

**Cumberland County Fire Chief's Association**  
**Minutes**  
**June 28, 1999**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Vice President Chief J.F. Hall at Stoney Point FD with 18 members and 8 associate members present.

V.P. Hall thanked the Stoney Point Ladies Auxiliary for the spaghetti dinner and for hosting the meeting.

The minutes of May's meeting were read and the following corrections were made:

1. Under New Business, the second paragraph, first two sentences were changed to read:  
"Chief Johnson and Chief Barnes gave an informational presentation to the Fayetteville Observer on the services of this county's fire departments and how the proposed budget cuts could impact services. Mr. Tal Baggett has suggested that a similar presentation be given to the county board of commissioners sometime in September or October." *Who to give?*
2. Under For the Good of the Association, change the first sentence to read as follows:  
"Chief Middleton said that there are two bills currently being introduced that will raise the Retirement System benefit. One would raise the monthly rate to \$160 and the other would raise it to \$200."

Motion Chief Johnson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chief Middleton to accept the minutes with these two changes. Motion Passed.

The next association meeting will be at the County Courthouse for Chief's only.

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**Guest**

Mr. George Quigley of Cumberland County's Cooperative Extension Service discussed a program titled "Plant a Row in Cumberland County." He pointed out that even in our prosperous times, there are still people in Cumberland County that go to bed hungry every night. One way to reduce this problem is a three pronged approach.

1. Plant a Second Row encourages people with home gardens to plant a little extra in preparation to donate it.
2. Cabinet Cleaning is a program that encourages citizens to donate unused canned goods.
3. Community Gardening is designed to help people who want to plant their own garden by providing ground and guidance.

All three programs are doing well. However, there is only one collection point in the county and it is in downtown Fayetteville. This has made obtaining and distributing the produce from supportive program participants difficult and inconvenient. Mr. Quigley is asking if any of our departments, which are typically manned during the day, would serve as a collection point for this food. When items were received, the local Kawanis club would come to our station to pick up the food.

Charlotte Fire Equipment Sales has set up a display table and would be excited to answer any of your questions after the meeting.

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**Old Business**

Mr. Howard Abner from the County Finance Department provided insight into how this county's fire department tax base is figured each year and how the special fire tax district works.

Mr. Tal Baggett stated that he will suggest to county management that this Association attend and present their information at the next County Commissioners Meeting of July 7<sup>th</sup>.

CMF has serviced the air system. A bill from Safe Air in the amount of \$18,875.12 will be presented for payment next month. This was for replacement of a compressor unit.

President Hall has completed his Chemo and radiation therapy and is improving with time. He has lost 58 pounds.

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### **New Business**

Chief Marley asked if county department would like to increase participation at the county fair. Ideas might include:

- Display of at least two apparatus with crews each night.
- Operate the Children's Safety House.
- A continuous running video showing the services provided by our departments.
- Include other local fire agencies such as the City of Fayetteville, Fort Bragg and Pope AFB.
- Offer an opportunity to participate to representatives of other agencies such as Fire Marshal, Forestry, Emergency Management and Arson.
- Show importance of 911 system and home addressing system.
- Provide live fire extinguisher demonstrations.
- Would consider partnering with sponsors such as insurance companies.

A roll call vote was taken to evaluate anticipated levels of participation. Results were 17 in favor and 0 against:

Eastover, Vander, Pearces Mill, Cotton, Lafayette Village, Cedar Creek, Westarea, Lake Rim, Bethany, Stoney Point, Godwin-Falcon, Grays Creek #1, Hope Mills, Stedman, Grays Creek #2, Beaver Dam, City of Fayetteville.

Due to the resignation of Chief Larry Wilson (Spring Lake), this association's secretary position is vacant. Per the by-laws it will be filled by the executive board at the next meeting. Anyone interested in filling the term is asked to make themselves known. Deputy Fire Chief Terrance Rielly of Westarea raised his hand. VP Hall thanked Ms. Cheryl Grabowski and Chief Barnes for their temporary assistance.

Asst. Chief Hodges stated that Chief Sudia has invited departments to participate in the Hope Mills July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration parade on Saturday July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Line up is at 0900 Hrs. at Hope Mills Middle School. They would also accept any assistance during this peak activity time in their community.

### **Sheriff's Dept.**

They have a new arson van and it is parked behind the station tonight. Everyone is welcome to look it over.

### **Committee Reports:**

Education/Training:	Nothing to report
Standards/Mutual Aid:	Nothing to report
Public Relations:	Nothing to report
Planning and Research	Nothing to report
Communications:	Nothing to report

**Associate Members**

**Emergency Management**

1. A briefing and exercise will be conducted July 22 from 2-5 PM in the county EOC assembly room. We will discuss hurricane preparedness, resources and responsibilities of essential and non-essential personnel.
2. Offer to discuss preparedness for individual fire department meetings.
3. As hurricane season approaches, will need the support of the departments for damage assessment along with the tax department personnel.

**EOC:**

**Fire Marshal**

Nothing to report

1. Have installed 20 smoke detectors this past month. No one was turned away.

2. Fire works season is here. Please contact this office if you have questions.

**County Commissioners**

1. The budget is in place with NO tax cut to the Fire Departments. The final vote was 7 – 0. Not one commissioner questioned the need to fully fund the fire departments.

2. The county's personnel committee is designing a proposal to support county employees who are members of volunteer departments by not taking their vacation time when they are periodically late for work due to an alarm. This is an isolated problem but the commissioners wish to be proactive and supportive of their employees and the county fire departments. The proposal will be evaluate by the commissioners.

**Forestry**

Nothing to report

**EMS**

Nothing to report

**FTCC**

Nothing to report

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**For the Good of the Association**

Chief Johnson:

The legislation to charge fire departments for training at the community college is NOT dead. Mr. Paul Miller (800-253-4733) of the State Fireman's Association can be contacted for further details. The bill is scheduled to be voted on July 1<sup>st</sup> so we have only two days remaining to impact the outcome of this act.

The Sheriff's department special response team is in need of ground ladders. Donations accepted.

Christian Firefighters Association:

Still collecting fans for this year's drive. The best price found is \$11.49 at Wal Mart. Their next meeting is scheduled for July 13<sup>th</sup> at the Airport Training Center.

Chief Middleton:

We need to be sure all stations are currently being served by the on-line service we are paying for.

He asked if the membership has an interest in putting all former and future minutes into electronic format for safe keeping and to ease accessibility. This suggestion was tabled until the next meeting.

Chief House:

Legislation to increase the retirement benefit is looking good. They are waiting for a financial impact statement from the budget office.

Freddy Johnson Jr.:

- It is time to renew our on-line service contract. Item to be addressed at the next meeting.

Med One has expanded once again. If you get letters notifying you of changes in your service, please forward them to Stoney Point.

Chief J.F. Hall:

A suggestion to watch for and distribute the "Line of Duty Deaths" information that is coming over the e-mail system. They are great learning opportunities for our personnel.

Chief Marley:

We need to review and use the current level I and II staging policy more often. Hot weather is upon us.

Chief J.F. Hall:

On radio traffic, be sure to wait to be acknowledged before you begin giving your message.

EOC – Kenny Currie:

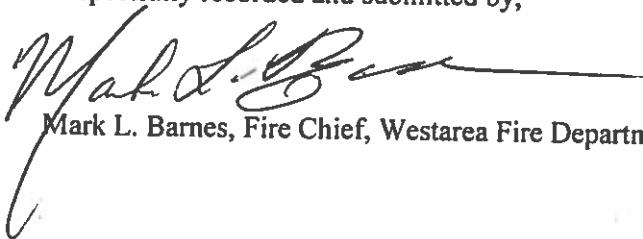
Please do not use W/T's to contact EOC. They are very difficult to hear and are often broken transmissions. W/T's are designed to be used on the fireground. Command should be using a mobile radio.

Chief J.F. Hall:

It has been noted that this association is without a secretary. Anyone interested in filling the vacant term is requested to notify President J.F. Hall. Deputy Chief Terry Rielly expressed an interest in volunteering his services.

Motion Chief Middleton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cheryl Grabowski to adjourn meeting at 8:55 PM. Motion passed.

Respectfully recorded and submitted by,



Mark L. Barnes, Fire Chief, Westarea Fire Department.