

PICKENS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
08.10.2021
222 McDaniel Avenue, Pickens, SC 29671

IN ATTENDANCE - BOARD

Richard (Kenny) McPeters
Charles (Hub) Smith
Tracy Woodruff
Jan Kelley
Dennis Bauknight
Paul Howland
Troy Burton

ABSENT – BOARD:

Johnson Link
Tracie Barnett
Randy Bowers

IN ATTENDANCE - STAFF:

Billy Gibson, Director of Emergency Services

IN ATTENDANCE - GUESTS:

Beverly Zwahlen
Rocky Odeman

Agendas, bearing date, time and location of meeting were emailed to Board members and news media and a copy was posted on the county website and bulletin board at the Administration facility.

Kenny McPeters called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Jan Kelley offered the invocation.

The July 13, 2021 meeting was a tour of the Anderson County Unified Communications Center. No minutes were taken.

The June 8, 2021 meeting minutes were taken by Randy Bowers. However, these have not been presented to the board. Therefore, these minutes were not approved at this meeting.

TOPIC:

- Communications discussion
 - Recap of our visit to Anderson County on July 13, 2021.
 - Currently we have 3 communications centers in our county. There is duplication because of multiple locations with limitations in some areas.
 - Council is in support of a unified communications center.
 - Uncertainty regarding who will run communications center.

- Dennis Bauknight made a motion that this board recommend that Council move forward toward a unified communications center. Paul Howland seconded the motion. Hub Smith abstained due to concern over manpower first. Motion passed.
- Emergency Services Division update, Billy Gibson
 - Capital purchases
 - 2023 budget considerations
 - Most urgent need is manpower. Example given where Holly Springs was 3rd on the scene yet were closest in proximity (1 mile). Need additional 9 positions. Actually needed in 2022 budget but critical in 2023 budget.
 - Also currently 7 PT openings.
 - Will need to increase fire fees to support additional manpower.
- Rescue squads
 - At June meeting, Randy Bowers made a motion to create a sub-committee to research rescue squad.
 - Billy Gibson presented data to this meeting regarding number of calls, number of calls responded to, number of calls not responded to, number of reports filed for calls.
 - Squad 6 is minimally responsive to calls.
 - Squads 7 & 8 are mediocre in their responsiveness and reporting.
 - Group discussed if squads are necessary and need to be integrated into fire. Many of their calls are responded to by Fire and many end up with medic (ie: lift-assist calls)
 - All rescue squad members are non-paid.
 - Kenny McPeters made a motion to appoint an applicable Fire Chief as a liaison between each of the 3 Rescue Chiefs and the Emergency Services Director, Billy Gibson. The Director will evaluate each rescue squad based on accountability, recruitment and response. The advisory board and the Director will re-evaluate the viability of each rescue squad in January 2022. Jan Kelley seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- EMS discussion
 - Currently 9 trucks. 2012 was the last year a truck was added.
 - Any emergency event could take as much as 3 hours to complete especially if it requires a transport to Greenville.
 - Many EMS staff run on long shifts and there is no mandatory rest period.
 - EMS likely needs more resources. Need to research further into this.
- Tracy Woodruff requested to be relieved of Secretary Duties. Paul Howland offered to fill this role. Kenny McPeters made a motion to appoint Paul Howland as Secretary. Seconded by Hub Smith. Motion passed.

The next advisory board meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. on September 14, 2021 at 222 McDaniel Avenue, Pickens, SC 29671.

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Minutes taken by Tracy Woodruff, Secretary.