

**Emergency Services Committee**  
**Washington County Administration Building, Abingdon, VA**  
**09/15/14**  
**5:45 pm**

- Members Present:**  
 Jason Berry  
 Tim Estes  
 Pokey Harris  
 Jason Johnson  
 Mike Mason  
 Phil McCall  
 Randy Pennington  
 Greg Woods  
 Mark Venable
- Others Present:**  
 Michael Morris  
 Mike Pridemore

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
<b>Call to Order</b>	Due to absence of officers, Secretary Greg Woods appointed Tim Estes chair pro tem. The meeting was called to order at 5:50 by Tim Estes.	
<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	Tim Estes welcomed Mark Venable representing Fire and EMS and led introductions. BJ Scyphers will be representing EMS but is out due to training for the full scale exercise.	
<b>Approval of Previous Minutes</b>	A motion was made by Randy Pennington and seconded by Jason Johnson to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed. A motion was made by Pokey Harris and seconded by Jason Johnson to nominate Mark Venable as Chair of the committee. There being no other nominations, the motion carried. Tim Estes made a motion seconded by Pokey Harris to appoint Jason Johnson to Vice Chair. There being no other nominations, the motion carried.	
<b>General Discussion</b>	Pokey Harris introduced a funding request from Green Spring Volunteer Fire Department for fire/rescue boat. Michael Pridemore, Chief, and Michael Morris, EMS Captain, presented the proposal. Morris noted that 158 homes are located lakefront. The agency cannot get to many of these houses with a fire truck; they are only accessible via brush truck. The boat would provide access to those homes for fire suppression in a much more timely and effective manner, and the boat could be used for water rescue as well. Jason Berry discussed the option to lease to own the apparatus, and in such a scenario the county could possibly put this in budget request for next year. Woods discussed the possibility of sending a letter to residents affected by the unique challenges as a partial of full fundraising effort. He indicated that his agency is willing to help the agency draft a letter or proposal to assist them in their fundraising effort. Tim Estes mentioned exploring insurance company grants for funding as well. The committee	

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**Others Present:**

was supportive of the request but wants to look at other possibilities for funding and specifics due to the high cost of the apparatus.

The committee discussed a request from Goodson Kinderhook Vol. Fire Department for an ambulance repair. The unit is out of service due to a turbo needing repair. It was noted that the agency currently responds to 51-52% of calls. Randy Pennington inquired about whether \$4-for-life funds could be used for the necessary repair. Harris noted that the agency had already made a request for those funds for another purpose. Woods asked if the agency is a member of VAVRS. It may be possible to borrow the VAVRS loaner ambulance in the interim. The committee recommended by consensus that the agency be allowed to withdraw their 4-for-life request and utilize \$4-for-life funding for the necessary repairs.

Estes noted that the committee needs to examine call data to look at system wide issues. If possible, it would be good to have that data by the November meeting. Berry suggested that the data be compared to state data and that the committee looks at ways to fix identified issues. Pennington stated that the time is coming when we may need to make funding decisions to get a return on investment, and agencies need to turn around deficiencies in order to meet call demands and expectations. Harris noted that volunteerism is on a decline which does create some of the issues being faced.

The Emergency Response Plan was presented by Harris who opened the floor for discussions on any needed changes. Berry stated that until we look at data to determine causes, a time interval cannot be reasonably determined. Harris noted that the interval used is consistent with historical dispatch practices. This will continue to be examined in the future.

Berry reported that the agreement with Abingdon regarding the fire truck for Abingdon Fire Department is going to the Board. There was an issue with the termination cause which has been resolved. This will allow for release of \$150,000 in funding for that apparatus.

The committee reviewed current recommendations. Questions were raised regarding the Clinch Mountain Fire Department request. There is a sticking point related to price. Estes noted that the committee will need more information related to this request as it moves forward. Mark Venable noted that their truck will be here in October. He asked how the vehicle would be titled. Washington County will be 2<sup>nd</sup> on the vehicle title.

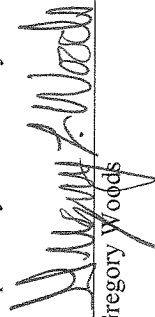
Harris noted that in October, November meeting we will begin looking at FY 17 requests. Phillip McCall noted that we need to update the vehicle assessment. Jason Johnson suggested that individuals be sent out to verify the assessments. Mike Pridemore asked whether all agencies are properly maintaining vehicles and how that might play into requests for funding. Harris stated that the committee will look at vehicles, and the agreement will stipulate expected maintenance. Estes noted that there is some inconsistency in what agencies should do versus what is required to be done because we are a hodgepodge of systems. He stated that we need to become a system. Pridemore noted that it

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	<p>seems like some departments have more breakdowns than other agencies.</p> <p>Estes asked that an agenda item be added to the November agenda on a discussion of a system in Washington County.</p> <p>Harris discussed the pending EMT –I accreditation of the Council’s program. She also highlighted the Text-to-911 program. Virginia is looking at the capability for roll out in future. The target population is the hearing impaired, and a feasibility study will be conducted related to this. Estes noted that the positive part of that will be the texting capability.</p> <p>Estes discussed the need to address adequate staffing. There may be grant programs that can be explored for recruitment/retention for adequate staffing.</p> <p>October 8<sup>th</sup> is the full scale exercise at the VHA.</p>	
<b>Next Meeting</b>	<p>The next meeting will be Monday, October 13, at 5:30 p.m. This is a start time change. This meeting will be held at the Washington County Administration building.</p>	
<b>Adjournment</b>	<p>There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.</p>	

Respectfully submitted by:

  
Gregory Woods

10/15/2014

DATE OF APPROVAL