



AMHERST COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES COUNCIL

**119 Taylor Street
Amherst, Virginia 24521
(434) 946-9307
EMERGENCY DIAL 911
June 12, 2024**

MEETING MINUTES for June 12, 2024

Location: County Administration Building @ 1800

IN ATTENDANCE:

Council Members:

Amherst Fire Department	Steve Drummond, 1 st Assistant Chief, ESC Chair
Amherst Life Saving	Charlsea Goodin, Captain
Monelison Fire Department	Richard Hunter, 2 nd Assistant Chief
Amherst County Public Safety	Bradley Beam, Director
Amherst County Board of Supervisors	Chris Adams

Non-Voting County Members:

Ben Bond	Amherst County Public Safety, EMS Division Manager
Marcia Gilpin	Amherst County Public Safety, Office Manager, Scribe
Brooke Coleman	Amherst County Public Safety, Communications Division Manager

Public Attendees:

Shannon Daniel	Monelison Fire Department, Captain
Nick Moore	Monelison Fire Department, Engineer
Lee Day	Pedlar Fire Department

- I. The meeting was called to order at 1800 by Steve Drummond Chair.**
- II. Invocation was led by Ben Bond and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Steve Drummond.**
- III. Approval of Minutes:**
 - 1. Approval of May 8, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

The minutes were presented for the May 8, 2024 meeting for approval. One minor edit to be made to minutes. Shannon Daniel, MFD is changed to Captain from Associate. Motion to approve May 8, 2024 meeting minutes was made by Steve Drummond. Seconded by Brad Beam. Motion carried.

IV. Old Business

1. Volunteer Recruitment Strategies

Brad had received one recruitment request from Pedlar Fire Department to be placed on Facebook. (NFF Council Template.

2. Volunteer Application (online)

After being tweaked by the County Attorney, it is currently on the county website in the background. Brad Beam to contact Joy Niehaus to adjust so it can be accessible to the public. The procedure will be that the applications will come to Marcia Gilpin who will forward to the appropriate department Chief and/or Captain.

Brad reminded the group that this is just one option, applicants can still turn in paper applications to the specific department.

3. Mission, Vision, and Value Statement development (review draft)

After discussion, the ESC voted to use the presented Mission and Vision Statement as its Mission and Vision. Motion by Steve Drummond to approve. Seconded by Charlse Goodin. The Mission, Vision and Value Statement Draft presented was unanimously approved by voting members.

Mission and Vision Statement for Amherst County Fire & EMS

Mission Statement

To serve the Amherst County citizens, businesses and visitors by saving lives and protecting property through collaboration, innovation, and commitment to excellence through a team of dedicated Amherst County Fire & EMS Agencies.

Vision Statement

To be trusted, respected, and principles-driven leaders in the County in which we serve.

4. Background Check

Per Ben Bond who contacted the State Police, the best option for a background check is a paper request that can be forwarded to the State Police. OEMS uses a finger print system that will still be required for EMS affiliation. It was discussed and departments are going to come back next meeting to discuss if they want to develop a “countywide” policy on criminal convictions,. Possible criteria that could be discussed by departments were:

- a) Felony?
- b) Sexual Infraction or Caregiving Incidents?
- c) Drug convictions?
- d) Thefts, embezzlements?

Chris Adams suggested that the county needs to be proactive, and possibly do annual DMV checks.

Suggestions are to be presented to each department for discussion and input as so to be consistent. Feedback from each department is to be presented at the next ESC meeting.

5. SOG Development (Discuss PPE, and Mutual/Automatic Aid)

PPE

Structure Fire – Edited to read “Full PPE including SCBA shall be worn. . . .

Vehicle Accidents - Edited to read “All personnel in or near the roadway shall wear an approved traffic vest. Anyone engaged in extrication or rescue operation, to include Fire & EMS, should wear full PPE, to include eye protection.

Motion was made by Steve Drummond to approve the PPE SOG with the two edits. Charlse Goodin seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Discussion about turnout gear being dated. Normal use time frame is 10 years. Shannon Daniels suggested that Probates not be necessarily assigned legitimate gear at first. Once they are certified as FFI, FFII, etc. they then can be assigned appropriate gear.

Swiftwater-SOG – To be addressed in a specific Swift Water SOG that will have PPE inside it.

Draft Amherst County Mutual/Automatic Aid–

A couple of typos were corrected inside the draft SOG.

Amherst County Fire Response Nature Codes

Discussed the items listed on the Fire Nature Codes Spreadsheet attached in the Packet.

Industrial/Commercial Fire Alarms Dictates to tone Ladder Truck

Target List should be developed for Ladder Truck Tone

A Target list needs to be developed regarding Ladder Truck Tone. Staging Locations also need to be implemented for incidents.

Edited Fire Nature Codes Chart to follow.

V. New Business

1. Strategic Planning and Five-Year Capital Improvement Purchases (CIP)

Brad Beam suggested that staff and the Board of Supervisors ESC liaison member would like to meet with each Department to obtain input from each for long range budgeting and estimated operational expenses for a five (5) year plan.

Rick Hunter said Monelison Fire is finishing up their 5-year plan and will need 6.5 million dollars from the county in the next five years.

VI. Matters From the Floor

It was requested that the ACCESS Membership Application form be emailed to the Department Chiefs/Captains for their members interested in signing up.

County Code Change – Effective July 1-VDFP FF-1 and Hazmat Operations are required for entering into the IDLH. This would include any fires that SCBA are needed.

VII. Motion to Adjourn

Next ESC meeting was agreed to be held on Wednesday, July 10, 2024 @ 1800.

Motion to adjourn by Steve Drummond. Seconded by Charlseal Goodin.