



**AMHERST COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES
COUNCIL**

**119 Taylor Street
Amherst, Virginia 24521
(434) 946-9307
EMERGENCY DIAL 911
May 8, 2024**

MEETING MINUTES for May 8, 2024 Meeting

Location: County Administration Building @ 1800

IN ATTENDANCE:

Council Members:

**Amherst Fire Department-
Amherst Life Saving-
Monelison Fire Department-
Pedlar Fire Department-
Amherst County Public Safety-**

**Board of Supervisors-
Sheriff Department-**

Public Attendees-

**Steve Drummond, 1st Assistant Chief, Chair
Charlsea Goodin, Captain
Joey Malott Chief, Vice-Chair
George Napier, Chief
Bradley Beam, Director
Marcia Gilpin, Office Manager/Scribe
Chris Adams
L. J. Ayers, Amherst County Sheriff
J. E. Begley, Major
Jeff Tanner, AFD, 2nd Assistant Chief
Shannon Daniel, MFD, Associate Member
Jason Friend, MFD, Associate Member
Jarred Scott, Amherst Public Safety Deputy Director
Ben Bond, Amherst Public Safety EMS Division Mgr.
H. Lee Day, Pedlar Fire Department
Sam Bryant, Amherst Life Saving**

- I. The ESC Meeting was called to order at 18:00 by Chair, Steve Drummond.**
- II. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Steve Drummond and Brad Beam led the Invocation.**
- III. Approval of Minutes:**
 - A. The minutes were presented for the April 10, 2024, 2024 Meeting for Approval. Motion was made by Steve Drummond to approve. Motion seconded by Joey Malott. Unanimous vote by Council Members to approve.**

IV. Old Business

- a. **Volunteer Recruitment Strategies** – Per Brad Beam, the County Volunteer Application has been tweaked by County Attorney, Mark Popovich. Once finalized, it will be posted on the County Website. Once available to the public, applicant will be able to submit electronically or it can be mailed or dropped off to the Department. This has been emailed to ESC for feedback. It will go to Marcia It Gilpin, and she will then distribute to the appropriate department.

Brad Beam brought up the suggestion about the use of Billboards. It would cost approximately \$800/month and could be funded by each Department from their available funds in the Capital Funds allotment. Would have to take this to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

- b. **County Ordinance Update** – The Board of Supervisors motioned at their last meeting, May 7, 2024 to hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 to present the name change from Amherst County Public Safety to Amherst County Fire & EMS, Amherst County Board of Supervisors County Ordinance No. 2024-2, §11.5-2. Establishment of the Amherst County Public Safety
- c. **Mission, Vision and Value Statement Development** - Steve Drummond offered an edit to the current version and did Jason Friend. Brad will email a draft with the suggestions added to the Council Members for the next meeting
- d. **Background Checks** - Ben Bond stated that he discussed possibilities of utilizing facilities at Amherst School System. He stated that the school had a window of time each week that their new hires could come in for backgrounds. Using the schools will not be a good option at this point.

Joey Malott stated that Monelison Fire Department had been using the VA State Police but are limited as to information. They run into a issue when the adult person has a clear background but when their juvenile background is checked, there are problems that OEMS would have an issue with.

It was suggested that information be obtained from the Human Resources as to their procedure for background checking,

V. New Business

- a. **Discussion regarding the edits to SOGs 1 & 2 as the completeness and approval.**

There was a lengthy discussion with multiple edits offered by ESC members. Motion was made to approve the edits to SOG 1 and 2 by Steve Drummond and seconded by Charlseas Goodin. Motion carried.

VI. Matters From The Floor

- a. Brad Beam stated that new radios have been tested. 32 new radios with accessories have been ordered. These radios will have better radio coverage, particularly in the remote areas of the County. Each Department will receive 7 radios.

- b. Joey Malott asked about the procedure regarding funds for the Compressor purchase that was approved at the April 10 meeting. Brad Beam stated that per the County Finance Director, policy had always been to have the Department pay for the item and submit a reimbursement request.
- c. Jason Friend asked to address the Council members in regard to several issues that he had been approached about.
 - 1. Jason asked for a definition of the “Executive Board” of the Emergency Services Council. Brad Beam stated that he believes the intent from the county attorney with this was: the Executive Board consists of the “voting members” of the Council. The voting members consist of: Amherst Fire Dept Chief or Asst Chief, Monelison Fire Dept Chief or Asst Chief, Pedlar Fire Dept Chief or Asst, Chief, Director of Public Safety, Captain of Amherst Life Saving, Captain of Monelison Rescue. The Board of Supervisor Representative and the Representative from the Sheriff Department are non voting members.
 - 2. He asked for a definition of **Administrative Appeal**. This would go before the Executive Board of the Emergency Services Council.
 - 3. Discussion about “Long-Time Fire Fighter” who has been “Grandfathered In” due to the requirement of having be certified as Fire Fighter I. Chris Adams stated that is not the intent to make decisions on a person by person basis. It is about the system. If a members does not have FF1, hey should be assigned “Other Tasks”, and not interior operations.
 - 4. Asked for clarification of Dispatch Protocols regarding Hikers, Nature Codes, Etc. Brad Beam stated that he would email the Nature Codes List to the ESC Members.
 - 5. Asked for policy as to when EMS Shift Captain (806) is dispatched to events. Complaints were that 806 arrived at incidents that they were not specifically requested that they are dispatched to.

Chris Adams offered feedback, he reminded everyone why we are in Fire & EMS and that’s to help. We can’t keep doing the things of “this is our call, why are they here? We have one team.

Sheriff Ayers stated that all of the Departments represented at the meeting have one goal: **“To Serve the Citizens and Visitors of Amherst County”**. It is **not** one department, it is the **whole**, If a member is in the vicinity when an incident occurs, this member should respond and offer assistance

- d. Next ESC Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 12, 2024 @ 1800.

Motion to adjourn made by Steve Drummond and seconded by Joey Malott. Meeting adjourned at 1930 pm.