

## **Cumberland County Fire Chief's Association**

### **Minutes of September 22, 2008 Monthly Meeting**

The meeting was held at Bethany Fire Station #12. We thank Chief J.F. Hall and his staff for their hospitality.

**Opening Prayer:** Chaplin Mike Cassanova provided the opening prayer.

**Roll Call:** Roll call was conducted with 20 Departments and 8 Associate members present.

Members Absent: Cedar Creek, Eastover, Vander, Westarea #15

Associate Members Absent: Forestry, SBI

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the August 2008 meeting were approved as presented.

#### **Guests:**

Kenneth Edge thanked the Association for their work and looks forward to the upcoming financial proposals. He also requested that we support his re-election bid for County Commissioner.

Diane Wheatley requested our continued support for her re-election to the Board of County Commissioners and thanked everyone for their work

Lamar Johnson of VFIS made a request to meet with the Association to discuss each department's policies to insure adequate coverage. He stated that VFIS and his business want to host the meeting with dinner. Allow us to conduct our business and then meet with each department Chief to discuss individual department coverage options to insure that we receive the best financial and cost benefit packages.

**Vendors Present:** None

**Treasurer's Report:** No report

#### **Meeting Point of interests:**

- **Next Chief's Meeting** will be held October 27, 2008 at **EMS Base**. The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm. However, President Johnson asked all members to be flexible for this particular meeting whereas he will provide Lamar Johnson with VFIS an opportunity to host the meeting as requested with dinner. All Chief's should however plan for a meeting on Tuesday October 28, 2008 at 7 PM at a place to be decided.
- President Johnson passed out several informational papers.
- President Johnson advised that the Memorial Service will be held on October 18, 2008. He emphasized the point that each department attend the ceremony and send a truck with a

minimum crew. The service is scheduled to begin 1100 hours and will not last more than 30 minutes.

- President Johnson advised that the N.C. matching grant program is due in by October 2008.
- The benefit for Chief Owen Harris went well and all the support that was received was appreciated.
- Captain Thomas discussed an upcoming benefit for Jim Shultz who has cancer and is in need of assistance. There will be a raffle and golf tournament held on Oct 2, 2008 at the Anderson Creek Club. Your support will be appreciated.
- Chief Strahan discussed an upcoming safety day at Westarea #10 on September 27, 2008.
- If you have grant funded radios that are in need of repair, please contact Amerizon and President Johnson regarding same. These radios are under warranty until April 2010.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- The finance committee met on Thursday September 11, at 1900 hours at EMS. The primary purpose of the meeting was to present the various funding plans. President Johnson presented his plan to address adequate funding to provide both full time personnel for all departments as well as sufficient funding to support all operations. He presented a Power Point Presentation to further explain his proposal. The meeting was attended by both Chief's and Board Members from various departments. Fire Commissioner Melvin was in attendance as well as one candidate for County Commissioner Mr. Jimmy Keefe. Beaver Dam, Vander and Spring Lake Fire Departments were not in attendance. President Johnson proposal and concept is to replace the current property fire tax system with a sales tax system county-wide. The current fire property tax system is solely funded by property owners whereas a sales tax system would be funded by everyone spending money. The system would involve the elimination of the fire tax in the county and a roll back of a comparable level of property tax within the various municipalities. It would involve the creation of a fire advisory board or fire commission to oversee budget issues and funding to the various departments. At the conclusion of the meeting President Johnson asked each department Chief to discuss this concept with their perspective boards. The plan is to pursue the concept and once everyone is on board with the concept we will address the Nuts and Bolt Questions to make the system work. The plan would be to present the concept to the Fire Commissioner who in turn will present the concept to the Commissioners. If the concept is approved to move forward, whereas our state delegation would have to be involved we will start on the operational elements of the concept. The next Finance Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday October 16, 2008 at 7 PM at EMS base. President Johnson reminded all members to remember that we have to get the concept approved first and then move on. He also stated that no other plans were presented. The only other plan that had been submitted was by Chief Bill Bullard (2301) who stated that he was not prepared to present his plan during the September 11, meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- President Johnson informed the membership that he received a request for funding from the Fayetteville Fire Department Honor Guard to cover the purchases of uniform items for the honor guard. Members of the Honor Guard have spent a tremendous amount of their own money in order to purchase bagpipes. Bagpipes have a long and rich history with their association with the military and public service agencies. Bagpipes and Drums are a prominent feature at ceremonies and funerals throughout the world. Requested is funding in the amount of \$ 1,716.66 for two (2) sets of uniform items to support the Bagpipes and Drums such as KILT and all associated items. These items if funded would become property of the Fayetteville Honor Guard and not the individual's members. As everyone knows the Honor Guard is available to all Cumberland County Fire Service Departments for special ceremonies and Line of Duty Deaths as well as Death of Retired Firefighters. President Johnson asked all Chief's in attendance to think about this request and he would entertain the request during the Chief's only meeting in October. He stated that the Honor Guard would be participating during our up-coming Memorial Service next month and the uniforms would be borrowed. He stated that he fully supports this request, whereas we would all benefit in the future. An up or down vote is scheduled for the October meeting.

## **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@stoneypointfire.com

### **FIRE PREVENTION/EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

- No report

### **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE** Chief B. Bullard (Stedman) Chairperson

- President Johnson is still working the radio antenna issues with Amerizon.

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

- The Command Procedures policy revision will be discussed and voted on at the October meeting.

### **TRAINING COMMITTEE** Chief P. Strahan (Westarea) Chairperson

- No report

### **MEMORIAL COMMITTEE** Chief S. Blackburn (Ft. Bragg) Chairperson

- Chief Blackburn shared information regarding the upcoming memorial service and informed the membership that two county fire department representatives are needed for the honor guard. Preferably someone with some military training if possible. The honor guard will practice prior to the service.

**AUTOMATIC AID/MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE** Chief J. F. Hall (Bethany) Chairperson

- Chief J.F. Hall discussed the need for continued safety on the fire scene.

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

- The finance committee will meet at EMS Base on October 16, 2008 at 7 PM to discuss the new financial concept as explained in Old Business.

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

- No report

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

- Staff advised that everything was moving well. The books will be in January 2009. Your support of the seminar is critical to its success.

**EMS DIRECTOR:** Michael Royal, Director

- Advised that the new hospital CEO is looking forward to meeting with the Association to discuss the issues regarding additional ambulances within the county.

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS REPORT**

**EMERGENCY SERVICES DIRECTOR/ ECC-911** Kenny Curry, Director

- Director Curry advised everyone to submit their Fireman's Relief Fund paperwork as soon as possible. The Sheriffs Office and the County 911 center are merging on October 1, 2008. There was a meeting held to discuss the merging of all 911 services within the county. This would be a long term process, but it was the consensus of the personnel at the meeting that a consolidation is needed within the county. The results of the Viper study will be forthcoming and will outline the areas that need attention for better communications coverage. Chief Herndon discussed issues regarding the assignment of tactical channels and coverage within his response area.

**HAZMAT** BC Hieu Sifford, FFD - POC telephone for HAZMAT is 433-1432

- No report

**FORESTRY DISTRICT** Ranger J. Johnson

- No report.

**FTCC** Ernest Ward

- Staff advised that young firefighters ages 16-18 that had not graduated high school needed the paperwork on file at FTCC to be able to attend classes. Those that have graduated high school, a copy of their diploma is needed on file for certification purposes.

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE** Sheriff Butler

- Sgt. Steven Hodges briefed the Association on the Task Force responses for the past month.

**HIGHWAY PATROL**

- No Report.

**CHRISTIAN FIREFIGHTERS** Chaplain Cassanova

- No report

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** Fire Commissioner Ed Melvin

- Looks forward to meeting with the hospital CEO on the ambulance issues.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:**

Chief Marley thanked everyone for their support with the tractor trailer fires on the interstate over the past few weeks. President Johnson advised that the State had free fire prevention materials available if needed.

Congratulations to Grays Creek #24 on their new insurance classification rating of 5/9E which will be effective December 1, 2008.

President Johnson also advised that the Stoney Point Fire Department again this year is hosting the Annual Haunted Trail at the Fire Department starting in October.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting Adjourned at approximately 2045Hours

Respectfully Submitted By:

*Freddy Johnson*  
Fire Chief Freddy Johnson  
President

*Mark A. Melvin*  
Deputy Chief Mark Melvin  
Secretary