



AMHERST COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES COUNCIL

119 Taylor Street
Amherst, Virginia 24521
(434) 946-9307
EMERGENCY DIAL 911

MEETING MINUTES JULY 14, 2021

Location: County Administration Building @1915

In attendance:

Monelison Fire -	Joey Malott, David Campbell
Monelison Rescue-	Jim Fontaine
Pedlar Fire -	George Napier
Amherst Fire-	Steve Drummond
Amherst Life Saving-	Charlsea Goodin
Public Safety -	Sam Bryant
911 Communications-	Debbie Campbell, Michelle Ayers

I. The ESC Meeting was called to order at 1915 hours by Joey Malott

II. Invocation - Jim Fontaine
Pledge of Allegiance - All

III. Approval of Minutes of April 14, 2021 Meeting:

Motion made to approve minutes of April 14, 2021– Steve Drummond
Motion seconded by Sam Bryant
Unanimous Vote to approve.

There was no public citizen comment.

IV. New Business:

- 1) County Provided items to include: insurance, apparatus, operational funding, ATL, fuel, mobile and portable radios, Social Media Policy and following guidance

Concern addressed regarding young department members in stations past 10 pm. The young department members are growing in numbers. Faces of the future. No misconduct happening at Fire Department Buildings & Rescue Crew Halls.

- a. Sam Bryant discussed County Insurance Coverage policy for Departments. \$1,000

deductible per incident. Have \$20,000 coverage for towing expenses. All claims once presented with documentation have been promptly paid.

Mr. David Shield, agent with Campbell Insurance has agreed to come and meet with the Department Chiefs/Captains to explain in detail the policy coverage.

- b. ATL Funds allowed for each department and on hold pending request for funds for training, fire prevention, Public Safety
- c. Fuel costs – fuel price increased earlier due to the ransom ware. Didn't last long. For the most part vehicles were able to obtain fuel. However, there was a certain PR event whereas more than one vehicle participated. Should have only had one due to fuel shortage and increase of calls at that time. Fuel conservation – Be Smart.
- d. Mobile and Portable Radios- upon resignation of department members, radios and charger bases are to be turned in to Public Safety (Captain Joey Greer) for Maintenance, Repair, Updates and then reissue. New members are to come to Public Safety for radio issuance.
- e. Social Media Policy-Pictures of individuals and properties of incidents are not to be posted on Social Media. No personal cameras (cameras, cell phones, cam phones are to be used on incidents. Any information obtained by personal properties such as cameras, cell phones, etc. are subject to FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) requests. Need to add policy to SOGs. As a reminder, follow all departmental rules and regulations related to social media. To not do so is a liability.

Verbiage needed to prevent individual person's privacy to be posted on social media suggested by Sam Bryant and Steve Drummond.

2) Station 3 Status

Per Jim Fontaine:

obtaining quotes for Roof Work (slow)

A/C work-obtaining three (3) quotes

Electrical – Steve Drummond

Showers/Hot Water-David Campbell Roto-Rooter company

Feels some of the work can be accomplished by department members such as, painting, tiling, etc.

3) Chain of Command usage, span of control

Correct problems on the spot, don't let it go.

4) Tanks at Fire Stations – In talks with DEQ and Wayne Cocke of Schools this could be cost prohibitive. Checking into cost, ground sampling and retaining leak or run-off catch.

V. Matters from the Floor

- 1) Bob Hopkins – Service Authority has a list of all hydrants
Discussed incident that required two (2) trucks and the line for hose was at 2000' in order to hook to hydrant
- 2) Cares Act Funding has ceased
- 3) American Rescue Plan - "Rescue America" Funding is in the process- awaiting information on \$\$ amount
- 4) Tanker 21 – Status

Awaiting part. Should be completed this week by American Atlantic Solution in Roanoke. Joey Malott and Steve Owen to complete punch list.

- 5) Discussed putting two (2) Toughbook Computer to access the CAD system in Monelison trucks- plus one Toughbook. Would have to sign an IT Agreement that no outside internet sites would be accessed.
- 6) Tempo since Memorial Day – Increase in number of calls at same time. Concerns regarding that the older department members are the ones who always respond to call rather than the younger members, sometime pushing responders to the limit. Keep the younger members engaged.
- 7) POV Responses- Lights are a courtesy. Follow all laws.
- 8) Sam Bryant discussed the request he has made to the Board of Supervisors for an Emergency Manager and for a full-time Fire Marshall during last budget cycle.
- 9) Fire Fighter I training class scheduled to start up Fall of 2021.
- 10) Fit Testing – Amherst is almost completed. Kevin Ervin with shortly begin to do Monelison Fire and Monelison Rescue.
- 11) Amherst Life Saving Crew Hall having pavement work completed. Will move one ambulance to Amherst Fire Department and one to Monelison Rescue temporarily.

VI. Old Business:

a. Recreational Marijuana

Cannot use marijuana when on duty. Should not have in system when reporting to duty. Not allowed on County Property. Can do random testing. No place in Emergency Response. Need to add policy to departmental by-laws and County SOG's.

VII. Adjournment:

Motion to Adjourn- Steve Drummond
Seconded – Sam Bryant