

EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD

The Carroll County Emergency Services Board met on November 12, 2009.

Present were: Lola Sutphin, Horace Leonard, Markel Cochran, Mike Musser, J. B. Tolbert, Andy Jackson, Manus McMillian, Gary Larrowe, Nikki Shank, Joe Roma, and Kathy Surratt.

The meeting was called to Order by Mr. Musser in absence of the Chairman.

(Order)

CLOSED SESSION – PURSUANT TO VA CODE SECTION 2.2-3711(A1,A4,A7)

Upon motion by Mr. Larrowe, seconded by Mr. Jackson, and passed unanimously, the Board convened a Closed Session for the discussion of specific personnel, the discussion of a personal matter not related to County business, and the discussion of legal matters.

(Order)

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION

Upon motion by Mr. Larrowe, seconded by Ms. Sutphin, and passed unanimously, the Board returned to Open Session and adopted the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Carroll County Emergency Services Board convened a Closed Session on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote on the motion to close the meeting in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act;

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3711(D) of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Emergency Services Board that such Closed Session was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Carroll County Emergency Services Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (I) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were heard, discussed or considered in the Closed Session to which this certification applies, and (II) only such business matters as were identified in the motion by which this Closed Session was convened were heard, discussed, or considered in the meeting to which this certification applies.

(Order)

APPROVE – ROGER HAWTHORNE REINSTATEMENT

Upon motion by Mr. Cochran, seconded by Mr. Tolbert, and passed, the Board approved allowing Mr. Roger Hawthorne to be reinstated with Hillsville Volunteer Fire Department subject to the restrictions imposed by Hillsville Volunteer Fire Department.

Notes: Ms. Sutphin, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Tolbert, and Mr. Leonard voted Yes.

Mr. Larrowe, Mr. Musser, Mr. McMillian, and Mr. Jackson Abstained.

INSURANCE DISCUSSION

Ms. Libby Lineberry reported on information concerning the insurance policy with Chesterfield Insurance and told that the limits were \$50,000 for accidental death and \$50,000 for cosmetic surgery. She told that this was the best policy for any fire department or rescue squad in southwest Virginia and told that there was a rate increase due to the loss ratio.

Following discussion, Ms. Lineberry will obtain quotes for a policy with higher limits.

ISSUES DISCUSSIONS

Mac Tolbert told that the tone of a letter received by the rescue squads indicated that money would be held just so the County could find out information.

Mr. Larrowe explained that the County was trying to take steps to help the squads and needed information to make decisions. He told that it was not a you versus us issue but efforts to make this a team effort.

The Board then discussed billing issues. Mr. Larrowe told that Kathy Surratt was reviewing these issues and working with the squads and Diversified Billing to determine that all calls were being billed and following up on any problems.

Mr. Tolbert then brought up the issue of the County holding title to all the equipment and concerns with having to take vehicles to Jody's Towing, the garage used by the County, rather than taking to a local garage. During discussion it was brought out that a local garage might be willing to work on a local squad's equipment but didn't want to work on all County equipment.

Mr. Larrowe explained that there was a procurement process that had to be followed by the County and since the vehicles are titled to the County the process must be followed.

Several squad representatives then asked why various reports, including minutes of their meetings were being required by the Board indicating they were under a microscope. There was discussion that the squads are running calls, doing bill sheets, and now are being required to turn in these reports. They then asked when they would receive the minutes for the ESB meetings.

(Order)

APPROVE PROVIDING EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD MINUTES TO SQUADS

Upon motion by Mr. Cochran, seconded by Mr. McMillian, and passed unanimously, the Board approved providing all minutes of the Emergency Services Board since its inception to the squads.

Note: All minutes of the ESB are available on-line following approval of the minutes by the ESB.

Mr. Tolbert then discussed the issue of the County holding funds from the billing and put into a fund for equipment.

Mr. Larrowe told that this would be used for rolling stock. He told that there had been discussion of holding a percentage and that the discussions had been anywhere from 0% to 25%.

Mr. Jackson asked if a lesser percentage would be better.

Mr. J. B. Tolbert stated that some of the money would be coming out of the squads funds and that EMS funds were different. There was then discussion concerning the required financial information to be supplied from the squads to the Board.

(Order)

Upon motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. J. B. Tolbert, and passed unanimously, the Board postponed requiring financial reports to be supplied to the Board until January 1, 2010.

Mr. Mike Musser discussed the fire funds and told that the Governor had slashed the budget by 10% and was going to hold 10% of these funds back. He told that now it was not sure how much money would be received.

During discussion, Mr. Roma explained that the funds for each department was determined by call volume. He told that rather than departments receiving these funds by check that items were purchased for the departments.

During discussion of the above issues, it was determined that communications between the squads and the Board should be improved. Mr. Joe Roma, Emergency Services Coordinator, will begin holding monthly meetings with rescue squad captains and fire chiefs. It was also discussed that it would be good to have a representative of the ESB attend the monthly meetings of the fire departments and rescue squads.

JOE ROMA – UPDATE

Mr. Roma reported that he had received all call reports from all departments and squads except Ivanhoe Fire Department. He then told that he had received monthly meeting meetings from all departments and squads except Hillsville Fire Department and Pipers Gap Rescue Squad.

DISCUSSION OF VOLUNTEER QUALIFIERS/DISQUALIFIERS

During discuss of the volunteer qualifiers/disqualifiers, it was discussed that the distance listed should be within 5 air miles and was determined that the County would pay for drug screenings.

(Order)

APPROVE VOLUNTEER QUALIFIERS/DISQUALIFIERS

Upon motion by Mr. J. B. Tolbert, seconded by Mr. Jackson, and passed unanimously, the Board approved the volunteer qualifiers/disqualifiers.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Mr. Roma reviewed the Capital Improvement Plan and explained that this was compiled based on recommendations from each department and squad to set the replacement time.

Mr. Cochran stated that Cana was in the worst shape with pressing needs. He asked if the brush truck listed could be later or removed.

Mr. Roma stated that the list showed what was needed currently. He discussed the Ford brush truck not being under warranty but that the turbo had blown and discussed the cost to repair versus the cost of a new chassis. There was discussion that Dodge and Chevrolet motors might be more serviceable.

(Order)

APPROVE TAKING BRUSH TRUCK RECOMMENDATION TO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Upon motion by Mr. J. B. Tolbert, seconded by Ms. Sutphin, and passed unanimously, the Board approved taking the brush truck recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

Note: Mr. McMillian suggested having the figures for each scenario along with showing where the money would come from when this was presented to the Supervisors.

(Order)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Mr. Cochran, seconded by Mr. Jackson, and passed unanimously, the Board approved the minutes of their October 8, 2009 monthly meeting.

(Order)

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Mr. Cochran, seconded by Mr. J. B. Tolbert, and passed unanimously, the Board adjourned at 10:20 p.m.