



Cumberland County Fire Chief's Association

"Preservation of Life and Property through Organization"



Minutes of the **Special** October 15, 2020 Meeting

The special Chiefs' meeting was hosted by the Vander Fire Department #2. The meeting format was restricted due to COVID 19 issues. We thank Chief Bradshaw and his staff for the use of their facility.

- Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Johnson at 7:45 pm.
- Opening Prayer:** Association Chaplain Kenneth Tatum led the meeting in prayer.
- Pledge of Allegiance:** President Johnson led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Roll Call:** Roll call was conducted with **14** departments and **3** associate members present.

Members Absent:

- Fire/EMS Departments: **EMS, Fayetteville, Fort Bragg, Hope Mills, Spring Lake**
- Associate Members: **CC Emergency Services, Commissioners, County Manager, Forestry, FTCC, HAZMAT, and Sheriff's Office**

Approval of Minutes: Not Applicable

Guests: N/A

Vendors Present: N/A

Treasurer's Report: None

Meeting Points of Interests:

Next Chiefs' Meeting is scheduled for Pearce's Mill Fire Department on Monday, October 26, 2020 at 7 pm. Refreshments will be served.

Items of Interest Handouts

✓ Not Applicable

OLD BUSINESS:

1. President Johnson advised the Chiefs in attendance that our Electrostatic Misters approved for purchase through the Cares Act Funding are ready for pick-up at A-1 Supply located at the intersection of Person Street and Eastern Boulevard. Please ask for Abby. Because it will be several more weeks before we will receive our funding, which is pending contract signature by county legal and finance staff, whereas he realizes that these misters are needed now in order to

address on-going COVID station and equipment sanitation requirements to pick these units up along with an invoice. Ms. Abby, the owner has agreed that we can pay her once the funds are received. Each district receives two (2) misters per station along with a box of sanitizing tablets per mister. Each station will be responsible for compensating A-1 Supply for the number of misters and boxes of tablets assigned. Please hold on to the receipt, whereas the receipts are required for all Cares Act Funds expenditures.

2. Discussed CARES act PPE and support funding. Chief Brock, Beaver Dam Fire Department had several sets of Fire PPE contaminated on an active COVID call. This required complete sanitation of the PPE. Expenditures associated with COVID mitigation requirements should be retained to account for the available CARES act funding justification. With the current and on-going COVID pandemic cleaning of equipment, uniforms and PPE will be on-going, therefore set up a separate tracking mechanism in order to satisfy the CARES Act Contract that we all signed.

3. Briefly discussed the additional Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) COVID-19 supplemental funding opportunities currently open to all Fire and qualifying EMS agencies.

NEW BUSINESS:

President Johnson thanked the attending members and advised that the special meeting was necessary, whereas decisions concerning the code plug configuration for the newly acquired phase one (1) base and mobile radios needed to be deliberated in order to move forward appropriately and configure the radios correctly the first time considering the up-coming statewide changes relating to the Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) radio upgrades as well as other internal statewide VIPER system upgrades that will require all VIPER users to re-touch their radios. He advised that he met with Mr. Michael Hodgson, VIPER System Manager, with the North Carolina State Highway Patrol, and Technical Services Unit – VIPER in Raleigh and obtained ten (10) additional Tactical Talk Groups in order to address local system enhancements in order to address our local communication essentials. He turned the meeting over to Assistant Chief Sean Johnson who has been working with key VIPER managers about the upcoming changes and recommended enhancement.

- Assistant Chief Sean Johnson provided hand-outs with department specific recommended code plug changes that address individual fire district customization including additional Tactical (TAC) and Operations (OPS) simplex talk groups that he recommends be customized by station number and sequential. He explained the process as well as the new statewide VIPER talk group changes, which will require all users to upgrade and touch up their radios in the near future.
- He further advised that because we do not have our new TDMA portable radios and to avoid user confusion the **current** code plug will also be included on the new code plug for **continued local use** until all our new

portable radios are available with the enhanced code plug programs installed.

- Advised that all proposed new fire protection facilities such as Bethany VFD Station 12s approved Station Number 6, and the Spring Lake Manchester Station 11s Tactical and Ops talk groups will be included in our upgrade.
- He offered to conduct future radio user classes as requested by Station Chiefs in order to train all department members as needed.
- He asked that any Chiefs with questions, concerns or requests to contact him in order to discuss and mitigate achievable system solutions.

A discussion that included questions and answers followed. Chief Bass voiced his concern and was not in favor of upgrading the newly purchased phase one (1) base and mobile radios and instead requested that only the old and current code plug be programmed into the radios. He was concerned about his Harnett County Automatic Aid Stations as well as his members becoming confused on the radios. His proposal would require the association to touch the same radios twice, thus spending needless funds that can better be utilized for other vital projects. Assistant Chief Johnson provided solutions to all of Chief Bass's concerns, whereas all stations will continue to use the current code plugs which will be included and therefore cause no issues with any out of county automatic or mutual aid stations that currently have our talk groups programmed into their radios.

Assistant Chief Johnson also stated that we will provide all the required hex codes to all our out of county automatic and mutual aid partners for inclusion into their communications system along with ample time.

He further stated that the new code plug configuration will also be programmed into the City of Fayetteville's Durham system, thus providing redundancy should there be a systems issue or breakdown. This will allow both the City of Fayetteville as well as Cumberland County Fire Departments continuity whereas the City of Fayetteville's Durham system is also programmed into the county system.

With no further questions *Stedman Fire Chief Justin Nobles introduced a motion that the association adopt the recommendations presented by Assistant Chief Sean Johnson relating to the reconfiguration and customization of our 700/800 MHz radio VIPER system and program the new recommended and personalized fire district code plugs into the newly purchased phase one (1) radios as presented in the presentation session, while maintaining the current code plug in the system for continued use until the portable radios are acquired and introduced into the system in the near future. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Fire Chief Joe Marsh and after*

*a concentrated discussion unanimously **APPROVED** by a roll call vote by all members **PRESENT**. After the motion and second was presented and during the final discussion phase Chief Bass departed the meeting prior to casting his departments vote. (See Enclosure #1)*

President Johnson thanked the membership for attending and formulating a decision in order to move our project forward. He is slated to meet with Assistant Chief Sean Johnson and Mr. Adam Johnson, County Emergency Communications Supervisor at 8 AM tomorrow (Friday October 16, 2020) at Station 13 to go over our approved recommendations. He stated that the last time he talked with Adam; he was in full support of these future enhanced communications improvements. He will also provide Adam with a list of serial numbers for all the new radios in order to assign a VIPER ID to each radio. We will use current old radio VIPER ID's assigned to our current fleet radios and add new VIPER ID's to radios missing a VIPER ID.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made to adjourn by Chief Owen Harris and seconded by Chief Gary Brock.

The meeting was adjourned at 2130 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 – 1.

1 – Vote Roll Call Form – New Radio Code Plug Configuration - October 15, 2020

CUMBERLAND COUNTY FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION
VOTE ROLL CALL 2020

1. **MOTION:** *Stedman Fire Chief Justin Nobles introduced a motion that the association adopt the recommendations presented by Assistant Chief Sean Johnson relating to the reconfiguration and customization of our 700/800 MHz radio VIPER system and program the new recommended and personalized fire district code plugs into the newly purchased phase one (1) radios as presented in the presentation session, while maintaining the current code plug in the system for continued use until the portable radios are acquired and introduced into the system in the near future. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Fire Chief Joe Marsh and after a concentrated discussion unanimously **APPROVED** by all members **PRESENT**.*

2. **Voting Record - CCFCA 800 Mhz TDMA Upgrade - Regional Radio Grant**

MEMBERS PRESENT ELIGIBLE TO VOTE (20)	13																		
DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION * Chief's Only Meeting	15 October 2020 Vander VFD # 2																		
MEMBERS																			
BEAVER DAM STA 26 - 27	Yes	2601																	
BETHANY STA 12	Yes	1201																	
COTTON STA 4	Yes	0403																	
CUMBERLAND ROAD STA 5	Yes	0501																	
EASTOVER STA 1	Yes	0102																	
EMERGENCY SERVICES DIRECTOR	Absent																		
EMS-EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES	Absent																		
FAYETTEVILLE FIRE DEPT	Absent																		
FORT BRAGG FIRE DEPT	Absent																		
GODWIN-FALCON STA 17	Yes	1703																	
GRAYS CREEK 18	Yes	1803																	
GRAYS CREEK 24	Yes	2401																	
HOPE MILLS STA 21	Absent																		
PEARCE'S MILL STA 3	Yes	0301																	
SPRING LAKE/MANCHESTER STA 11/22	Absent																		
STEDMAN STA 23	Yes	2301																	
STONE POINT STA 13 - 19	Yes	1301																	
VANDER STA 2 - 8	Yes	0200																	
WADE STA 16	Yes	1603																	
WESTAREA STA 15 - 20 - 25	Left	2501																	
TOTAL YES VOTES	13																		
TOTAL NO VOTES	None																		
Abstained	0																		
MOTION CARRIED	13 - Yes																		

Special Notes:

CODES: (YES) – Voting in the Affirmative (-A-)-Absent (N/A)- Vote Does Not Apply to Organization (NO) -
 Voting against