

LEE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA

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MINUTES OF THE LEE COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

September 23, 2014

The Lee County Fire Advisory Board (FAB) met on September 23rd at Lee County Emergency Services, located at 204 West Courtland Drive, Sanford, North Carolina.

The following members were present:

- Donald Andrews, Jr.
- Cy Richardson
- Erick Matilde
- Kirk Smith
- Royce Gaines
- Shane Seagroves, Ex officio member

Absent:

- Richard Holshouser
- David Vann

Others:

- Larry Kelly
- Gary Gilliam

Chairman Donald Andrews called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes from the May 14, 2014 meeting were accepted as presented. Motion made by Cy Richardson, seconded by Kirk Smith; unanimous vote.

The agenda was approved by a motion made by Kirk Smith, seconded by Cy Richardson; unanimous vote.

Chairman Andrews welcomed and introduced the newest FAB members as Cy Richardson and Erick Matilde. Cy will be representing the Fire Chief's Association while Erick will represent the General Public.

Larry Kelly and Gary Gilliam were recognized as outgoing members. Chairman Andrews, on behalf of the FAB, thanked them for their time and service to the Board, and presented them with trophies inscribed with their years of service. They excused themselves from the meeting at 7:03 pm.

The Oaths of Office were administered by Nancy for all FAB members present.

Chairman Andrews opened the floor for nominations for the office of Chair and Vice Chair. Royce Gaines nominated Donald Andrews to be re-elected as Chair; seconded by Kirk Smith. Cy Richardson was nominated by Kirk Smith for Vice Chair; seconded by Royce Gaines. Chairman Andrews asked for any other nominations. Hearing none, Kirk Smith moved to close nominations; seconded by Royce Gaines. By acclamation, Chairman Andrews was re-elected Chair and Cy Richardson was elected Vice-Chair.

No one was present to make any public comments.

The budget process for FY2015/2016 was discussed and will continue to be processed in the same format and timelines that have been used in the past. To help aid the fire departments in budget preparation, Chairman Andrews will work on devising and adding a column to the existing budget formula that will calculate what one cent in tax rate generates in revenue.

Goals and Objectives were reviewed and discussed with the focus being on Goal #2, *"Fire Departments are encouraged to work towards lowering their ISO rating with a target of a districtwide 6 rating."* Chairman Andrews suggested looking into this goal next. Other members agreed, adding that achieving this goal would be a win-win situation for both the county and taxpayers alike. The next step would be to compile a list of equipment/apparatus in order to look at cost and determine some type of workable timetable.

Chairman Andrews led a discussion on worker's compensation. Feedback from the FAB was needed to address the concerns of departments being overdrawn due to penalties, and the negative impact it poses for the Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) budget. As it stands, the FMO pays worker's compensation for all county fire departments with the exception of one. Discussion was paused temporarily.

Erick Matilde entered the meeting at 7:37 pm and was administered the Oath of Office by Nancy.

The worker's compensation discussion resumed. The FAB was asked to come up with a fair way to address this issue. The consensus of the Board was that the county would continue to pay the flat fee for worker's comp through the FMO budget. The department with the penalty would then be held accountable for any over cost, and would need to budget for this surcharge in their budget packet.

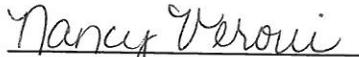
Chairman Andrews suggested that the unified tax rate be re-visited at the next meeting due to the lack of board members in attendance. He stated that the presentation given previously to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) would need to be updated and readied by the spring timeframe. The presentation would be presented to the FAB first, then to the BOCC.

Kirk Smith took the floor to present an issue that is currently occurring at the CCH/EMS Substation. The situation was discussed with the FAB for informational awareness and feedback. Mr. Smith stated that the safety and protection of our citizens is a concern of the FAB as stated per the by-laws. Chairman Andrews noted that this situation should be deferred to the County.

Therefore, no further business to come before the FAB, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm; motion made by Royce Gaines, seconded by Kirk Smith; unanimous vote.


Donald Andrews, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST:


Nancy Veroni, Secretary