



**MINUTES OF THE LEE COUNTY
FIRE ADVISORY BOARD**

March 5, 2009

The Lee County Fire Advisory Board met on March 5, 2009 at the Emergency Services Conference Room, located at 225 S Steele Street, Sanford, North Carolina.

The following members were present:

- Donald Andrews, Jr.
- Larry Kelly
- Royce Gaines
- Roger King
- Linda Shook
- Ken Cameron
- Worth Pickard
- Shane Seagroves, Ex officio member

Chairman Donald Andrews called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the prior meeting. Ken Cameron made the motion, seconded by Larry Kelly; and the vote was unanimous.

The purpose of the meeting was to obtain feedback from the Fire Chiefs concerning the unified funding. Chairman Andrews laid out the ground rules for each Fire Department representative as they came before the FAB to present their comments on the unified funding. Below is a table stating the summarized comments from the respective fire departments.

Fire Department	Comments	Concerns
West Sanford Cy Richardson ✓ Supports unified funding as stated in guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board of Directors feels flat tax would have positive effect • Help taxpayers lower their rate since WS has one of the highest tax rates in the county • In the future could help department since they are limited in what they can purchase • No problem with apparatus schedules as long as a fireman remains on the committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County could have tighter control of overall funding

<p>Deep River Larry Kelly</p> <p>√ Supports unified funding if it could be implemented in the right way</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board is in favor of the fact that every person pays the same tax rate for the same fire protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uneasiness about how the unified tax will be implemented • More of a true draft of how the replacement schedule would work • Funding from the county and how it's going to be handled (who will administer the funds)
<p>Cape Fear Robert Howard</p> <p>X Does not support unified project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like to have more representation from the Board of Directors in deciding how money is spent and the division of funds; more details in proposal • Not enough representation from the fire departments Board of Directors - feel more input is needed for this project from them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Attachment 1
<p>Northview Ronnie Campbell</p> <p>~ In the middle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure all the i's are dotted and t's crossed before plan is set in place • Northview won't see a big difference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of trucks – Proposal states minimum standard (too much difference in districts) • Effect of Citizens on fixed incomes • Individualism away from FD
<p>Lemon Springs Reid Cagle</p> <p>~ In the middle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No guidelines (more detail) - proposal too general • PPE Resolution from county that money is not used for anything else except for fire service • FM Budget – needs to be put into a different line on tax bill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Attachment 2
<p>Carolina Trace Todd McNeill</p> <p>X Does not support unified funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No timeline – proposal very vague • Trace has one of lowest ISO ratings in county • Board would like to see a five-year plan for tax rates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control leaving FD • Replacement Schedule • Current Debt – when would it be paid off?
<p>Northwest Pocket David Nance</p> <p>√ Supports unified funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board has discussed flat tax and been supportive for several years • Everyone should pay the same for the same level of fire protection • Without flat tax, sub-station would be nearly impossible to build • Pocket is very rural and will not likely be a highly developed area – flat tax would give the department a chance to grow and provide same level of service as the other fire departments as far as insurance ratings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement Schedule
<p>Tramway Scott Holt</p> <p>~ In the middle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Money is the root of all evil” • More involvement from department and Chiefs • Incorporated dept – contracts to the county for fire service – doesn't want county to get too deep in the operating business of the fire service • Big difference in group purchase and being told specifically what to buy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County control (purchases, type of equipment, etc)

Therefore, no further business to come before the FAB, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. The motion was made by Linda Shook; seconded by Roger King; unanimous vote.

Donald Andrews, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST:

Nancy Veroni, Secretary

Attachments:
Cape Fear
Lemon Springs