

WASHINGTON COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION

The special meeting of the Washington County Fire and Rescue Association was held on December 10, 2009, at the Clear Spring Special Events Building hosted by Company 59.

The meeting was called to order by President Glenn Fishack at 1903.

ROLL CALL - All member companies were present. All officers were present except the Chaplain and Assistant Treasurer.

NEW BUSINESS: The President opened the meeting by stating that the EMS Plan for the Future was passed by this Association five years ago. The original plan was developed by a Committee appointed by the BOCC and was divided into two parts, Phase 1 and Phase 2. The EMS Committee in conjunction with the County DFES and County Administrator have developed a revised plan. This new plan was distributed by email to all member companies on December 8, 2009. The County Administrator emailed copies of the plan to the BOCC on December 9, 2009. In the December 8, 2009, each member Company was asked to review the Plan and attend a Special Meeting on December 10, 2009, to vote on the revised plan. The President said that David Hays, Greg Murray, John Snyder and Kevin Lewis wrote the revised plan. The president then opened the floor for a motion to adopt the revised plan. Dan Grove of Company 9 made a motion to recommend to the BOCC that they adopt the revised plan. The motion was seconded by Glenn Reynolds of Company 7. The floor was then opened for discussion. Kevin Lewis, Director DFES, said that the revised plan will keep the Companies whole and meet EMS needs. It will maintain base systems and is a method to move on from here. It will help the EMS Companies to get on the scene quicker. The DFES supports the revised plan. President Fishack stated that a recent meeting all of the EMS member companies supported the revised plan.

Greg Murray, Washington County Administrator, stated that when he began this process he knew little about Fire and Rescue. He then said that he had reviewed the original plan and that the EMS companies needed immediate relief. The original plan called for an update of goals and statistics on a regular basis. Then he looked at today's statistics which calls for 12 units to be available on a 24/7 basis. Using a 24/48 schedule this requires 3.5 ALS/3.5 BLS providers per unit per station. Staffing accountability will be audited on a regular basis. Each Company will receive a dollar amount to provide the required staffing. This revised plan combines Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the original plan. The revised Plan does not do what the original Plan would have done. The revised plan does include a Manpower and Operational Plan. Christian Alshire, BOCC, said the BOCC was responsible for providing the service to the public and to be able to explain the plan to the public. The item that concerns him most is providing funds directly to the companies is accountability. Each company must be willing to provide financial information to the County and the public. Their books must be in order.

President Fishack, said that each of the EMS Companies had provided financial information to Arthur Crumbacker, a representative of Albright, Crumbacker, Moul and Itell, Inc., Certified Public Accounting, on Saturday, December 5, 2009. Mr. Grumbacker, in a letter to the Association stated that all financial appeared to be in order. He stated that all but one of the Companies seemed willing to answer his questions about their information. The Company that did not want to answer his questions had an email from the County that indicated the County had all the information needed. Several companies did not have the current year information complete, but provided information from previous years. President Fishack said the Fire Plan for the Future can be developed using the EMS Plan as a guide.

The floor was opened for questions. Blaine Snyder asked John Snyder how soon the people could be hired to implement the plan? Chief Snyder said that each Company would have a different time frame. Each Company would be reevaluated on a yearly basis. Mr. Murray stated that some Companies want Phase 2 now, and that there were people in the pipeline.

Commissioner Alshire asked why CRS was receiving a subsidy? Chief Snyder said that there was a minimum subsidy necessary to cover overhead.

Dale Martin asked if there would be a chase vehicle at Company 16? Chief Snyder said no.

Rick Beall said that the Companies would have to be careful not to take ALS people from other

Companies.

Mr. Murray said there is currently 30 ALS and 20 BLS people employed full time in the County. There are many more part time employees. There are many qualified people in the County working outside the County and that by implementing this plan, which will provide benefits and retirement opportunities, maybe some can be persuaded to come back to the County.

Charlie Shindle asked how soon the BOCC will adopt this plan? Commissioner Alshire said that not before the end of January.

Jason Baer, a member of the committee that developed the original plan, said it was time for the Association to vote to recommend this revised plan and move forward.

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The motion was voted on by Roll Call vote. 22 Companies voted in favor, 2 opposed and 2 abstained.

Commissioner said that he had received many invitations to banquets, but would not be able to attend them all. He does appreciate the invitations and again thanked all Companies for their service to the County.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Murray
Secretary