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

None.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

VII. EX OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS:

A. Frederick County Executive, Mrs. Jan Gardner:

As County Executive Jan Gardner was absent, no report was given.

B. Jurisdictional Medical Director, Dr. Jeffrey Fillmore:

Vaccinations

The State has approved Paramedics to give vaccinations.

LifePak 15

The LifePak 15 will no longer be serviceable; replacement parts are not being produced. Frederick County should be okay, other jurisdictions may have problems.

Protocols

New protocols for the year have gone into force.

C. Fire & Rescue Division Director, Chief Tom Coe

Fire Prevention Week

The 2020 Fire Prevention theme is Fire Safety in the Kitchen. Thanks to the FCVFRA Life Safety and Fire Prevention Committee for their continued work.

Recruit Class 28

Class graduated on September 25th with 21 personnel. We were able to add an additional ambulance to the Brunswick community 24/7. As well as an additional ambulance at the Westview Fire Station, Monday – Friday to bolster our EMS response. The remainder of the personnel were additional leave impact staffing.

Grants

Awarded \$5.5 million FFY19 SAFER Grant from the Department of Homeland Security. This will give our system 22 additional positions, which will take Station 10 from daytime staffing during the week to 24/7. As well as provide staffing at the Northgate Fire Station when it opens.

Recruit Class 29

Final offers for hire were sent to 30 additional recruits for Recruit Class 29, which will begin January 4th.

Northgate Fire Station

In the process of finalizing the virtual groundbreaking ceremony. Construction contract is in the final stages of award.

Vaccinations

Encourage EMS providers in your Stations to get the Flu vaccine.

FY22 Budget

The FY22 Budget process will be different from previous years. Everything needs to be submitted to the County Budget Office by mid-December.

Testing

The Special Projects Group and third-party vendor are in the final stages of hose testing. When hose testing is complete, we will move into ambulance inspections.

Paramedic Class 6

All students have passed their class final and are working on their capstone project.

Paramedic Class 7

Have received a good number of applications, both career and volunteer, for Paramedic Class 7.

Light the Night Red

Thanks to the County and all the stations that participated in Light the Night Red for fallen firefighters. Event was held virtually this year and was a special event for Frederick County as Firefighter Mike Powers of Libertytown was recognized.

D. President, FCVFRA, Alan Hurley:

President Hurley stated that he did not have anything to report for the October meeting.

E. Local #3666, President, Stephen Jones:

President Jones stated that he did not have anything to report for the October meeting.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association, Director, Kevin Fox:

Operations Committee

All-Chief's meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, 1900 hours at Company 24.

CARES Act Program

The reimbursement process continues. Reimbursements to date have totaled over \$691,000.

Audit of Funding Matrix System

SC&H is reporting that a draft report is nearly complete and should be available for review, soon.

County Finance Regulation Workgroup

Met this morning (10/12) and expect to have a final draft of the proposed regulation available for action by the FCVFRA Executive Committee meeting on October 27. The new document should be routed and available for the FRAB at the November meeting and with approval, can proceed as a Staff Report for subsequent County review/approval. The intent is for this new regulation to be effective for FY22 County Appropriations.

Records Management System

The RMS (Imagetrend) and Membership Database are communicating call response information. DFRS, DVFRS and companies continue to work through some new more accurate reports to document completion. Additionally, EMS office is working to assist with an issue that has arisen from the transfer from EMEDS to the membership database. Report completion percentages have much improved in the last few months following implementation of the new policy.

Compliance Training

Volunteer personnel must complete by October 31st.

LOSAP Committee

Will be meeting on 10/21.

B. EMS Committee

No report.

IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Old Business

Accreditation Update

To date we have 16 fully accredited, 3 conditionally, 1 in a warning status and 1 in a failed status. Still have four books that have not been received. On September 29th an email notice was sent to remaining companies who failed to participate with a deadline of September 25th for submission.

Chairman Johnson noted that the 4 companies that are out of compliance are almost 60 days out of compliance. If you are not in compliance after 60 days, county funding will be withheld.

Question Asked: "Chief Fox have those four companies been notified that once they reach October 18th, their County funding for October and February will be withheld?"

Chief Fox replied: The official notice goes out from Chief Coe.

Chief Coe replied: Those letters are set to go out tomorrow to those four companies because they have failed to meet the deadline. They then have 30 days to meet the obligation. Then I have to petition the County Executive for official withholding of future funds.

Question Asked: "Is there a reason why the companies have not complied?"

Chief Fox replied: I have not heard any comment back.

Discussion ensued regarding changes to the accreditation process.

Question Asked: "What are you trying to change the accreditation to?"

Chairman Johnson replied: I am not making any suggestions. I'm just saying those are values that need to be brought into the picture. The current accreditation does not take any of that into account.

Dave Remsburg commented: When evaluating the books, there are certain things in the books that are the same every year that you don't have to review. The biggest challenge is the officers, the qualifications and the ten list. That information is available at our fingertips or is becoming more available with the technology that we have. I think that's what Todd is eluding too.

Chairman Johnson agreed with Dave that the technology is available. Also, if someone is deficient, what else do we want to look at? If we are going to take a look to change some of these things with how we do the accreditation it's County ordinance. I think we should look at the entire picture.

Chief Coe commented: Maybe we put a sub-committee or workgroup together of FRAB members to dig into this issue. Chairman Johnson and Susie Nichol volunteered to be a part of the workgroup. President Hurley suggested that Gary Keller participate in the workgroup.

Journeyman Proposal

Chairman Johnson stated that the Journeyman Proposal was originally brought up last year. Would like to review several of the courses of action over the next 3-4 meetings. At this time, he would like the board to review items 1-4 of the proposal for discussion at the next meeting.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

APPROVED

Todd Johnson, Chair

APPROVED

11-9-2020
Date of Approval

APPROVED

Absent
Gunnar Pedersen, Co-Chair

APPROVED

Date of Approval