

ALBEMARLE COUNTY FIRE/EMS BOARD
FEMS BOARD MEETING
VIRTUAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2020 – 1800 HOURS

A virtual meeting of the Albemarle County Fire/EMS Board was held on Wednesday, July 22, 2020, at 1800 hours.

The following members were in attendance:

John Oprandy, Albemarle County Fire Rescue
Virginia Leavell, Charlottesville Albemarle Rescue Squad
Will Schmertzler, Crozet Volunteer Fire Department
Keith Shifflett, Earlysville Fire Company
Danny Vanderploeg, East Rivanna Volunteer Fire Department
George Stephens, North Garden Volunteer Fire Company
Mike Grandstaff, Scottsville Volunteer Fire Department
Kostas Alibertis, Western Albemarle Rescue Squad

Others in Attendance:

Christina Davis, Albemarle County Fire Rescue
Scott Lambert, Albemarle County Fire Rescue
Chip Walker, Albemarle County Fire Rescue
Heather Childress, Albemarle County Fire Rescue
Howard Lagomarsino, Albemarle County Fire Rescue
Kathryne Presson, North Garden
David Smalley

I. Call to Order

Chief Alibertis called the meeting to order at 1800 hours.

A. Moment of Silence

Attendees observed a moment of silence.

B. From the Board: Matters Not Listed on the Agenda

i. Update from each Chief – Matters of importance from their station

No updates were given

ii. Addition of Agenda Items – deferring any major issues/items requiring preparation to a future agenda

Chief Grandstaff said he had an item he wanted to address.

C. From the Public: Matters Not Listed on the Agenda

There were none presented.

II. Work Session

There was no work session held.

III. Approval of Consent Agenda

A. June 2020 Minutes

MOTION: Chief Stephens moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Chief Vanderploeg seconded the motion, which passed unanimously (8-0).

IV. Committee updates

A. Executive Committee

There was no meeting.

B. Training Committee

There was no meeting.

C. Operations Committee

An attachment was provided.

D. Recruitment & Retention

There was no meeting.

E. Quartermaster

There was no meeting.

F. Apparatus Committee

There was no meeting.

V. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

VI. New Business

A. FY 20 Maintenance Forms

Ms. Mezzoni reminded the Chiefs to submit their FY 20 Maintenance Forms by August 30. She said she would follow-up the reminder with an email after the meeting.

B. Funding Letter Update

Ms. Mezzoni said there was some discussion at last month's meeting (which she was not able to attend) about some of the new requirements for County contributions and making sure those are accounted for. She said more information about what OMB will be looking for will be put in the budget instructions for FY 22, which will be coming out in about 6-8 weeks.

Ms. Mezzoni said these changes will be for budgets moving forward. She said the only action item the FEMS Board had currently was to call their banks and set up a separate account for their FY 21 County contributions. She said those checks that are on their

way should go into accounts that are separate from the agencies' other money if it does not already.

C. Stony Point & East Rivanna Medic Units

Chief Childress said this was added by the chief, who was on vacation. She said she wanted to remind everyone that those units were put in service earlier that month, and that these are being staffed every day. She said things seem to be doing well so far. She said if either Station 2 or Station 6 had anything to add, she would be glad to hear it.

Chief Vanderploeg clarified that the ambulance was not yet in service at Station 2.

Chief Childress apologized.

Chief Alibertis asked how this was being staffed and if it was consistent with the other stations.

Chief Childress replied that it is consistent. She said it is consistent with Station 4, which is dynamic [inaudible] and rotates between Station 4 and Station 6. She said she believed this is the way it would stay when they have to reduce staffing if they move forward. She said perhaps Chief Puckett would have some numbers for the board next month that would show how many calls they are running and what it might be doing as far as response time.

D. Training Update – Resuming Classes & New ones with discussion on screening and PPE requirements

Chief Lambert said the update was partly covered in the Training Committee meeting minutes, but that he wanted to let everyone know that they have resumed classes from the COVID break. He said the EMT class has resumed with minimal attrition. He said they talked with the students ahead of time and worked out a plan. He said this class is going relatively well, and was meeting that evening.

Chief Lambert said they have started one new class -- Hazmat Ops. He said they had a couple of concerns posted their way as far as the number of students in the class. He said there were many reasons behind it. He said they closed registration and had 12 people and then, they were petitioned to try to add more people in. He said they allowed it, as they are trying to get people into the training as frequently as possible. He said there were some issues with crowding the first night. He said while they were able to maintain 6 feet of social distancing, some of the students weren't comfortable with the size of the room and the number of people.

Chief Lambert said they moved the class on the second date to a larger room. He said he will talk with the Training Committee on Wednesday, August 3 to talk about limiting the number of registrants based on the number of tables available at the venue. He said some of the training of rooms would cap the number of students at 12, whereas they normally cap it at 24. He said they are trying to find alternative seating arrangements to

try to maximize the attendance, but they are going to limit each student per table. He said most classrooms have a 6-foot table, so they will limit one student per table and set a cap on each training room to make sure they don't have any comfort issues.

Chief Lambert said they are requiring masks in their class, in accordance with guidelines, as well as temperature screenings, hand sanitation, and disinfection with the same ionization devices that Chief Puckett distributed at a previous FEMS Board meeting.

Chief Lambert said he wanted to keep the FEMS Board in the loop, as there may be some implications as far as the overall registration numbers, based on size of the classroom.

Chief Lambert said additionally, if they take any steps backward as a locality, moving from Phase 3 backwards, this will impact their ability to host classes. He said they are contingency planning for that, and that he wanted to bring the board into the loop that if they were to revert to Phase 2, this would potentially have an impact on the launch of any new classes.

Chief Alibertis asked if the contingency plans were to move online, or do simulations.

Chief Lambert replied that they have looked at various options, and that it varies based on the accrediting agency in which they are teaching through. He said DFP has not made many accommodations for virtual learning, whereas at the Office of EMS, they already do all the lectures online and they have offered virtual simulations in the event that they are not able to maintain social distancing.

Chief Lambert said the classroom venue for the summer EMT program is large enough to be sufficient. He said he needed to look at the resource impact, as it basically involves an almost one-on-one instruction in some virtual environments, which increases the number of instructional hours. He said he would bring up this level of detail at the Training Committee meeting on Wednesday, August 3 to try to get guidance there, then bring this back to the FEMS Board at the end of August, which will be right before registration happens.

E. Other items not on the agenda

Chief Grandstaff said he wanted to get the current status of the radio system back on the radar. He said it does not work in about 50% of his area, and that Chief Stephens can attest to the fact that on Sunday, there were people on a brushfire and they could not get in touch with them. He said they use three different radio frequencies up there on three different systems to try to get in touch with people who were in the woods.

Chief Grandstaff said the board has been talking about this since 2004, and he keeps getting an answer that they are working on it. He said everyone knows that this will not be a sufficient answer if someone gets hurt or killed. He said he wanted to talk about the matter again because it was getting to be ridiculous.

Due to audio interruptions, Chief Childress asked Chief Grandstaff to repeat what he had said.

Chief Grandstaff said they went live on the current 800 system in 2004, and about 50% of the Schuyler/Howardsville area does not have coverage. He said they have been complaining about it since then and keeps getting told that it is being worked on. He said he knows that Chief Walker is working with the ECC on the new system. He said if someone gets hurt or killed in his area, however, "We're working on it" is not going to be an answer for the family. He said they had to use three different frequencies to get in touch with people and move vehicles into different areas to be able to provide coverage and talk to people that were in the woods doing jobs.

Chief Grandstaff said he wanted to put this back on the radar that they are complaining about it so that if something happens, no one can say that they didn't know it didn't work. He said about once a year, a statement is made, and he wants to keep it on the radar.

Chief Walker said he would give an update. He said it was not imminent, but there were plans for fall of next year, and that this project has been able to go on by the local partners [inaudible] COVID. He said [inaudible]. He said this would not be able to help tomorrow, but that he [inaudible] a year from now. He said this was not great news.

Chief Grandstaff said he knows that it is being worked on, but when someone gets hurt or killed, "being worked on" is not going to be a sufficient answer for the family when the problem has been there since 2004. He said his peace and that it was on the recording. He said he has said this since 2004 and that it is brought up at least once a year.

Chief Grandstaff said in the same instance, they have had two fires in the same area there and had difficulty getting Forestry to respond twice in a row. He said he would like to reach out to Forestry to figure out if they can get a better response. He said he knew that Chief Powell was out due to injury. He said they had to wait for someone to get there 45 minutes to even start in route to them recently, and that this person had to come all the way from Fluvanna. [Inaudible sentence]

Chief Oprandy said he had this down as a follow-up.

Chief Vanderploeg asked if there was any follow-up on the reimbursement for COVID. He said he had not heard anything as far as East Rivanna.

Chief Alibertis replied that he had not heard anything, either.

Chief Vanderploeg said the chiefs were supposed to receive some sort of follow-up after the last FEMS meeting on the process on what they needed to do to submit for reimbursement.

Chief Oprandy said he remembered this being brought up, and that he recalled they were going to have Ms. Nicole Matthews reach out. He said he would follow up on that. He said he didn't remember speaking to her about that, so it could be that he dropped the ball. He said he would look into it and find out.

Chief Alibertis said Chief Leavell brought up a point in the chat about reprogramming. He asked if Chief Walker had anything to add, noting that he knew they were on hold and looking for options to not have to change anything. He asked if any progress had been made.

Chief Walker replied that he was not aware of any action on that. He said he had not spoken with Chief Puckett about it.

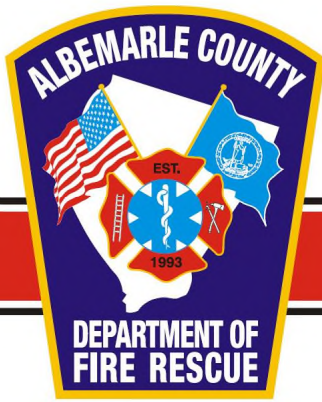
Chief Alibertis said he knew that Chief Puckett was working on it. He said [inaudible] for programming, and that they were going to speak with the vendor about it. He said he had not heard any follow-up. He said he would request that they continue to hold on reprogramming, as reprogramming is not helpful enough and is certainly not their best choice. He said they have not heard otherwise, and that Chief Puckett did ask to hold off until they heard more.

Chief Oprandy agreed. He recalled that they were setting up a meeting with the alerting system vendor and ECC, and were trying to bring together a group of people. He said to his knowledge, this had not happened.

VIII. Adjournment

MOTION: Chief Vanderploeg moved to adjourn the meeting. Chief Stephens seconded the motion, which passed unanimously (8-0).

The FEMS Board adjourned their meeting at 1820 hrs.



FIRE RESCUE

ALBEMARLE COUNTY

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www.ACFireRescue.org

ALBEMARLE COUNTY FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BOARD ATTENDANCE LOG

Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020

VOTING MEMBERS (OR DESIGNATES)

Chief Jon Oprandy (Albemarle County): John Oprandy

Chief Virginia Leavell (CARS): Virginia Leavell

Chief Will Schmertzler (Crozet): Will Schmertzler

Chief Keith Shifflett (Earlysville): Keith Shifflett

Chief Danny Vanderploeg (East Rivanna): Danny Vanderploeg

Chief George Stephens (North Garden): George Stephens

Chief Michael Grandstaff (Scottsville Fire): Michael Grandstaff

Chief Dennis Hahn (Seminole Trail): _____

Chief John Vidovich (Stony Point): _____

Chief Kostas Alibertis (Western Albemarle): Kostas Alibertis



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ALBEMARLE COUNTY FIRE RESCUE EMERGENCY AND MEDICAL SERVICES BOARD ACTION RECORD

| AGENDA TITLE/ISSUE: | AGENDA DATE: |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Consent Agenda | July 22, 2020 |
| MOTION: | MOTION MADE BY: SECONDED BY: |
| Approved Consent Agenda | Chief George Stephens Chief Danny Vanderploeg |
| SUBSEQUENT MOTIONS/AMENDMENTS: | |
| | |

| CALL OF THE QUESTION: | Yes | No | Abstain |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Chief John Oprandy (Albemarle County) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Chief Virginia Leavell (CARS) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Chief Will Schmertzler (Crozet) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Chief Keith Shifflett (Earlsville) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Chief Danny Vanderploeg (East Rivanna) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Chief George Stephens (North Garden) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Chief Mike Grandstaff (Scottsville Fire) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Chief Dennis Hahn (Seminole Trail) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Chief John Vidovich (Stony Point) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Chief Kostas Alibertis (Western Albemarle) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

I hereby attest that the foregoing is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Christina Davis

7/22/2020

Clerk

Date



- Building the Model Volunteer-Career Fire & EMS System -



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ALBEMARLE COUNTY FIRE RESCUE EMERGENCY AND MEDICAL SERVICES BOARD ACTION RECORD

| AGENDA TITLE/ISSUE: | AGENDA DATE: |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Adjournment | July 22, 2020 |
| MOTION: | MOTION MADE BY: SECONDED BY: |
| To Adjourn | Chief Danny Vanderploeg Chief George Stephens |
| SUBSEQUENT MOTIONS/AMENDMENTS: | |
| | |

| CALL OF THE QUESTION: | Yes | No | Abstain |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Chief John Oprandy (Albemarle County) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Chief Virginia Leavell (CARS) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Chief Kostas Alibertis (Western Albemarle) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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Christina Davis

7/22/2020

Clerk

Date



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