

ALBEMARLE COUNTY FIRE/EMS BOARD
FEMS BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
VIRTUAL MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2021 – 1630 HOURS

A virtual meeting of the Albemarle County Fire/EMS Board Executive Committee was held on Monday, February 8, 2021, at 1630 hours.

The following members were in attendance:

Dan Eggleston, Albemarle County Fire Rescue
Todd Richardson, Earlysville Volunteer Fire Company
Mike Grandstaff, Scottsville Volunteer Fire Department

Others in attendance:

Christina Davis, Albemarle County Fire Rescue
Heather Childress, Albemarle County Fire Rescue
David Smalley

I. Call to Order

Chief Eggleston called the meeting to order at 1630 hrs. He read the following statement aloud: "The Executive Committee of Albemarle County Fire and Emergency Medical Services Board meets on the first Monday of each month at 1630 hrs, except as noted below. This meeting is being held pursuant to and in compliance with Ordinance No. 20-A(14), 'An Ordinance to Ensure the Continuity of Government During the COVID-19 Disaster.' The opportunities for the public to access and participate in the electronic meeting are posted on the Albemarle County website at www.albemarle.org."

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

II. Approval of Consent Agenda

There was no consent agenda.

III. Executive Session

There was no executive session.

IV. Unfinished Business

A. Stony Point Update

Chief Eggleston said he would give an update on the Stony Point agreement process. He said there was an opportunity for he and Chief Puckett to meet with Chief Duncan Miller and their president, Ms. Cara Metcalf, as well as Mr. Jack Mellott, one of the board members. He said they stepped through the agreement line by line and talked about what it meant just so that everyone involved understood the roles, responsibilities, and requirements of that agreement if they choose to sign it.

Chief Eggleston said this had been a very productive meeting, with a lot of good exchange. He said they were going to think about it and potentially even seek some legal advice on some of the more legal terms, paragraphs, and statements in the agreement. He said otherwise, it looks like they understood everything from the beginning to the end.

Chief Eggleston said he had not touched base with them recently, but they did offer (which Ms. Alyssa Mezzoni had gotten out either Friday or that day) a list of all the FEMS adopted policies as well as a copy of the ordinance and anything else that is particularly related to the requirements of the organization. He said they will have a hard copy of that in the station to refer to, and three copies are being made so that everyone can have their own.

Chief Eggleston said he has not heard back from them yet, and they have not made recommendations for any potential changes, at this point. He paused to take any questions and heard none.

V. New Business

A. Fire EMS Board Bylaws Draft Review

Chief Eggleston said the bylaws needed to be updated mainly to reflect the recent decision to move toward staff-led committees. He said it is also a good time to clean up the bylaws, as they have not been updated since they were adopted some time ago. He said he had some highlights of what those changes would be, and a redline version would be sent out to everyone well ahead of the meeting so that people will have an opportunity to study them and adjust the recommended changes before moving to adopt the bylaws. He said this was just more of a primer.

Chief Eggleston said the first thing was that they removed Scottsville Volunteer Rescue Squad as one of the named agencies. He said they never had determined what particular month the nomination of officers takes place, so they landed on October. He said this could certainly be changed by the board if conversations lead to that. He said elections will take place at the December meeting in every even year, making it every other year that they take elections. He said there are no term limits associated with some positions, and he would get into the term limits of the Executive Committee.

Chief Grandstaff said he was out of town during the last meeting, and so he assumed he was voted back into the Executive Committee.

Chief Eggleston confirmed this was correct. He expressed that he is big on continuity, and anything they can do to maintain continuity is important. He said Chief Grandstaff has been there for some time now and thanked him.

Chief Eggleston said the term shall be for two years, or until successors are elected. He said if there is a vacancy in that two-year period, then the unexpired term will be filled at the next FEMS Board meeting of the vacancy. He said because they had never had anything in the bylaws that addressed the issue of turnover in the year and how they would go about selecting the officer, they included some language about this for the board to consider.

Chief Eggleston said there was some discussion about whether or not they should actually put in the bylaws when, specifically, they meet, and the recommendation is that they do not, just in case they need to change the date for some reason. He said as long as they meet the FOIA requirement to announce that date so that the public can participate, they are okay. He said they just figure it is better to do that than to lock themselves into a particular timeframe.

Chief Eggleston said much like what the chiefs do with their own stations, there is a balance of what they put into bylaws versus what they put into policy. He said policies are easier to change while bylaws require a more formal process.

Chief Eggleston said as he mentioned, there are currently no recommendations to make any changes in how the Executive Committee is selected, and there are no term limits right now. He said they can certainly change that if there is a need, but the thought was that the Executive Committee helps to prepare policies and communicate out to the rest of the board, and there is a need to maintain continuity there. He said if they get into this and people feel that they need to have term limits, they can certainly add those in.

Chief Eggleston said they added just one statement, that the FEMS Board has the ability to develop ad-hoc committees, if necessary. He said this is similar to what has been done in the past, called "task forces" in some cases. He said this was added to address a short-lived project, for example. He said they did not want to tie their hands by listing the committees and not be able to talk about anything else that the board can do.

Chief Eggleston said the last thing they added was about how often they should review the bylaws. He said there is a general thought that organizations should review bylaws about every three years, but they just stopped short of listing when this would be in the bylaws because once they put it in, they are stuck to that. He said they can change it if they need to, but this is at least their recommendation going into this.

Chief Eggleston said these were mainly housekeeping measures in the bylaws and nothing substantial, other than the committee part, but even that is more of a formality. He said once the redline copy is done, it could be sent out. He said his review that day was to note that this was more of a matter of housekeeping without any big changes. He asked if there were any questions or comments and heard none.

Chief Childress noted that she had taken out the things where a change had not been recommended, but that she was glad to add those back before sharing with the larger group.

Chief Eggleston agreed this would be good to do.

Chief Childress said she had the redline copies to send out when ready.

Chief Eggleston asked if Chief Childress was talking about doing those now or at the next FEMS Board meeting.

Chief Childress said she just had to send the bylaws out 10 days in advance of the meeting, if no one on the committee had any heartburn about the changes, so that people at the FEMS Board meeting would be prepared to comment.

Chief Grandstaff asked if they would be willing to send it out to the Executive Committee and give them 3-4 days to review and make sure it looks good to them before sending it out to everyone.

Chief Eggleston said this sounded like a good idea. He said they would send it out to the Executive Committee first.

Chief Childress noted that she would send this out to the committee.

Chief Eggleston asked if Chief Leavell was on the line, as he thought it was a good time to ask her about the vaccination process. He said this was shifting and that every day, they get something new as far as plans to vaccinate. He said there was obviously a big shortage of vaccine, which makes things difficult, and they are doing their best to try to allocate that vaccine.

Chief Eggleston said that morning, he found out there was some national publicity about CVS and other pharmacies getting involved. He said he understands they are getting their vaccine from a different supply and that it is not competing with the 2,900 that the Health District is getting, which may add some capacity.

Chief Eggleston said the Health Department is planning to do a closed point of distribution vaccination at Yancey Community Center that weekend (Sunday, February 14) for just one day. He said they have 300 doses and will vaccinate as many people as they can. He said the Yancey Advisory Committee is working with the Health Department to identify who may be eligible for the vaccine. He said Fire Rescue may provide some limited logistical support, but mainly, this will be an effort driven by the Health Department.

Chief Eggleston asked if the committee members had any questions for Chief Childress.

Chief Grandstaff commented that Chief Childress has been on top of things, and it has been nice being able to send out detailed informational emails to his people. He said he had one person who emailed Chief Childress directly, but other than that, everyone has been going through him. He said the information being provided was good and appreciated.

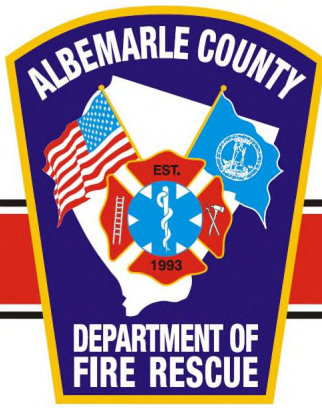
Chief Eggleston said he appreciated this. He said there were many communications and changes, but people are generally being patient and forgiving. He said they will get through this one way or another.

Chief Childress asked if anyone had gotten feedback from their people about working with a specific contact at the Health Department. She said she had heard some good things, but she was interested in hearing from a wider perspective.

Chief Grandstaff said from what he understood, this was working. He said he had a couple of people who would be going the following day to get their second dose from that process. He said it seemed to be working at this point and that he appreciated it.

VI. Next Meeting

At 1645 hrs, the FEMS Board Executive Committee adjourned their meeting to April 5, 2021 at 1630 hrs.



FIRE RESCUE

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ALBEMARLE COUNTY FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BOARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ATTENDANCE LOG

Date: February 8, 2021

VOTING MEMBERS (OR DESIGNATES)

Chief Virginia Leavell (CARS): _____

Chief Todd Richardson (Earlysville): Todd Richardson

Chief Michael Grandstaff (Scottsville Fire): Michael Grandstaff

Chief Kostas Alibertis (WARS): _____

Dan Eggleston (Albemarle County): Dan Eggleston

GUESTS & OTHERS

<i>Guest/Other</i>	<i>Organization/Agency/Affiliation</i>
<u>Heather Childress</u>	<u>ACFR</u>
<u>David Smalley</u>	<u>Unknown – Public</u>
<u>Christina Davis</u>	<u>ACFR</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____