

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
BOARD LEVEL MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2009 5:00 PM**

**Members Present:**

**David Laurrell, County Administrator  
Steven Shockley, Board of Supervisors  
Hugh Pendleton, Board of Supervisors  
Bruce Stratton, Rescue Commissioner  
Bill Bigham, Fire Commissioner  
Chief Clayborne Hamilton, Altavista PD**

**Bill Gillespie, Public Safety  
Karen Briggs, Public Safety  
Sheriff Terry Gaddy, CCSO  
Claude Owen, Fire Commission  
Roger Vassar, Rescue Commission**

**Others Present:**

**Deputy Chief Ken Walsh**

**Members Not Present:**

**Chief Ricky Cousins, Brookneal PD**

*Mr. Laurrell welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 5:05 PM.*

- I. Introductions of Chief Clay Hamilton and Deputy Chief Ken Walsh were made to the group.
- II. Bill Bigham, Fire Commissioner, stated that 10 fire departments assisted with the Brookneal Milling Fire. All of the fire departments worked well together with no injuries, but the business was a total loss. He stated the chiefs were working together to decide how the Aid to Localities funds would be spent and that they were making great progress. The Chiefs are still working on CIP funding, identifying who needs what. Mr. Laurrell stated that he and Bill Gillespie, Interim Public Safety Director attended the last Fire Commission meeting and that there was good progression with the chiefs working together.
- III. Bruce Stratton, Rescue Commissioner, stated the CIP draft is still a work in progress, but is close to being ready to present. He stated that EMSAC is reporting that they are moving closer to an agreement with Altavista EMS. EMSAC has approved the hiring of two additional career medics to staff the Monday through Friday truck located at Squad 6.
- IV. Sheriff Gaddy stated that he would like to see some type of monetary fine for Sheriff's Office units responding to false alarms and non emergency 911 hang ups if they occur more than three times in a calendar year. Tracking would be done on a quarterly basis through the year. He would like to see a charge of \$150.00-\$200.00. The fines would go into the County's general fund. Mr. Shockley and Mr. Pendleton agreed with this idea and asked Sheriff Gaddy to contact other

- jurisdictions for their policies and procedures implementing the policy. Sherriff Gaddy also reported that the bones found near Poor House Rd. were of an elderly gentleman who they believe matches a missing persons report files years ago. Confirmation of identity has not been received from the Medical Examiner's Office. He stated that this discovery is not suspicious in nature or is any way tied to the bones of the female that were found on Candler's Mountain. Chief Clay Hamilton stated that there has been a rash of burglaries in the downtown area of the Town of Altavista. He also thanked the Sheriff's Office for their cooperation when assistance has been requested.
- V. There were no Animal Control Issues. The Code update that has been requested by the Runaway Bay Home Owner's Association will go before the Board of Supervisor's on December 7, 2009. They are requesting to be able to obtain kill permits form the Department of Inland Game and Fisheries to kill deer and bear on lots no les than five acres.
- VI. Mr. Laurrell stated that when Rodney Lawson, Fire Marshal is off that the Sheriff's Office will take calls requesting the Fire Marshal. He would like to see the Sheriff's Office develop a system of four or five people to be trained in preliminary fire investigations. Mr. Laurrell stated that Part Time Fire Marshal funds that are currently designated can be used to pay Sheriff's Office personnel over time instead of filling the position. Sheriff Gaddy stated that the course is offered for training. Mr. Bigham stated that several of the fire chiefs have volunteered to take the training and respond on a voluntary basis.
- VII. Mr. Gillespie reported on Communication Items. PL frequencies still need to be verified to make sure that they are correct. Once this is done, Jonarron Evans will be able to begin programming radios. A meeting has been scheduled for next week with Star City Communications to verify that everything is correct. Upgrading the microwave link from Long Mountain to the E-911 Center is currently being looked for further improvements to the system.
- VIII. There were no Emergency Management items.
- IX. Mr. Laurrell stated that the Training Officer position has been added to the Public Safety Organizational chart. This position will increase two grades above the current Communication's Officer IV position. He will be recommending the Board of Supervisor's approving and moving this position to a Grade 19. There were no objections from the Public Safety Committee. The Communications Technical Group will be three phase. An in-house technical position will handle programming, installations, and exchanges, an outside vendor will handle services and resources, and a Systems Engineering vendor will be on contract to handle system architecture.

- X. Mr. Pendleton stated that Rustburg Volunteer Fire Department held their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on November 29. They had a great turn out and their new truck was delivered.
- XI. Mr. Bigham stated that the LP Gas (Propane) class was held on December 5 and 6 with a good turn out.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40PM

*The next meeting will be February 1, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.*