

WAKE COUNTY FIRE COMMISSION
Thursday, July 16, 2009
DRAFT Minutes

(Audio Replays of the meeting are available upon request)

A meeting of the Wake County Fire Commission was held on Thursday, July 16th, 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 Cecil Parker, Chief Mike Cooper, Mr. Billy Myrick, Mr. Robert Stagg, Chief Mark Haraway, Chief David Cates, Battalion Chief Lee Price and Chief Jimmy McCauley, .

Members absent were: Chief Tony Mauldin, Chief Chris Wilson, Ms. Barbara Poole and Chief Rodney Privette.

The following County officials and staff were present: Commissioner Lindy Brown, Director of Fire and Emergency Management Raymond Echevarria, Public Safety Business Manager Demetric Potts and Wake County Budget Manager Ben Canada.

Mr. Myrick gave an invocation.

The agenda was approved as submitted.

MINUTES

The Fire Commission considered the minutes of the May 21st, 2009, regular meeting. Ms. Ann Suggs identified a needed correction on page 3 in the summary of the discussion on the merger plan for Wake Forest and Falls Fire Departments. Ms. Suggs noted that the motion should read, "...Mr. Billy Myrick motioned for the Fire Commission to accept the proposal and allow up to two years..." Ms. Suggs motioned for approval with the correction. The motion was passed unanimously after receiving a second from Mr. Myrick.

There being no noted changes, Commissioner Paul Coble motioned to approve the minutes of the June 8th, Special Called meeting. After a second by Mr. Bob Stagg, the motion was approved unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

REPORT ON EVALUATION AND APPLICATION OF FIRE COMMISSION'S FIRE STATION CLOSURE CRITERIA

Director Echevarria provided an outline of the evaluation and application of the Fire Commission's fire station closure criteria to four fire stations – Bay Leaf Fire Station #3, Falls Fire Station, Wake New Hope Fire Station #1 and Western Wake Fire Station #1.

The presentation summarized the staff analysis of the criteria adopted by the Fire Commission. Director Echevarria advised the Fire Commission that cost data is incomplete, and he is waiting for an estimated fire contract cost from the City of Raleigh.

After the presentation, the Fire Commission discussed the information and next steps. Fire Commission members decided to focus on the first two fire stations recommended for action in the report – Bay Leaf Fire Station #3 and Falls Fire Station. Fire Commission members discussed the importance of allowing the fire departments to provide information in response to the report.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the Fire Commission to schedule a special called meeting prior to the September meeting to allow the Bay Leaf and Falls Fire Departments an opportunity to provide feedback on the report. Additionally, Fire Commission members wanted to schedule the special called meeting after receiving cost data from the Raleigh Fire Department.

FAIRVIEW FIRE DEPARTMENT STAFFING PLAN

Chief Ed Brinson provided the Fire Commission an update on the Fairview Fire Department's staffing plan. The staffing plan was offered in response to the Fire Commission's approval of one full-time firefighter position for Fairview Fire Department with the condition that the Fairview Fire Department reallocate current part-time funds to full-time positions to provide 24 / 7 staffing.

Chief Brinson presented three staffing scenarios that the Fairview Fire Department considered to meet the Fire Commission's conditions. Chief Brinson advised the Fire Commission that scenario 2 provides a service improvement and does not diminish current levels of service. Chief Brinson also advised the Fire Commission that scenario 2 requires additional funding in the amount of approximately \$31, 637 including startup costs. Commissioner Coble questioned the initial startup costs which was adjusted accordingly.

The Fire Commission discussed at length the options presented by Chief Brinson. After discussion, Chief Haraway motioned to accept scenario 2 as presented and reallocate the necessary funds. After a second by Ms. Suggs, the motion passed with Mr. Myrick dissenting.

INFORMATION AGENDA

FIRE TAX FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Canada presented a year-end report for FY 2009. He also provided a year-to-date financial report for FY 2010.

After discussion, Mr. Canada provided the Fire Commission information on House Bill 852, An Act to Defer a Portion of the Property Tax Due on Real Property Held for Sale by a Builder.

UPDATE ON RETIREMENT FUNDING IMPLEMENTATION

Captain David Price, Chair of the Compensation Committee provided the Fire Commission an update on implementing the retirement funding plan as approved by the Fire Commission. Captain Price advised the Fire Commission that additional retirement funding has been provided to twelve fire departments after receiving the required documentation by those departments. The Compensation Committee continues to work with the remaining fire departments to obtain the required documentation.

FACILITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Chief Ed Brinson, Facility Committee Chair, provided a report from the Facility Committee. Chief Brinson advised the Fire Commission that design documents are being prepared for the southeast Wake County fire station, that notice to proceed was issued for the dormitory improvements, work has started on the Fuquay Varina Headquarters project, and work continues on the property ownership agreement for the Bay Leaf Station #1 reconstruction project

CHAIR REPORT

No report.

FIRE/RESCUE DIRECTOR REPORT

No report.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A member of the Durham Highway Fire Department invited the Fire Commission and others to attend a Pride and Ownership Seminar given by Rick Lasky and hosted by the Durham Highway Fire Department. The seminar is scheduled for August 1, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM, at Providence Baptist Church.

Commissioner Lindy Brown thanked Fire Commission members and staff for the time and effort in addressing difficult fire service issues.

Chief Mike Cooper informed the Fire Commission that he has decided to no longer serve as Chief of Durham Highway Fire Department and that he will resign as the Fire Commission's north region primary representative.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.