

Cumberland County Fire Chief's Association

Minutes of February 23, 2009 - Monthly Meeting

The meeting was sponsored by the Wade Community Fire Department Station # 16. The Association thanks Chief Hill and his entire staff for their hospitality and use of their facility.

Opening Prayer/Call to Order: Sheriff Butler provided the opening prayer and President Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

Roll Call: Roll call was conducted with 22 Departments and 7 Associate members present.

Members Absent: Stations 1 & 15.

Associate Members Absent: Forestry, Fire Commissioner, SBI.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the January 2009 meeting were not approved. Not all members received an e-mail copy during the mail out. The minutes will be re-sent with the February 2009 minutes and approved during the March 2009 meeting.

Guests: Pat Flappe with the Long Whiskers Catfish Club requesting assistance from the association with a fund raiser with the benefits going to the Burn Center. She wants assistance with selling raffle tickets and fishing tournament. The date of the event is set for April 4th, 2009. Anyone interested please contact Mrs. Flappe directly or contact Chief Marley.

Vendors Present: None

Treasurer's Report: Not Applicable (Provided quarterly during Chief's Only Meetings)

Meeting Point of interests:

- **Next Chief's Meeting** will be held March 23, 2009 at Station 17, Godwin-Falcon Fire Department. The dinner meeting will begin at 7:00 pm.
- President Johnson passed out the following informational papers;
 - 2007-2008 Annual Audit
 - Fax from Surrey Fire Safety House
 - 5 Minute Safety Talk – Fire Safety
 - Updated Air Truck Schedule for Cascade Systems¹
 - Memorandum for Fire Chief & Board of Directors dated February 24, 2009 concerning Cumberland County Fire Service Snap Shot & Funding Issues
 - Near Miss Reporting - Importance of Safety Officers on the Scene

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OLD BUSINESS:

1. President Johnson provided a fax copy from the Surrey Fire Safety House company with updated information concerning our new Fire Safety House. Delivery is expected sometimes late March or early April. The house will be delivered to Station # 4, Cotton Fire Department.
2. President Johnson informed the membership that County Attorney Grainger Barrett was still working on the new County Fire Contract. He stated that the contract would be disseminated during a group meeting consisting of all directors and Fire Chiefs at a place and time to be determined. He stated that he will ask for a meeting in order to pre-view the contract.
3. President Johnson informed the membership that Lamar Johnson with VFIS was informed about our vote last month concerning the insurance update. He also informed the membership that he was meeting with Lamar on Thursday February 26, 2009 to go over our association policies.
4. President Johnson reminded all the members that the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program - Prevention and Education Grant Period window is open until March 6, 2009. All should consider applying under the category. The annual AFG-Firefighter Safety and Operations Grant period will open sometimes late next month and remain open for 30 days. We should all get ready now and apply for assistance. He stated that he would apply for regional assistance on behalf of the entire county to address automation for our vehicles. (Mobile Data Computers complete with Incident Command Software, GPS and voiceless dispatch capability). The future is in automation and enormous fire safety issues are derived from such capabilities. Chief Johnson asked that any department not submitting a grant to allow the station to be used as a host station in order to facilitate the grant. He informed all members that initially an equipment grant of Self Contained Breathing Apparatuses was considered but it will not qualify under the interoperability clause for a regional grant. The automation grant will.
5. President Johnson handed out a Memorandum addressed to each Fire Chief and their perspective board of directors concerning a 2008 Cumberland County Fire Service Snap Shot & Funding Issue Recommendation. This report was submitted to the Cumberland County Finance Committee on February 5th, 2009. He informed the membership that the finance committee expressed a genuine concern to help the 5 needy departments (Beaver Dam, Bethany, Godwin-Falcon, Stedman and Wade) with some type of supplemental funding to off-set employment during critical day time hours when volunteers are away for work. They inquired about cost figures to hire two (2) part timers for Monday through Friday staggered day time response. Director Kenny Currie provided some financial figures on costs and Chairman Kenneth Edge took his recommendations along with the submitted report under advisement. ²

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The finance committee meeting was attended by Commissioner Kenneth Edge, Jimmy Keefe, and Chairperson J. Council as well as Fire Commissioner Melvin. County Manager James Martin and members of his staff along with Director Currie and a reporter with the Fayetteville Observer were also in attendance.

6. President Johnson stated that he wanted all members to look at the various committees and call or e-mail him with your preference on which committee you would like to serve. He stated that our current list of committees is.
 - Finance Committee
 - Rescue Committee (Each Dept with a Certified Rescue Truck- Sta. 1, 2, 4, 13, 15 & FFD)
 - Communications Committee (Will include 9-1-1 Communications)
 - Standards & Policy Committee (Will include Municipal Representation)
 - Training Committee (Will include FTCC)
 - Memorial Committee (Meets as needed & for Annual Memorial Svc)
 - Automatic & Mutual Aid Committee
 - Fire Prevention & Education Committee
 - ID Card & Technology Committee
 - Eastern Fire Seminar and School (Will be moved and combined with Training Committee)

We should also consider a Bulk Purchase Committee to look at high dollar purchase items such as Turn-Out-Gear, Hose and equipment. President Johnson requested that Chief's sign up on a committee that they would be interested in, rather than being assigned to committees. Chief Herndon inquired if member stations are eligible to serve on multiple committees and President Johnson informed the membership that all committees are open and Chief's and Assistants could serve on multiple committees. It is our intend to break into committee meetings during our monthly meetings prior to adjournment. He stressed that a lot of work needs to be done in various areas of our delivery system. He stated that full and pro-active participation is expected on behalf of all association members.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. President Johnson presented a Plaque of Appreciation to former Emergency Services Medical Director Wally Ainsworth. Wally was recognized for 25 years of dedicated service to not only our association but also all the citizens of Cumberland County and our Great State. Wally thanked all the members for their past support and thanked them for their friendship as well. He also pointed out his work on the memorial committee and hoped that someone would take his place. President Johnson also informed Wally that he meets the requirements for life time membership and he could attend any future meeting as he wishes.
2. President Johnson addressed Mr. Ernest Ward and expressed the condolences of the entire association to Mr. Ward concerning the very recent loss of his son Ernest as a result of a motor vehicle accident. ³

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He asked Mr. Ward not to hesitate if he needed anything from any of the members and that we would continue to keep him and his entire family in our prayers.

3. President Johnson brought up that our current ID Card System is currently out of order. The flash on the camera stopped working back in December and we have not issued any ID Cards since. The problem is the camera is no longer available and a newer camera is not compatible with the older version of ID Works Standard & operating program currently installed on our seven (7) year old system. The system was first placed in service back in 2002 and now requires a complete update in order to remain operational. A discussion on "Bar Code" information followed. President Johnson informed the membership that our current system is bar code compatible but he would check with Sam's Addressing Machine Services, Inc out of Garner North Carolina to inquire about the particulars and the benefits derived from "Bar Code" information in order to meet NIMS 2009 credentialing requirements. Although we offer "Bar Code", a "Bar Code" reader is required in order to obtain and read "Bar Code" fields. President Johnson also stated if we update our ID Card Software we also need to update our lap-top used with the system. The newer version of DATACARD ID Works Standard Software will not work on the older operating system currently on our lap-top. Deputy Chief Harris provided information on a compatible lap-top with current state of the art operating systems for less than \$ 1000.00. At this time Fire Chief Chuck Hodges made a motion that the association up-date and purchase all applicable ID card software and hardware equipment. The motion was seconded by Chief Patty Strahan and approved by a roll call vote by all 22 voting members in attendance.
4. President Johnson informed the members present that next month during the March meeting there will be a presentation by the North Carolina Forestry Service.
5. President Johnson informed the membership that all of us should receive Fiscal Year 2009-2010 budget information from the county within the next several weeks if everything is on schedule. He asked all Chief's to go back and submit a true budget based on expenditures to run your department. He felt sure that this year our budget would receive scrutiny and that someone within county government would review our budgets. He stated it was important to remember that new property valuations would be in effect for the next fiscal year and should be a benefit to our services
6. Assistant Chief Chris Morrey introduced Battalion Chief Ron Lewis who will be taking her place within the inspections department and will also take her place on the Fire Prevention & Education Committee. President Johnson welcomed B/C Lewis to the association and took the opportunity to congratulate Fire Chief Kenneth Hall for his promotion to Battalion Chief with the Fayetteville Fire department. ⁴

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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
- A systems upgrade is needed. Discussed and approved during new business.

FIRE PREVENTION/EDUCATION COMMITTEE (B/C Ron Lewis (FFD) Chairperson

- No report

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE Chief B. Bullard (Stedman) Chairperson

- No report.

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

- No report

TRAINING COMMITTEE Chief P. Strahan (Westarea) Chairperson

- No report.

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

- Chief Blackburn addressed the association membership and informed all members in attendance that the memorial committee has dwindled down to just a couple of members and since being promoted to Fire Chief it was time for someone else to take over the helm of the committee. He also recommended that the funds in the memorial fund monitored by the memorial committee should be turned over to the association treasurer for monitoring and bill paying. President Johnson recommended that we place the funds into our account but track it as a separate line item under Memorial Fund. This was approved by the entire membership. New members will be assigned to the committee during next months meeting to coordinate memorial service efforts and oversee the up-keep of the memorial site.

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

- Chief Hall discussed water point issues and canceling of apparatus with the association. ⁵

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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

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS REPORT

EMERGENCY SERVICES DIRECTOR/ ECC-911 Kenny Curry, Director

Director Currie was absent and Deputy Director Scotty Harris had no new information.

- Emergency Management Issues - No Report
- Fire Marshal Issues - No Report
- Communications Issues – No Report

President Johnson asked all Chief's that have not provided the name and point of contact for their board president to get this information via e-mail or telephone to the Fire Marshal's Office.

EMS DIRECTOR: Michael Roye, Director

- Director Roye informed the Chief's about bulk purchase opportunities through EMS where tremendous savings could be applied through the power of bulk purchase. More information and details will be provided in the future and interested Chief's should contact Director Roye at EMS base.

HAZMAT Capt. Hieu Sifford, FFD - POC telephone for HAZMAT is 433-1432

- B/C Seifert announced that Hazmat has a new Radiation Monitor for use during radiation incidents. The unit has been placed in service and is available with the HazMat Team.

FORESTRY DISTRICT (County Ranger)

- No report

FTCC Ernest Ward

- No Report ⁶

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SHERIFF'S OFFICE Sheriff Butler

- Sheriff Butler introduced Detective Eric Ditmore as the new Arson 2. Eric has been assigned to the Arson Task Force in order to bolster its effectiveness. Sheriff Butler also thanks the association for its work and asked anyone to call his office if they have a question or concern.
- Detective Ditmore talked about bolstering the Arson Task Force with volunteers and anyone that wants to recommend someone to call either him or Sergeant Hodges.

HIGHWAY PATROL 1SG Johnson or Trooper Johnson

- No Report

CHRISTIAN FIREFIGHTERS Chaplain Casanova

- No report

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS Fire Commissioner Ed Melvin

- President Johnson informed the membership that Commissioner Melvin called him and informed him that he had a conflict with the meeting whereas he was scheduled to be in Bladen County and could not attend. As always anyone having a question or concern to please call him.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

1. Chief Hill from the Wade Community Fire Department announced that his department is having a Ham Sale Fund Raiser on April 11th, 2009 from 9 am until 7 PM. Please come out and support their fund raising efforts.
2. Chief Herndon stated that station 18's annual barbeque was another success and appreciated everyone's support.

ADJOURNMENT: Chief Blackburn made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Chief Kaas and the meeting Adjourned at approximately 2100 Hours.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Freddy Johnson
Fire Chief Freddy Johnson
President

Mark A. Melvin
Deputy Chief Mark Melvin
Secretary⁷

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