



County of Rockbridge

Office of Fire-Rescue & Emergency Management
100 Baner Lane Buena Vista, Virginia 24416 Office: (540) 572-4213

Regional Fire-Rescue Commission August 18, 2020 Minutes

Commission Members Present: Nathan Ramsey – Rockbridge County, Steve Reese – RERG, Jerry Wilson – RCFA, Carl Irvine – RCFA, Ty Dickerson – Lexington, Ted Duke – Citizen, Robert Hickman – RERG

Members of Public: Kathleen Beverly – BVRS, Sheri Wilcox – GLSFAC, Colby Irvine - WCVFD *please note: the meeting was held via Zoom.*

The June meeting was called to order at 19:01 by Chief Ramsey.

Approval of the Minutes: A motion to accept the June 16, 2020 minutes was made by Ty Dickerson and 2nd by Steve Reese.

Chair Report: Not present.

Committee Reports:

- **F/R ECC Subcommittee** – Meeting held just prior to Commission meeting. Discussed:
 - Director Berry reported that a department has a missing radio that was lost on an incident. He then asked the committee for a recommendation on how to move forward with a recommendation. After some discussion, the recommendation is for that department to submit a claim to their insurance company just as they would for any other piece of equipment they might need replacing.
 - Dave reported that he is working on radio issues in Raphine, talking with Harris on how to improve. Chief Ramsey stated that this is a urgent need as there have been times that mobile radios have not worked.
 - Chief Reese reported that it seems as if the analog dispatch channel has an issue as the pagers in the squad building are not activating. Chief Ramsey stated that he as seen a decline in the analog as well in the North end as well.
 - Dave reported that Harris will be beginning update to all the radio sites. During an update, a site can be down for up to three hours. Dave is planning to coordinate these updates.
 - Director Berry reported that Tyler is still working on the CAD. Working to correct the CAD crashing every 11 days.

Old Business:

- Burn Burning – DFP sent plans back the engineer for corrections.
- County leadership still working on plans for the use of CARES Funding. The finance committee is looking at options for all F/R departments.

- Work continues on the COVID-19 response. Emergency Management Task Force has supplied VMI with two tents, generator and A/C unit. Continuing CTE's with VDH. The plan is one every two weeks in our area.

New Business:

- Chief Ramsey reported to the group that he was notified by Mrs. Huffman (County Attorney) that as of July 1, 2020 a "regional public body" are now required to designate a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) officer. Chief Ramsey stated it is up for discussion on a possible person for the position. He would also be willing to hold this title as all of the minutes are easy to access from this office. Steve Reese made a motion for Nathan Ramsey to be the FOIA Officer for the Regional Fire Rescue Commission, Robert Hickman 2nd the motion. Following discussion, the motion passed by majority vote.
- Chief Ramsey reported that after meetings with the schools and OEMS, the high school EMT is slated to continue but the students will attend in person instruction at the F/R administration building. The students will be split into the groups that will attend two days a week.
- Chief Ramsey asked the members to begin thinking of what we would like to see moving forward for the FY22 budget year. Possibly to ask for the increase in VRRP (pay-per-call) as to what was initially asked for as \$10:00 and \$5:00. Chief Reese asked to revisit the Standby Stipend program and include that again. Chief Ramsey stated that he will include it in the agenda packet for next months meeting with the idea for the group to review and discuss.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm motion by Ty Dickerson and 2nd by Steve Reese