

APPROVED

**Fauquier County Board of Supervisors’
Public Safety Committee
Meeting of August 25, 2020**

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Public Safety Committee Chairman, Chris Granger, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Introduction of Participants

Present were:

- Mr. Chris Butler, Fauquier County Board of Supervisors (Lee District)
- Mr. Chris Granger, Fauquier County Board of Supervisors (Center District)
- Ms. Erin Kozanecki, Deputy County Administrator
- Mr. Jeremy Falls, Sheriff’s Office (Virtual)
- Chief Darren Stevens, DFREM
- Mr. Mark Ciarrocca, DFREM (Virtual)
- Mr. Tom Marable, President, Fire and Rescue Association
- Ms. Mallory Stribling, Office of Management and Budget (Virtual)
- Chief Michael Kochis, Warrenton Police Department
- Ms. Shel Bolyard-Douglas, Social Services Director (Virtual)
- Mr. Ian Brill, Remington VFD Chief
- Mr. John Kane (Virtual)
- Tom Pavelko, Staff

Social Services Director, Shel Bolyard-Douglas, was introduced to the members of the Public Safety Committee.

3. Approval of the Minutes and Agenda

Mr. Granger moved for approval of the current agenda and the minutes of the January 21, 2020 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Butler.

4. Communications Statistics and Updates

The Sheriff's Office communication statistics for the month of July 2020 were included in the meeting handouts. It was noted, the increase in medical calls since the start of the pandemic. There were no questions or additional discussion.

5. Update: Public Safety Radio Project

Lt. Col. Falls advised the new radio system is moving along. Training has commenced for the various entities including the volunteer companies, DFREM and the FCSO. The installation process will begin after Labor Day and the installation crews should be finished with over 300 installs by mid-September. Tom Marable requested that installs be coordinated so that volunteer Chiefs be present to address any concerns FRA members may have.

6. Overview of the Jury Trial Transition Plan

Captain McWelch updated the committee on plans to resume jury trials under new pandemic protocols. Following meetings with stakeholders the plan was submitted to the State Supreme Court for approval. They have developed alternative locations for trials including the John Barton Payne building.

7. DARE Program Deputies

Lt. Col. Falls confirmed that four deputies have been trained in the DARE program and they are working in conjunction with the schools to train additional personnel. Supervisor Butler inquired if SSO's were back in schools at this time. Lt. Col. Falls confirmed that they were in fact back in schools assisting with security and other areas wherever they are needed.

8. Legislative Agenda on Police Reform

Lt. Col. Falls advised they are tracking legislation on proposed police reform in the General Assembly. They are working with the Commonwealth's Attorney on these matters to determine their impact if passed.

9. Embedded L.E. Mental Health Worker

Lt. Col. Falls indicated they have partnered with Community Services Board (CSB) to have a dedicated mental health case worker available to law enforcement. This new initiative made possible through a grant from the PATH Foundation, has been very helpful in assisting with welfare checks and other situations where mental health could be the underlying issue. Chief Kochis agreed that this is a valuable program with hopes of continuation. On a related note, Supervisor Granger inquired about some recent security issues at the hospital since Life Point

has taken over. There was concern about patients wandering out of the hospital and whose responsibility it is to address the problem. He advised the BOS has sent a letter to Life Point about the amount of Sheriff's Office manpower it takes to deal with these situations. Chief Kochis confirmed that calls for service at the hospital have increased and the problem is compounded by wait times for bed space, possibly attributed to the pandemic. Supervisor Butler requested that the BOS be updated on a possible resolution to the problem.

10. A.R.R. Agreement

FRA President, Tom Marable inquired about language in the Ambulance Revenue Recovery Agreement regarding mileage for certain units. Fire Companies don't believe they are receiving proper reimbursement based on their interpretation of the agreement. Deputy County Administrator, Erin Kozanecki, agreed to work with the FRA to provide clarification on the agreement so that all parties are on the same page.

11. Insurance Deductibles

Mr. Marable inquired about reimbursement of insurance deductibles for FRA vehicles if the claim is determined to be unavoidable versus a reckless act. He is requesting a policy be established to insure reimbursement of deductibles or repairs if they are under \$1,000. Ms. Kozanecki requested this be an internal policy drafted by the FRA since all of the funding comes from the Fire and Rescue levy. She also suggested these funds be considered in the upcoming budget as part of the carryover process.

On a related matter, Tom Marable advised that the FRA has voted in favor of addressing specific changes to repair the Box and Dispatch protocol as well as 1100 box descriptions. He distributed a letter that outlines the problems in more detail and is requesting assistance from Chief Stevens on resolving them in a timely manner. Chief Stevens advised that he has been working diligently to resolve their concerns and is dedicated to coming up with a resolution that is suitable for all parties.

12. CLOSED SESSION

Supervisor Granger made a motion in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, to hold a closed session for the purpose of discussing the acquisition of real property where such discussion in an open meeting could adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiation strategy of the Board. Seconded: Supervisor Butler.

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13. Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Mr. Granger called for adjournment at 7:43 pm. Generally concurred.

Given under my hand this 8th day of September, 2020

Thomas S. Pavelko, Staff to the Public Safety Committee