



County of Henry

Department of Public Safety

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ESAC Minutes – December 14, 2022

Agency attendees:

Jeff Fulcher (BRS), Morgan Arsenault (FCRS), Ryan Mize (RDRS), Michael Moxley (AFD), Junior Lynch (BFD), Tyler Beam (CFD), Tommy Martin (DSFD), Todd Norman (FFD), William Martin (HFD), Mike Hudson (PHFD), AJ Goins (RFD), Todd King (HRS)

Agencies not present:

Axton Life Saving Crew

Public Safety attendees:

Matt Tatum and Suzie Helbert

Other Agencies:

None

Public attendee(s):

Dustin Arsenault

Matt opened the meeting at 19:20. After welcoming everyone, Matt then presented the minutes of the previous meeting, which were approved with no corrections.

HCDPS Update:

Report by Matt Tatum, Director

- There was no report from the Fire Prevention Division.
 - There were no questions.
- There was no report from the Operations Division other than some staff changes that would be discussed later in the agenda.
 - There were no questions.
- Suzie reported from the Training and Volunteer Coordination Division that the rescue squad association had asked about conducting a full-scale exercise, and she wanted to know if there was interest in doing so. The consensus was that everyone was interested, and Suzie said she would follow up later and discuss the details. She also announced that the fire association was training at the training center this weekend, and an EMT class was scheduled to begin in February.
 - There were no questions.

Partners of Fire and EMS Reports:

Before the meeting, Matt notified each Chief and Captain that he would not invite the 'partners of Fire and EMS' to the meeting. However, he asked to forward any concerns that needed the attention of either of the partners, and he would relay that concern to get a response before this meeting. Likewise, he reached out to each of the partners of fire and EMS for any update they would like to report on. *Again, no concerns were conveyed in advance.*

- There were no additional comments regarding the partners of fire and EMS.

Old Business:

- AirPack Update
 - Matt reported that Horsepature had received their grant and packs. However, the packs previously loaned to them has been returned. He is waiting to see if Patrick Henry's grant is funded before he redistributes them.
- Turnout Gear Update
 - Matt reported that the hoods, gloves, boots, and helmets are here.
 - The coats and pants are expected in late March or early April. He has been in contact with the manufacturer to expedite the order; at this point, that is the best date they have provided.
- Aerial Apparatus Update
 - The aerial for Bassett Fire was ordered in November of 2021. The original delivery date was July 2023, which was later changed to March 2024. However, Junior reported that the dealer had informed him that it might be a little earlier, possibly as early as the end of 2023.
- HCDPS Staffing Update
 - HCDPS currently has a Lieutenant vacancy. If that is filled internally, then there will be a medic/firefighter position vacant. The operations division will be fully staffed if it is filled externally.
 - Matt reported that due to Hamp's retirement, Brandon Hatcher had been promoted to Assistant Chief of Operations. This was an organizational change. With removing the position from the training division, all of the training for career staff will now go through Brandon in his new position. He has many other responsibilities, but the training of the career staff is one of these roles.
- ESAC Purpose
 - Matt again explained that ESAC resulted from the Fire and EMS study conducted by VDFP in 2012.
 - He explained that the original intent was for fire and EMS to work together and, through collaboration and standardization, improve the system's efficiency and effectiveness.

- Matt pointed out that on multiple occasions, both publically and not publically, the board had emphasized their desire for everything related to fire and EMS services to be vetted through ESAC.
- After discussing success with some standard policies, Matt asked what policies everyone would like to focus on in the near future. The responses included the following:
 - Infectious Disease Control
 - Facial Hair
 - PPE in general
 - Red Lights on POVs
 - Members joining from other departments
- Matt acknowledged that these were great topics and all focused on safety. He will reach out to everyone to obtain copies of any existing related policies anyone may already have. Once he gets these, he will combine them into a single policy we can all vet.

New Business:

- FY24 Budget Items
 - 23/24 ATL Fund
 - According to the current rotation cycle, Matt reported that Fieldale Fire Department was next in line. However, Todd Norman stated that a new station was a higher priority for them, and since the fund could not be used for station construction, he would like to pass it to the following department for this year.
 - Matt stated, based on recollection, that it would be Axton Fire Department. Michael noted that bumping them early would mess up their fleet management plan of an eight-year rotation, and he would also decline for this year.
 - Matt reported that the next would be Collinsville Fire Department and reminded everyone that it had been previously agreed that when it came to Collinsville's time, they would get two years since they passed on their time in the rotation earlier. Tyler stated he felt they would be ready to move if this year and next year were combined.
 - Matt reminded them that the plan would be to hold the FY24 ATL fund until the FY25 ATL fund was received, and both years would go to Collinsville. Everyone agreed that was what they wanted to do.
 - CIP
 - The consensus was to continue asking for the Radios, Replace Air Truck, and Station Construction, previously listed items.
 - Jeff Fulcher stated he would like to see an ambulance for the volunteers be added because they would need one soon, and there was no way they could afford it. Matt reminded him that any added

items were still five years out. He indicated that he understood that, and even though they would need one sooner, at least it would be in the plan.

- The fire departments asked for at least a 5% increase in the departments' operations allocations.
- Matt introduced changing the county's annual Rescue Officer of the Year award. He then asked Jeff Fulcher to speak on this. After no further discussion, there were no objections to changing the name of this award to the "Claude Cobler Rescue Officer of the Year" award to recognize the many years of service that Claude had given, not only as a member but as an officer in so many different roles and for so many years.

Public Comment (20:15-20:16)

- *There were no comments from the public.*

Open Discussion

- *There were no additional comments.*

Announcements

- Jeff reported that Bassett Rescue Squad would host an EMT class beginning January 21st.
- Ryan reported that Ridgeway Rescue Squad would be hold a CPR class this Saturday and planed to begin 'Stop the Bleed' classes and an EVOC class shortly after the beginning of the year.
- Tommy reported that Dyers Store Fire Department's recent money giveaway event was hugely successful.
- William reported that Horsepasture Fire Department would have breakfast and a hamburger steak dinner this weekend. He also stated that their money giveaway was successful this year as well.
- AJ reported that the money giveaway tickets for Ridgeway District Fire Department would go on sale after the beginning of the year.
- Todd reported that Horsepasture Rescue Squad was planning an EVOC class in January or February and hoped to conduct many CPR classes after the new year.

Next Meeting: TBA