



Cumberland County Fire Chief's Association

"Preservation of Life and Property through Organization"

Minutes of the February 22, 2021 Monthly Meeting



The Chiefs' meeting was hosted by Pearce's Mill Fire Department. The meeting format was restricted due to COVID 19 issues with some members participating by teleconference. Refreshments were served. We thank Chief Marley and his staff for their hospitality.

- Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Johnson at 7:00 pm.
- Opening Prayer:** Chief Brock conducted the opening prayer.
- Pledge of Allegiance:** President Johnson led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Roll Call:** Roll call was conducted with 16 departments and 5 associate members present.

Members Absent:

- Fire/EMS Departments: **Fort Bragg, Godwin-Falcon and Grays Creek # 24.**
- Associate Members: **County Commissioners, Fayetteville PD, Forestry, Retired Fire Chiefs and Sheriff's Office.**

Approval of Minutes: The January 25, 2021 minutes were approved as presented.

Guests: Senator Kirk Deviere – Long Leaf Pine Presentation
Representative Billy Richardson – Long Leaf Pine Presentation
Fire Chief (Ret) Ben Major
Deputy Chief (Ret) and Mrs. Hieu Sifford
Fire Chief (Ret) Greg Grayson – On-Line ISO Presentation

Vendors Present: Hannah Matthews, On-Line Fit 4 Life wellness presentation

Treasurer's Report: Not Applicable (Quarterly - next report May 2021)

Meeting Points of Interests:

*Next Chiefs' Meeting is scheduled for **Spring Lake Fire Department** on Monday, March 22, 2021 at 7 pm with dinner. (Due to COVID only **two** Agency Chief Officer per department all others call in at 1930 Hours)*

- **Grays Creek 2461** assumes air truck rotation during the month of March 2021 followed by **Air-2 Vander** in April and **Fort Bragg Air-1** in May 2021.
- President Johnson thanked Brian Pearce for his assistance with the COVID vaccines. Chief Pearce gave an update on the vaccine program.
- President Johnson announced Chief Jason Williams of Spring Lake was re-instated as Fire Chief.

Items of Interest Handouts

- ✓ Assorted handouts in your packets.
 - Senate Bill 62 – VFD Preservation Act
 - Revised Air Truck Schedule
 - Anti-Litter Campaign for Cleaner Communities
 - CC Commissioners Select County Priorities
 - CC Launches local Government TV Channel
 - CC AED Project
 - Fit 4 Life Wellness Program
 - CPSE Accredited Agencies & Designated Officers

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Assistant Chief Sean Johnson updated the membership on the radio programming project and informed the Chiefs that all the new code plugs hex codes both for the county and City of Fayetteville have been downloaded for testing. He stated that the process has been extremely dynamic with yet another change addressing hex code changes this morning. Motorola downloaded our code plug into one of our radios and we are now in the testing mode, checking each talk group, our built-in redundancy as well as out of county talk groups to ensure there are no issues. Once completed Mobile Communications America (MCA) will start the process of installation and we will also provide all our regional partners a copy of the new code plugs. Sean stressed that we are only focusing on our new radios and not our current radios. There was a question concerning the use of old radios in addition to the new radios, and President Johnson advised that with every new radio being turned on an old radio is turned off.
2. President Johnson informed the Chiefs that the defibrillators have been delivered and to only pay the invoice that President Johnson sent to each chief. There have been issues with billing out of corporate office and Randy Campbell is aware and correcting the issue. President Johnson thanked Chief Parrish for donating one of his older model defibrillators to the association to be placed on COMS-1.
3. President Johnson addressed the upcoming 2021 Fire Protection Service District Grant Program and reminded the membership about our combined number one portable radio priority for the grant program and if we do it right there will also be funds for smaller district grants. He will submit the regional district grant on behalf of the association with a Chief signature page attached.
4. President Johnson announced that he received a call from Chief (Ret) Jake Whisnant, former executive director of the North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs and was informed that the association met its goal and will be turning the Fire Officer License plate order into North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles for processing. The plates must also be approved by the North Carolina General Assembly, which is generally a formality. President Johnson did not know how long that process would



take to produce and ship the license plates. He also announced that Jake retired, and retired Fire Chief Wesley Hutchins has been selected as the new NCAFC Executive Director.

5. President Johnson discussed the transition from FH Records management program to the Emergency Reporting Program. President Johnson presented an ER quote to the members and informed the Chiefs that a 4-hour class comes with the new RMS, and that Chief Melvin has an ER instructor as well. There is a data migration from FH to ER that comes with the program, which we will do early on, while FH is still up and running through June. We will also not cut off FH for the COF while they continue to research RMS's suitable to their compatibility issue. He also informed the membership that he talked with Chief Hill and that the COF has internal COF RMS management compatibility requirements that are not necessary in the county. The OSSI/Central Square CAD will support multiple RMS seamlessly. After a discussion Fire Chief Jason Williams (Spring Lake/Manchester) introduced a **MOTION** to move forward with Emergency Reporting Records Management System (RMS) as a replacement for our current and antiquated Firehouse RMS. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Deputy Fire Chief Hank Harris (Cotton) and with no further discussion **APPROVED** by a roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. President Johnson on behalf of the association members presented Fayetteville Deputy Fire Chief Hieu Sifford with the Associations' retirement plaque and thanked him for his many years of public service both as a volunteer with the Lake Rim Volunteer Fire Department and continuing with the Fayetteville Fire Department culminating a 30-year public safety career.



2. North Carolina House of Representative Billy Richardson and Senator Kirk Deviere presented Deputy Chief Sifford with North Carolina's highest civilian award and presented him with "The Order of the Long Leaf Pine" signed by North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper, thus conveying Deputy Chief Hieu Sifford as a North Carolina Ambassador Extraordinaire. Chief Sifford thanked the association for the recognition and thanked his wife for her untiring support throughout his 30-year career.
3. Retired Fire Chief Greg Grayson provided virtual feedback and references through a power point slide presentation from the Insurance Service Office (ISO) improvement study he conducted encompassing all rural volunteer fire departments here in Cumberland County in late 2019. Emergency Services Director Gene Booth advised that he would e-mail a copy of the power point slides to each participating department. There was a discussion amongst the members concerning required data during the pandemic months.
4. Ms. Hannah Matthews with "Fit for Life" attended virtually and briefed the Chiefs about their wellness program and reduced public safety fees. Anyone joining will be able to attend any of the Fit 4 Life locations both locally and regionally. A handout was provided in each Chief's packet.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ID CARD COMMITTEE

- **FYI.** Fire Chiefs are required to send a signed letter or memo with a firefighter requesting an ID Card. For any questions or an appointment contact 424-0694 or e-mail at cjohnson.spfd@gmail.com
 - President Johnson again asked the members to please continue to recycle or return the clips used for our ID Cards. These clips are extremely expensive, and we need to reuse them as much as possible in order to hold down costs. Please collect clips when your members leave a department and recycle the clips. He also reminded the membership that we do not print blue tags, which are considered temporary tags only.

LIFE SAFETY/EDUCATION COMMITTEE Kevin Lowther (Fire Marshal)

E-Mail: klowther@co.cumberland.nc.us

- Updated the membership on the current Smoke Detector program and the associated GIS address and Fire Department location finder. Kevin inquired about the approval of the Smoke Alarm Policy. After a brief discussion Fire Chief Jason Williams (Spring Lake) made a **MOTION** to approve policy 2101-01 Smoke Alarm SOG as presented. The motion was **SECONDED** by Fire Chief Gary Brock (Beaver Dam) and **APPROVED** unanimously by a show of hands by all voting members present. Fire Marshal Lowther also informed the members that over 600 smoke alarms have been ordered as well as 24 carbon monoxide alarms and the order will bring the total available alarms to around 1,000. He is currently in the process of devising a distribution plan, while at the same time maintain a supply at the FM office. He thanked the association for their continued support with our combined FLSE programs.
- President Johnson congratulated Fire Marshal Lowther for his professional Fire Marshal (FM) designation with the Center of Publix Safety Excellence (CPSE). Job well done.

STANDARDS & POLICY COMMITTEE D/C Tracy Smith (Pearce's Mill FD) Chairperson,

E-Mail: pmfd0302@nc.rr.com

- No report. curtailed

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE Chief R. Marley (Pearce's Mill) Chairperson,

E-Mail: pmfd0301@nc.rr.com

- No report.

TRAINING COMMITTEE Assistant Chief Kevin Murphy (Stoney Point) Chairperson

E-Mail kmurphy1903@gmail.com

- Chief Murphy provided a hand-out on upcoming classes both local and regional. Advised the Chiefs that he will meet with department training officers to discuss training needs.

FINANCE COMMITTEE Deputy Chief Freddy Johnson Jr. (Stoney Point) Chairperson,

E-Mail: spfd1302@nc.rr.com

- No report. (Provided quarterly during Chiefs only meeting)

RESCUE COMMITTEE Deputy Chief Hank Harris (Cotton FD) Chairperson,
E-Mail: cf402@nc.rr.com

- No report.

COMMUNICATIONS /DISPATCH STEERING / AVL COMMITTEE Chief Chuck Hodges (Hope Mills FD), Chairperson, E-Mail: clhodes@townofhopemills.com

- Chief Hodges provided information reference a communication request from Chief Nobles (Stedman VFD) concerning a request to authorize the double zero (00-2300) for the Fire Chief to open an officer's number. Currently the double zero designation is reserved for district chiefs (Departments with multiple Stations). He advised that the committee was split on the issue about making changes to accommodate one (1) officers' number. Chief Bradshaw (Vander Fire District) is currently the only chief utilizing the double zero designation (200) stated that he was reverting to the 201-number placing him in line with all the other VFD's. Chief Johnson stated that he talked with Chief Nobles earlier in the day and Chief Nobles was working on a project that would alleviate the issue in the future.
- Chief Hodges also requested to **RESCIND** the AVL related request made during the January 25, 2021 meeting concerning non-emergency or Alpha calls, requesting that non-emergency calls should be handled by the host station instead of AVL recommended closest unit. After a discussion with Adam Johnson, it was determined that programing and dispatch protocols hamper this request, and the request is therefore withdrawn.
- The vote on the revised Communications SOG was tabled till the March meeting and Chief Johnson will send out another PDF copy to all members with the minutes.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – Division Chief Brandon Hanzal (Stoney Point) Chairperson, E-Mail:

- See item # 5 in old business relating to the Emergency Reporting (ER) RMS.

HOSTILE RESPONSE / ACTIVE SHOOTER – Assistant Chief Kevin Morgan (FFD) Chairperson, E-Mail: kmorgan@ci.fay.nc.us

- No report

RECRUITMENT / RETENTION COMMITTEE – Fire Chief Justin Nobles (SVFD # 23) Chairperson, E-Mail: jnobles@stedmanfire.com

- No report.

JOINT INCIDENT / DISASTER RESPONSE COMMITTEE – Assistant Fire Chief Richard Bradshaw (VFD) Chairperson, E-Mail: rbradshaw1@nc.rr.com

- No report.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS REPORT

COUNTY MANAGERS OFFICE – Assistant County Manager Tracy Jackson

E-Mail: tjackson@co.cumberland.nc.us

- No report.

EMERGENCY SERVICES DIRECTOR/ ECC-911 (Gene Booth, Director),

E-Mail: gbooth@co.cumberland.nc.us

- **Director Booth** – *His office is continuing to support Public Health and requested volunteers from the fire service if available. They are recruiting for 911 dispatchers and moving forward with the new Emergency Services building located at Executive Place.*
Gene discussed the Fire Protection District Grant Survey and the protocols for the upcoming grant submission due on Friday March 26, 2021 with the grant review committee completing its work by April 15, 2021 to county staff for inclusion in the FY 21-22 budget year.
Lastly Gene commended his staff and the members of the Fire Service with all the work related to COVID.
- **Emergency Management Director.** – No report. However, Gene advised that he hopes to introduce our new EM Coordinator and EM Planner during the March meeting.
- **FM Lowther** – *Reported during the FLSE Committee reports.*
- **Adam Johnson** - No report.

EMS DIRECTOR: Brian Pearce, Director E-Mail: bpearce@capefearvalley.com

- No report.

HAZMAT: AC Robert Brinson, FFD - POC telephone for HAZMAT is 910-584-9550,

E-Mail: rbrinson@ci.fay.nc.us

- Chief Brinson talked about an issue that surfaced on a Motor Vehicle Accident on the I-95 corridor earlier this evening in the Godwin-Falcon Fire District. The issue surrounded the Department of Transportation (DOT) IMAP and clean up contractors who are not familiar with Fire Department or EMS procedures, while their sole purpose is to clear and re-open the Interstate to traffic. He is working on setting up meetings including IMAP and requested that a member from the association attends the meeting. Chief Brinson serves on several key committees dealing with hazmat and over the road issues and has additional information forthcoming in a future meeting.

FORESTRY DISTRICT Craig Gottfried, County Ranger, E-Mail: craig.gottfried@ncagr.gov

- Possible juvenile fire activity due to kids being out of school.

FTCC Steve Drew, E-Mail: drews@faytechcc.edu

- Steve Drew mentioned that we have two academy classes beginning. He also briefed the block program that the State is going to with the certification programs.

SHERIFF’S OFFICE Sheriff Wright (Sr. Sgt. Steven Hodges) **Email -**

- Sgt. Hodges gave an update on promotions and resignations from the Sheriff’s Office.

FAYETTEVILLE POLICE – Police Chief Gina Hawkins, Email ghawkins@ci.fay.nc.us
(Captain Jay Devane) jdevane@ci.fay.nc.us

- No report.

NC HIGHWAY PATROL – Major Freddy Johnson Jr. SHP Special Operations.

E-Mail: Freddy.johnson@ncdps.gov or Sergeant S. Johnson SHP Raleigh Training Center

E-Mail sean.johnson@ncdps.gov

- No report.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

Bethany Volunteer Fire Department is sponsoring a BBQ plate sale on Saturday March 27, 2021 at their station starting at 11 AM until. Please see the attached flyer.

President Johnson briefly talked about the fire at the Clarion Inn on Cedar Creek Road that had the potential for devastating outcomes in the un-sprinkled hotel. Our mobile command bus (Coms-1) was dispatched to the call and delivered around 4 am. He asked Chief Alvarez to briefly update the membership. Chief Alvarez stated that the firefighters responding were extremely lucky and entered the right door. He provided a quick overview and informed the members that the COF FD is working on their After-Action Report (AAR) with pictures that will be presented at a future date to the members of the association.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made to adjourn by Chief Marley and seconded by Chief Bradshaw. The meeting was adjourned at 2102 hours.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Freddy L. Johnson Sr.

Freddy L. Johnson Sr., CFO
Fire Chief / President

Mark A. Melvin

Mark A. Melvin, CFO
Fire Chief / Secretary

Enclosures – 6.

1 – February 22 attendance roster

Enclosure # 1 - CCFCA Attendance Roll Call Roster

	MEMBERS PRESENT (19)	19	16											
	ASSOCIATES PRESENT (10)	8	5											
	Number of total personnel in attendance	NA	30											
	CC Fire Chiefs DEPARTMENTS & ORGANIZATION Chief's Only Meeting	25-JAN-21- PMFD-Zoom	22-FEB-21- PMFD-zoom	22-MAR-21- SLFD COVID	26- APR-21- TBD COVID	24-MAY-21-PMFD-Zoom	28-JUN-21- TBD COVID	26-JUL-21- TBD COVID	23-AUG-21-PMFD-Zoom	27-SEP-21 - TBD COVID	25-OCT-21- TBD COVID	22-NOV-21- PMFD-Zoom	20-DEC-21 - SHERIFF	
	MEMBERS	MEETING DATES												
01	BEAVER DAM STA 26 & 27	P	P											
02	BETHANY STA 12	P	P											
03	COTTON STA 4	P	P											
04	CUMBERLAND ROAD STA 5	P	P											
05	EASTOVER STA 1	P	P											
06	EMS EMERGENCY MED SVC	P	P											
07	FAYETTEVILLE FIRE DEPT	P	P											
08	FORT BRAGG FIRE DEPT	P	E											
09	GODWIN – FALCON STA 17	P	E											
10	GRAYS CREEK STA 18	P	P											
11	GRAYS CREEK STA 24	P	E											
12	HOPE MILLS STA 21	P	P											
13	PEARCE'S MILL STA 3	P	P											
14	SPRING LAKE STA 22	P	P											
15	STEDMAN STA 23	P	P											
16	STONE POINT STA 13 & 19	P	P											
17	VANDER STA 2 & 8	P	P											
18	WADE STA 16	P	P											
19	WESTAREA STA 15-20 & 25	P	P											
	ASSOCIATE MEMBERS													
01	CC EMERGENCY SERVICES	P	P											
02	COUNTY COMMISSIONERS	A	A											
03	COUNTY MGR OFFICE	P	P											
04	FAYETTEVILLE PD	P	A											
05	FORESTRY	P	A											
06	FTCC	P	P											
07	HAZMAT	P	P											
08	HIGHWAY PATROL	P	P											
09	RETIRED FIRE CHIEFS	A	A											
10	SHERIFFS OFFICE	P	A											