

CUMBERLAND COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES
MAY 1999

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Chief J.F. Hall. Sixteen members and 10 associate members were present.

Chief Hall thanked the Bethany Ladies Auxiliary for the dinner and for hosting the meeting.

The minutes were read, one correction was made to the budget special meeting minutes reference the level of service provided by Chief Bill Bullard, then the minutes were approved.

Chief Hall asked if anyone knew about Chief James Hall's condition and said a card would be passed around for everyone to sign.

The minutes from the April meeting were not available prior to this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Fire Marshal Ricky Strickland said the Air System was at Safe Air in Greensboro being repaired as per the motion at the last meeting. Deputy Chief David Chavis, Vander had been contacted reference an additional \$400 for a valve on the regulator. Chief Middleton made the motion to approve the additional cost, Chief Sudia seconded the motion, and it was voted on and approved by the members.

Chief Johnson and Chief Barnes gave the Budget presentation to the County Commissioners last week. Chairman Tom Bacote and Fire Liaison to the Board, Mr. Tal Baggett suggested any further presentations on the budget be made in the September/October timeframe. This suggestion due to the current budget period and the fact County Departments would also want to discuss and present their cause to prevent budget cuts in their respective budgets. Howard Abner from the County Finance Department will attend the next meeting to go over the budgets and will have the checks for the departments. Any department that has not submitted their letter requesting the 3% funds should submit their letters as soon as possible. Letters have been received from Bethany, Stedman, and Gray's Creek 18.

Chief John House sent a fax to Chief J.F. Hall about the Retirement System. The bill was passed in the first phase. Vice President Hall suggested each Chief and the Association send a letter supporting the bill. Chief Sudia made the motion to support the bill by a letter, Chief Bullard seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Vice President Hall stated Chief House also requested that someone else chair the Communications Committee. He will stay until someone else volunteers to take the position. At this time, no one stepped forward.

NEW BUSINESS:

The message sent by Cotton was read for the funeral arrangements for Retired Chief Bob Dunham. The service will be on Wednesday, departments sending equipment please be at Cotton at 2:30 PM and contact Deputy Chief Hank Harris if you have questions. Vice President Chief Hall stated a wreath was sent to the Reeves Funeral Home in Hope Mills today.

Chief Bullard and Fire Marshal Strickland are working with Grainger Barrett, County Attorney's Office on false alarms. The Fire Marshal drafted an ordinance, similar to the City of Fayetteville Ordinance. The City Fire Department is trying to split from the City Police Department on false alarms. This will allow the County and City Departments to be more in line and will be in the best interest of the fire departments. The ordinance will allow the Fire Marshal to issue a citation to the responsible party after three false alarms. A difference from the City ordinance is that industry gets 3 false alarms, one more and then fined.

This is based on the fact maintenance is not being done on the equipment after the false alarms. There will also be a recovery element. A written proposal will be presented at the June meeting.

Chief Bullard, Public Relations Chair said he is looking into information on heroic awards. He has sent letters to other cities requesting background information on this subject and will discuss his findings at the next meeting.

There was a fire fatality in Station 11's district this past month. Captain Warren was asked to discuss the situation. He stated the call was a trailer fire with a life hazard and the first unit on scene (within 4 minutes) reported heavy fire showing. A 60-year-old male was found dead 2 feet from the doorway. Arson is investigating the fire. Fire Marshal Strickland said the family said there was not a fire detector in the trailer. Vice-President Hall said this is a hard subject to discuss, but we should address it as lessons learned to help prevent any future accidents.

Cheri Grabowski gave a Y2K presentation at the request of Chief J. F. Hall. Chief Hall said he has checked with his insurance agent and if something happens, Bethany is not covered. He encouraged all departments to check with their insurance companies.

Vice President Hall announced the 112th Annual Conference of North Carolina Firemen's Association; the 67th Annual Conference of North Carolina Fire Chief's Association and the 1st Annual North Carolina Hazmat Conference in Hickory the week of August 11-14, 1999. You should receive a flyer in the mail.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Education/Training:	Nothing
Standards:	Nothing
Public Relations:	Nothing
Planning and Research:	Nothing
Communications:	Nothing

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

Emergency Communications Center: Nothing

Emergency Management: Cheri Grabowski stated Joanna Gilmore, the department secretary retired after 30 years with the agency. The position will be filled after July.

Fire Marshal: Ricky Strickland stated NFIRS 50 is now certified by Firehouse and will be compatible for those who have returned their forms. He also discussed the smoke detectors and the agencies or persons they have been given to. If you know of someone who needs one, please contact his office. They will also install the detector if needed. Chief Marsh asked about eligibility and if it was based on income. The Fire Marshal said there was no income eligibility.

Forestry:	Nothing
EMS:	Nothing
FTCC:	Nothing

Sheriff: Chief Johnson said there was a Memorial Service on May 11 to dedicate the Law Enforcement Memorial. LT Bruce Morrison said they did not find a smoke detector in the trailer. There were signs the fire had started on the sofa and two additional sofas with similar burns were found in the tree line behind the trailer. His family reported he was not suppose to drink.

County Commissioners: Mr. Baggett said the vote will be 6 to 1 in favor to let the Fire Departments keep the \$.10 fire tax. There was an editorial that should be responded to. He also said a 5 to 10 minute budget presentation should be made after the budget process is completed. He said County Departments take the opportunity to present information on their department's role, how annexation will affect them and the affects the budget cuts will have on them.

HAZMAT:

Nothing

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

Chief Middleton said in addition to the Retirement System there are also two bills introduced, one in the House and one in the Senate, on the Pension Fund to increase it to \$200 a month. Both of these are suppose to be effective July 1, 1999. There is no reason these should not pass, but letters of support would not hurt.

Christian Firefighters: The next meeting will be held June 8 at Station 10. They are supporting the WFNC Fan Drive again this year. The 20" box fans are \$12.00 at Home Depot; this is the best price found so far. Station 10 will coordinate pick-up if you call them.

The next meeting will be at Stoney Point.

Chief McIntyre made the motion to adjourn and Chief Sudia seconded it.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Submitted by:


Cheryl Grabowski



LAKE RIM FIRE DEPARTMENT

7690 Raeford Road
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28304
910-867-0832
910-867-1369-Fax



F A X Cover Sheet

To: J. F. Hall

From: Chief House

Date: 5-24-99

Number of Copies To Include Cover Sheet: 4

Thanks -

L.R.F.D. - 9

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 1999

SENATE BILL 638
Pensions & Retirement and Aging Committee Substitute Adopted 4/28/99

Short Title: Local Gov't Retirement Definition.

(Public)

Sponsors: _____

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 30, 1999

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2 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
3 AN ACT TO REDEFINE "EMPLOYEE" AND "EMPLOYER" IN THE LOCAL
4 GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 Section 1. G.S. 128-21(10) reads as rewritten:

7 "(10) "Employee" shall mean any person who is regularly employed in
8 the service of and whose salary or compensation is paid by the
9 employer as defined in subdivision (11) of this section, whether
10 employed or appointed for stated terms or otherwise, except
11 teachers in the public schools and except such employees who
12 hold office by popular election as are not required to devote a
13 major portion of their time to the duties of their office.
14 "Employee" also means all full-time paid firemen who are
15 employed by any fire department that serves a city or county or
16 any part of a city or county and that is supported in whole or in
17 part by municipal or county funds. In all cases of doubt the
18 Board of Trustees shall decide who is an employee."

19 Section 2. G.S. 128-21(11) reads as rewritten:

20 "(11) "Employer" shall mean any county, incorporated city or town, the
21 board of alcoholic control of any county or incorporated city or
22 town, the North Carolina League of Municipalities, and the State
23 Association of County Commissioners. ~~"Employer" shall also~~
~~mean any separate, juristic political subdivision of the State as~~

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1999

~~may be approved by the Board of Trustees upon the advice of the Attorney General. "Employer" also means any fire department that serves a city or county or any part of a city or county and that is supported in whole or in part by municipal or county funds.~~

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Section 3. The Board of Trustees of the North Carolina Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System through the Office of the Attorney General shall request a letter of determination or ruling from the Internal Revenue Service, United States Department of Treasury, as to whether the status of the North Carolina Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System as a governmental plan would be adversely affected by the participation of employees affected by this legislation. The request shall be made to the Internal Revenue Service no later than 30 days after the effective date of this act. Fire departments affected by this legislation are eligible for participation in the North Carolina Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System upon the first day of the calendar quarter following receipt of a favorable letter of determination or ruling.

Section 4. This act is effective when it becomes law.

House of Representatives

Rep. Bill Hurly
2215 Legislative Building
Raleigh NC 27601

Rep. Ted Kinney
2123 Legislative Building
Raleigh NC 27601

Rep. Mary McAlister
638 Legislative Office Building
Raleigh NC 27601

Rep. Mia Morris
1315 Legislative Building
Raleigh NC 27601

Rep. Alex Warren
1206 Legislative Building
Raleigh NC 27601

The bill has passed the Senate and is called Senate Bill 638. When the letters are written to the above Representatives, the bill will still be called Senate Bill 638. Once the bill passes the House it will go to the Governor for his approval. If you would like to call the Reps instead of writing letters their phone numbers are listed on page 7 of the Government guide of the new phone book. We are half way there to getting this approved so we need to let our Reps know we are behind this bill.