

Cumberland County Fire Chief's Association

Minutes of April 27, 2009 Monthly Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm and was held at EMS Base we thank Chief Roye and his staff for their hospitality and food.

Opening Prayer: The prayer was inadvertently skipped and the executive staff apologizes for this omission.

Roll Call: Roll call was conducted with 16 Departments and 9 Associate members present.

Members Absent: Vander, Cedar Creek, Fort Bragg, Hope Mills, Pope AFB, Westarea #15 & #20

Associate Members Absent: SBI

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the March 2009 meeting was approved as presented.

Guests: **Brian Slesinski, Purchasing Manager** CMRP, Cape Fear Valley Medical Center.
1638 Owen Drive, Fayetteville, North Carolina 28304, Telephone # 910-615-4646
Cell # 910-797-6093; Fax 910-615-7706. E-mail bslesinski@capefearvalley.com

Vendors Present: None

Treasurer's Report: Deputy Chief Johnson Jr. presented the quarterly treasurer's report and stated that the fund balance as of today is \$ 181, 884.31. An itemized Category Report was handed out for everyone's benefit.

Meeting Point of interests:

- **Next Chief's Meeting** will be held May 18, 2009 at Grays Creek Station # 18, Fire Department on Fire Department Road in Grays Creek. President Johnson reminded everyone that this meeting is held one (1) week earlier due to Memorial Day.
- President Johnson passed out several informational papers on
 1. ISO to Formally Reevaluate the Fire Service Rating Schedule (FSRS)
 2. Homeland Security – Threat & Risk Assessment Course scheduled for Aug 2009 and sponsored by the Cumberland County Emergency Services.
 3. Thank You Note from the Family of Gail Cassidy Carter who passed away. Former Bonnie Doone Firefighter.
 4. NIMS 300 & 400 Class Announcement at Robeson Technical Community College.
 5. NCDENR Emergency Response Capability Letter
 6. Legal Briefings for Fire Chief's April 2009 Edition
 7. Stethoscopes Carry MRSA Bacterium information e-mail
 8. Firefighter injured in 2006 blaze sues department, other firefighters
 9. March 2009 and Year to date County Response Report from EOC

OLD BUSINESS:

- President Johnson provided information on the progress of the new Fire Safety House training program. Deputy Chief Harris and staff members are working with the new home in order to thoroughly understand all the components of the home and incorporating those components into the overall training program. Once this is completed training of responsible individuals from each department will commence.
- President Johnson advised that everyone should have received an e-mail he send out last week concerning the Contract meeting with Commissioners and County Staff on Tuesday May 5th, 2009 at 6 PM at the Crown Theater. He reminded all Chief's to insure that their perspective Board of Directors are made aware of this most important meeting. The meeting is for all Boards of Directors and Chief Fire Officers only.
- President Johnson updated the membership on the ID card issue and stated that he needed to talk with Kenny Currie and Tim Mitchell whereas our system needs to meet the NIMS credentialing requirement.
- Chief Herndon inquired about Viper and associated radio problems. President Johnson informed Chief Herndon that in the future all of us would be integrated to the VIPER system but for now we have to work through issues of dead zones and problems. No radio system is perfect. But VIPER clearly is the premier system providing clear voice modulation with a statewide application range. Chief Herndon also inquired about communications technology currently being utilized in Robeson County and not in Cumberland County. With the upgrade of the OSSI Computer Automated Dispatch (CAD) system, future state of the art notification systems can be studied for possible implementation. This will however require some up front funding costs. President Johnson asked Director Currie to keep the association informed of dispatch technology systems upgrades in order for us to look at alternative notification systems that will ultimately replace our pagers.
- President Johnson further reminded all the members about the Stimulus meeting scheduled at the Department of Social Services Building on Ramsey Street on Tuesday May 5th, 2009 at 2 PM. This is the meeting where representatives from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) will brief on available Stimulus funding for the renovation and or construction of Fire Facilities.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Chief Mike Roye, Cape Fear Valley EMS, presented a power point presentation on the Group Purchasing Ordering information through Premier Continuum. He invited all fire service providers to participate in the group purchasing power and opportunities in order to save money when purchasing medical supplies. He handed out Premier hand outs and partnership applications and urged all departments to join the Premier partnership. He provided examples of tremendous savings through the power of bulk purchasing. The premier program offers group buys, employee discount contracts, and many other fringe benefits. He stated there were no up-front fees and we simply needed to complete the applications he provided to participate in the program. Mike also introduced Mr. Brian Slesinski the Purchasing Manager for Cape Fear Valley. Brian addressed the association and further emphasized the value of the GPO program. Brian's point of contact information is listed under guests on the 1st page of the minutes.
2. President Johnson presented the association budget and reviewed the budget request with the membership. A discussion on the budget process followed and a motion was made by Chief Mike Roye that the presented budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 be approved as presented. The

motion was seconded by Chief Mike Hill and approved by a roll call vote by all members present. (See the 2009 Vote Roll Call Sheet for details). President Johnson will inform Mr. Howard Abner with Cumberland County Finance of the approval of the budget.

3. President Johnson informed the membership that it was his intention of submitting another county-wide regional Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) application on behalf of all of us. Through this grant application he hoped to achieve several goals that will enhance our delivery of services and add to our overall safety as well. The grant monies will be utilized to fully implement three goals. The first goal is to establish contractual agreements and purchase the hardware, software and associated supplies that will be needed to install mobile data terminals (MDT) in our fire trucks, identified mobile command vehicles, identified fire inspector vehicles, and the special operations Sheriff's Office mobile command unit, along with servers, network connections, and wireless routers, in each fire station. The second goal is to receive training in the proper use of the hardware and FIREHOUSE Enterprise, Mobile ICS and Pre Plan, Mobile Inspections, and CAD Interface software. This training will be instructor-led training provided by FIREHOUSE and the Chief's Association and hopefully with assistance from county & city IT personnel. The third goal is to establish policy prescribing the proper use and maintenance of the equipment and will include data entry, security, and responsibilities of users of the hardware and software. He did caution everyone that a One (1) million dollar grant limitation may not provide us with everything but we would go as far as we could go to maximize the grant. He also stated that this grant will allow all of us on scene information & incident command technology as the areas that can be most improved to increase effectiveness and safety for our staff as well as our communities. This life saving software that we are hoping to install will be the foundation of our incident command structure and is consistent with our initiative to comply with nationally recognized standards (NFPA 1561 ICS/IMS, NFPA 1620 Preplans, National Incident Management System (NIMS), and OSHA, etc). President Johnson stated that as we move forward with this more information will be provided. This will take all of us to the next level of technology and we will do this county-wide. This will also fall hand in hand with the proposed communications merger currently under review between city and county officials. President Johnson stated that there will be match requirements of 10% and he hoped that the fund should be available within our current fund balance but we all needed to be prepared to match the 10% if needed. He stated that we needed a motion to pursue this project and move forward and the motion needed to include the 10% match. At this time Fire Chief Bill Bullard made a motion to pursue the regional Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) opportunity with a possible match of 10% by each station. The motion was seconded by Deputy Fire Chief Hank Harris and approved by a roll call vote by all members present.
4. President Johnson informed the membership that as we move forward with our association it was extremely important that we implement the process of Strategic Planning. He stated in today's fire service organizations issues are becoming

complex and dynamic and are forever changing. We as fire service leaders must identify what we are doing and why we are doing what we are doing. Strategic planning aids us in developing our future vision of where we want to go or be in the future and provides us with the opportunity to check our progress on the way. For example the proposed changes within the Fire Service Rating Schedule (FSRS) are enough for us to start this process now. We need to be part of the change and not wait until the changes are implemented and then try to catch up. As a start he requested that we as an organization compose a “Mission Statement” and use this mission statement as a guide for our strategic planning for the future. He stated that he would recommend that on annual basis, we check our progress and update our plan, and we should do this during the months of April through June and have an updated plan ready by the start of each new fiscal year. Tonight would be Phase I with the formulation of a “Mission Statement” that all of us can approve. In order to do that President Johnson handed out a Sample Mission statement to aid us in the formulation. He broke all members into their perspective committees and asked them to work on a mission statement and when the meeting is called back to order we as a group would formulate our “Mission Statement” with input from the various committees and from the floor.

The CCFCA Mission Statement is:

“The Mission of the Cumberland County Fire Chief’s Association is to promote Leadership in Emergency Services for the preservation of Life and Property”

At this time Chief Mike Roye made a motion to adopt the formulated mission statement listed above. The motion was seconded by Fire Chief J. F. Hall and approved by a roll call vote by all members present.

President Johnson thanked the members for their participation and explained that during next months meeting we would continue our process of strategic planning by discussing our organizational strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and perceived threats to our organization. He also passed around a sign in sheet and stated that he would record this on a Training Form and pass it out to all participants during the next meeting. This type of training counts for ISO Officers training and will provide needed Officer’s Training hours for all. He also stated that we would start breaking down into committees on a regular basis and then report back to the entire association at the conclusion of the committee meetings. He urged all Chief’s hosting the association meeting to think about break out rooms for committee meetings when hosting the monthly rotating meetings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ID CARD COMMITTEE Lt. Tara Johnson (Stoney Point) Chairperson

- **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 tara@stonepointfire.com

FIRE PREVENTION/EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- No report

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE Chief B. Bullard (Stedman) Chairperson

- Kenny Currie inquired with the membership about changes in radio check procedures. He recommended that during the 10 am radio checks that Fire Channel 1 (VHF) and 1 C are checked and that the 5 PM radio check is moved to 4:30 pm and during the evening check 2-C and Viper 1F are checked. The move to 4:30 pm will allow those stations that have employees that stop working at 5 PM to participate in the radio check which normally takes about 15 minutes. All members in attendance agreed with the change which will become effective immediately.

STANDARDS & POLICY COMMITTEE Chief K. Hall (Cumberland Road) Chairperson

- No report.

TRAINING COMMITTEE Chairperson TBD

- No report

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE Chairperson TBD

- No report.

AUTOMATIC AID/MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE Chairperson TBD

- No report.

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

- No report.

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

- No report

EASTERN FIRE SCHOOL Chief R. Marley (Pearces Mill) Chairperson

- No report.

EMS DIRECTOR: Michael Roye, Director

- No report

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS REPORT

EMERGENCY SERVICES DIRECTOR/ ECC-911 Kenny Curry, Director

- Kenny informed the membership that Deputy Emergency Services Director Scotty Harris was selected as the new Animal Control Director and has left Emergency Services. He introduced Tim Mitchell to association as the new Interim Deputy Director.
- Kenny also inquired with the Chief's to see if there was any department that was willing to send a tanker truck to Duplin County starting at midnight and work a twelve hour shift assisting with a large warehouse fire which started last night around 8 pm. Apparently a water haul operation has been initiated to keep the fire in check.
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HAZMAT BC Hieu Sifford, FFD - POC telephone for HAZMAT is 433-1729

- No report

FORESTRY DISTRICT Ranger J. Johnson

- No report.

FTCC Ernest Ward

- No Report

SHERIFF'S OFFICE Sheriff Butler

- Sergeant Hodges provided an update on Arson Cases and current Arson related arrests.

HIGHWAY PATROL

- No Report.

CHRISTIAN FIREFIGHTERS Chaplain Cassanova

- No report

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS Fire Commissioner Ed Melvin

- No report.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

- No Report

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting Adjourned at approximately 2140Hours

Respectfully Submitted By:

FreddyJohnson
Fire Chief Freddy Johnson
President

Mark A. Melvin
Deputy Chief Mark Melvin
Secretary

Enclosure:
None