

WAKE COUNTY FIRE COMMISSION
Thursday, May 21, 2009
DRAFT Minutes

(Audio Replays of the meeting are available upon request)

A meeting of the Wake County Fire Commission was held on Thursday, May 21st, 2009, 7:00 PM, in the Wake County EMS Training Facility, Cary Drive, Raleigh, North Carolina.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Lucius Jones called the meeting to order.

The following members were present: Ms. Ann Suggs, Commissioner Paul Coble, Chief Tony Mauldin, Chief Mike Cooper, Ms. Barbara Poole, Mr. Billy Myrick, Mr. Robert Stagg, Chief Mark Haraway, Chief David Cates, Battalion Chief Lee Price, and Chief Chris Wilson.

Members absent were:, Chief Cecil Parker, and Chief Rodney Privette, Chief Tom Vaughan.

The following County officials and staff were present: Commissioner Lindy Brown, Commissioner Joe Bryan, Deputy County Manager Joe Durham, Director of Fire and Emergency Management Raymond Echevarria, Budget and Management Analyst Jason Horton, and Public Safety Business Manager Demetric Potts.

Mr. Myrick gave an invocation.

The agenda was approved as submitted.

MINUTES

Upon motion of Commissioner Paul Coble and second by Mr. Robert Stagg, the Fire Commission unanimously approved minutes of the March 19th, 2009, regular meeting and the April 30th, 2009, special called meeting.

REGULAR AGENDA

REALLOCATION OF FY09 FIREFIGHTER POSITION

Chief Mark Haraway informed the Fire Commission that the Town of Apex has returned the one firefighter position allocated to Apex Fire Department. Chief Haraway also informed the Fire Commission that the Town of Fuquay will match the position allocated to the Town of Fuquay-Varina Fire Department in the FY 2010 budget year.

Chief Haraway informed the Fire Commission that the Staffing Ad Hoc Committee recommends that the Fuquay-Varina Fire Department retain the position to be matched in the FY 2010 budget year subject to the Town of Fuquay-Varina provide written documentation of the match.

Chief Haraway then advised the Fire Commission that the Staffing Ad Hoc Committee reassign the position originally allocated to Apex to the Fairview Fire Department. The Committee recommends the reassignment subject to Fairview Fire Department reassigning their current part-time staffing funds to full-time positions providing 24 / 7 staffing for at least one engine company.

After discussion, Mr. Billy Myrick motioned that the Fire Commission approve the Staffing Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations. After a second by Commissioner Coble, the motion was approved unanimously.

FACILITY COMMITTEE

Chief Ed Brinson provided the Facility Committee report. The report contained information on the status of the Garner Fire Station #4 project, Fuquay Varina Headquarters Renovation Project, Bay Leaf Headquarters Reconstruction Project, Fire Station Closure Process Review, and Fire Station Dormitory Renovation Project.

Chief Brinson informed the Fire Commission that the Facility Committee recommended the fire tax district fund a percentage of the Fuquay Varina Headquarters renovation. Chief Mauldin clarified that the Town is requesting fire tax funding for only 23% of the addition portion of the project and not requesting funding for the renovation portion of the project.

Chief Brinson provided copies of the dormitory project bid summaries. Wake County Project Manager Patrick McHugh provided an overview of the bid process. Discussion followed on the site and planning issues of the project. Fire Commission asked County staff to follow up on the site issues to determine whether the project requires compliance with the identified site issues and report back at the next Fire

Commission meeting. The Fire Commission will schedule a special called meeting at a later date to consider a recommendation for the dormitory project bid award.

After discussion, Mr. Robert Stagg motioned to approve the funding agreement with Fuquay Varina. Commissioner Coble seconded the motion. Chief Tony Mauldin recused himself from the vote. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Battalion Chief Lee Price asked about the status of the fire station closure evaluation process. Battalion Chief Price asked for a report on the process at the July 16, Fire Commission meeting.

FY10 FIRE TAX BUDGET FOLLOW UP

Chair Lucius Jones discussed the process for distributing additional FY2010 operating funds to fire departments. Chair Jones informed the Fire Commission that he will appoint a committee to develop guidelines for the distribution of additional operating funds to fire departments and that the funds are to be used for emergency situations. The committee will review requests and make recommendations for distributing funds.

The Fire Commission discussed issues and options for reviewing requests for and appropriating the FY 2010 operating funds.

Director Raymond Echevarria advised the Fire Commission that the fire training budget information requested during the April 30, 2009, special called budget meeting is provided.

MERGER PLAN FOR WAKE FOREST AND FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Wake Forest Fire Chief Freddy Lynn provided the Fire Commission a proposal outlining a proposed merger of the Wake Forest and Falls Fire Departments. Chief Lynn advised the Fire Commission that the Presidents of both departments' boards have signed a letter authorizing the merger, and the merger will take approximately two years to complete.

Chief Lynn answered questions from Fire Commission members about the proposal.

After discussion, Mr. Billy Myrick motioned for the Fire Commission to accept the proposal and allow up to years for the merger. After a second by Ms. Suggs, the motion passed on a unanimous vote.

INFORMATION AGENDA

FIRE TAX FINANCIAL REPORT

Budget and Management Analyst Jason Horton provided a fire tax financial report. Mr. Horton advised the Fire Commission that he projects the fire tax district will end the FY 09 budget year slightly above budgeted revenue.

CHAIR REPORT

No report.

FIRE/RESCUE DIRECTOR REPORT

No report.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chief Ron Roof provided background on the Budget Committee's recommendation for allocating FY 2010 operating funds to fire departments.

Chief Mike Cooper raised a question on behalf of Chief A. C. Rich regarding the Compensation Committee's recommended plan for implementing the new salary bands. Chief Cooper advised the Fire Commission that Chief Rich requests the Compensation Committee revisit the implementation plan for the new salary bands.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.