

At a joint worksession of the Orange County Board of Supervisors and Orange County Fire and EMS held on Tuesday, January 19, 2016, beginning at 7:00 p.m., in the Meeting Room of the Gordon Building, 112 West Main Street, Orange, Virginia. Board of Supervisors Members Present: Lee H. Frame, Chairman; S. Teel Goodwin, Vice Chairman; R. Mark Johnson; James K. White, and James P. Crozier. Fire and EMS Members Present: John Harkness, Fire and EMS Chief; Ronnie Johnson, Chief, Gordonsville Volunteer Fire Company; Jeff Mendonca, Chief, Mine Run Volunteer Fire Department; Bob Mars, Chief, Lake of the Woods Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company; Jimmy Strong, representative of Barboursville Volunteer Fire Company; Ernie Brooks and Jimmie Tate, representatives of Orange County Volunteer Rescue Squad; and Whit Jacobs, Chief, Orange Volunteer Fire Company. Also present: R. Bryan David, County Administrator; and Alyson A. Simpson, Chief Deputy Clerk.

RE: INTRODUCTIONS

Each individual introduced themselves to the group and identified their role and agency whom they represented.

RE: BRIEF REVIEW OF BACKGROUND INFORMATION

John Harkness, Fire and EMS Chief, briefly reviewed the completion of the Fire and EMS Studies conducted by the Virginia Fire Services Board in both 2007 and 2014. He outlined key recommendations from each study.

RE: ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES STRATEGIC PLANNING

RE: OVERVIEW OF STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

John Harkness, Fire and EMS Chief, provided an overview of the most recent strategic planning process, including input that was sought from both internal stakeholders and external stakeholders.

Discussion ensued regarding: how community input was collected; and who attended the various stakeholder sessions.

RE: ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES - VISION FOR THE FUTURE

John Harkness, Fire and EMS Chief, briefly reviewed the ideas behind the future vision for Orange County Fire and Rescue Services.

RE: GOALS ESTABLISHED TO ACHIEVE FUTURE VISION

John Harkness, Fire and EMS Chief, and Ronnie Johnson, Chief of Gordonsville Volunteer Fire Company, reviewed the following goals established to achieve the future vision:

- i. Funding Allocation Model - development, implementation, and management of an equitable funding allocation and distribution methodology which allows the Volunteer Fire & EMS Organizations to deliver upon each's core mission of serving the community in the most cost-effective manner.
- ii. Training Program - development, implementation, and management of a high-quality, convenient, and cost-effective County-wide training program for volunteer and career providers.
- iii. Organizational Structure - development, implementation, and management of an organizational structure which supports and advances the operation, accountability, and direction of volunteer and career providers.

- iv. Fire Prevention Program - development, implementation, and management of an effective fire prevention program to serve Orange County.
- v. Adequate Staffing and Response Capabilities - continue and enhance the development, implementation, and management of staffing and response capabilities to meet the current and future needs of Orange County.
- vi. Recruitment and Retention - continue and enhance the development, implementation, and management of strategies to promote and maintain the recruitment and retention of volunteer and career providers.

RE: OPEN DISCUSSION AND IDENTIFICATION OF NEXT STEPS

Discussion ensued regarding: tension revolving around the establishment of the organizational structure; design standards for construction and how they affect fire prevention efforts; ensuring fire and rescue apparatus and equipment are able to access construction and development; recommendations for National standards for design and construction related to fire prevention; challenges regarding the organizational structure; attendance at recent County-sponsored training events; and the relationship between Fire Marshal positions and local businesses.

Further discussion ensued regarding: ownership of the various pieces of fire and rescue apparatus; hours and efforts spent on fundraising by the volunteer agencies; acquisition and purchase of additional apparatus; challenges surrounding recruitment and retention efforts; developing a tier system; hours and/or periods of time when volunteer coverage is difficult to provide; volunteer needs; and the increase in training requirements.

RE: ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the worksession was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

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Lee H. Frame, Chairman

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R. Bryan David, County Administrator