



Council of Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squads, Inc.

July 15th, 2020:

Virtual Meeting

Minutes:

Members in attendance: Jay Kerr (1), Kay Laws (2), Tanya Barnes (4), David Coulling (5), John Neumayer (14), Brian Abeyta (14), Bonita Teaford (16), Dee Haberdash (17), David Wheeler (MRT), Bobby Hill (Foundation), Chief Joey Hundley (VBEMS), Asst. Chief Ellen McBride (VBEMS)

Approval of Minutes – Motioned and Accepted

President's Report – David Coulling

Reminders about being safe and wearing PPE

Treasurer's Report -Attached to this report. Noted that some fees owed on report have been paid.

Department of EMS Report, Q&A – Chief Joey Hundley

- Virtual Awards Ceremony complete. Some awards have been distributed. The rest of the awards will be distributed soon.
- Chief Green and Chief Hundley have swapped positions
 - Chief Green now oversees Operations
 - Chief Hundley now oversees Training, Admin, Regulations, and Support Staff
- Cat Watson has been promoted to Brigade Chief, oversees Training, reports directly to Chief Hundley.
- Brett Johnson has been promoted to Brigade Chief, oversees the streets.
- Asst Chief Ellen McBride has been reassigned to Admin to assist Chief Hundley and oversee Sustainability.
- Division Chiefs roles/responsibilities have not changed.
- ECCS Liaison Feedback-effective or ineffective?
 - Effective but with confusion on the streets, EMS 5 supervising while EMS1/2 are delivering meals, let supervisors do their jobs, support staff could deliver meals, overall good but needs clear boundaries
 - Outstanding addition to the process, management that can happen from ECCS that can happen in a zone car, birds eye view from dispatch, feedback from providers that said they would quit if/when EMS 5 position was eliminated, hasn't heard anything negative,
 - Heard EMS 5 ask EMS 1 if they need more resources, doesn't think that should happen, Chief 10 shows up more often on scene acting more like EMS1/2, feels like there are lots of chiefs and not enough supervisors, understands that all calls require an N95, doesn't understand why we need a Paramedic to tell us/dispatch that we need a mask.
 - EMS 5 position good transition into Community Paramedicine program
 - **Chief Hundley's response:** 911 doesn't do call triage, EMD cards are not call triage. He was with a crew recently who couldn't figure out what mask they should wear even after being told, EMS 5 position boosted confidence of dispatchers because they could ask questions and streamline resources, 2018-33,000 calls dispatched as priority 1 with ALS, only 10,000 transported as ALS, over dispatching 23,000 calls. Call triage doesn't work with out EMS 5. HQ is in favor of position. EMS 5 assists in getting right resources to calls, allows BLS crews to do BLS stuff and keeps City Medics from feeling pressured to ride calls in just because they were dispatched. EMS 5 position has implications for other agencies: fire dept not happy due to



decrease in call volume and police canceled on some cases due to lack of PPE-no reason to go unprotected. Position is needed and wanted, but in order to keep, support from body may be needed. Community Paramedicine program could be additional use for position. Many calls were diverted to commercial ambulance services because liaison was able to classify call as non-emergent, especially with the nursing home calls. More to come on Community Paramedicine.

- Special Events- Dwindled to next to nothing, last word was Rock N Roll may go for one day only, Governors rollback on restrictions and uptick in cases will decide outcome of race. Chief Corley to follow up if needed.
- Folders at HQ-there used to be several folders for each squad housed at admin. Folders were not being checked and emptied regularly causing issues. There is now one folder per squad. Please have leadership check and empty folder when they are in the building. Suggestion was to deliver items to the stations, knowing where to leave the items is the issue.
- Personal Property Tax Relief - Department had no say so in the wording of the ordinance, they were aware of the conversations and 100% in support but had no say so. Current ordinance states: to be eligible members must serve 80% of required hours for the year prior to be considered for the tax relief, Oscar now generates a report to determine who is meeting obligations, report generates for a year. Member must be active in January of current year when report is generated. If member joins system mid-year, 80% of required hours must be met from time joined until end of year. Tax relief is for Virginia Beach residents only. Please be sure to keep your address updated VOEMS so VBEMS records stay current. Money was taken from Public Works and given to EMS to fund this program. Any questions contact Greg Postlewaite who initiated program. Chief Hundley will oversee program for the dept.
- Stork and Heart pins are still being awarded. Cases will be reviewed quarterly for heart pins. Stork pins will be awarded as births occur. There is an understanding that the current system for awarding pins is broken. Discussions are being held. A Life Saving Award has been established with written guidelines for award criteria. Discussion was held regarding written criteria for heart and stork pins as well.
- PPE-Increase in COVID cases, Governor stated in press conference that Hampton Roads had surpassed Northern Virginia in daily cases with a few record highs recorded for daily cases, Governor may roll back restrictions based on new numbers instead of moving forward but may address reimplementing restrictions regionally. Governor also proposed a 24 hour notice for employees who test positive for COVID in order to advise other employees that may have come in contact with employee who tested positive, Collectively, we need to staunchly support the wearing of PPE at stations and in vehicles. Ambulance crews are frequently witnessed not wearing masks.
- Pearson VUE Testing- HQ is currently a Pearson VUE Testing Site, testing candidates are monitored by a Pearson Vue proctor, unsure how long HQ will remain testing site.
- Please have any Mental Health professionals at your squad contact Chief Hundley.

Coordinator Reports-

-Rescue Foundation-

-Administration Report- Gina Benefiel -No report/Not in attendance



-Recruitment Report- Bobby Hill

1st 6 months in 2020 - 522 VBEMS applicants

1st 6 months in 2019 - 759 VBEMS applicants-assume decrease is due to COVID, March 2020 - 114 applicants. Paid advertising was stopped in March. Paid burst will restart July 27 to include 10 radio ads and additional ads on steaming platforms, Spotify, Instagram paid, and Facebook paid, Last 6 months have seen 57 AIC exits with the same 6 months in 2019 seeing 74 AIC exits. Chief Hundley added that Academy 39 and 40 had started and would be running concurrently with adaptations and accommodations. He is interested to look at the testing data for Academies 37 and 38 who finished online to see what influence virtual learning had on testing. Bobby encouraged all squads to reach out to their donors now. Research was showing that they were more likely to donate with more communication, Companies weren't donating as often, but were making larger donations.

-Multi-Squad Fund Drive Coordinator- Jay Kerr

Ocean Park's fund drive was up 82% from last year, Chief McBride stated that VBVRS' fund drive was up 30% from last year. Chief McBride stated the fund drive is proof that squad collaboration pays off, makes us stronger individually and as a system. A meeting is slated for the end of August to discuss fall fund drive. Discussion was held regarding doing a squad level post card mail out between fund drives.

-Recruitment Coordinator- Jay Kerr

Meeting scheduled for August 13th

-Jr. Rescue Squad Liaison- Jay Kerr

Currently adjourned, considering online sessions for the fall, Chief Hundley is POC/Liaison, money in Rescue Council bank account is earmarked for Jr. Rescue Squad, bills totalling less than \$100 need to be reimbursed.

Unfinished Business- Update bylaws to reflect new dates for officers

New Business-

- Chief McBride – role has changed dramatically, no longer assigned to specific squads, new role is to help improve sustainability of VBEMS, to strengthen every squad. We should be thinking globally to combat the forces that are attempting to weaken our system. Focus will be on marketing, due to various audiences. Will meet with each squad.
- Grants-Discussion was had regarding developing a handbook for grant writing. Suggestion was made to add the basics/best practices to the Squad Commander handbook that is currently being overhauled by Chief McBride.

Station Reports –

- **MRT** -Still recruiting, difficulties with onboarding and testing, 8 members in the pipeline, 50 ops members currently, started MRT intern academy last May with virtual classes/coursework/materials similar to BLS academy but with focus on marine aspect of team. Boat patrols started memorial day with 2 on Saturdays and Sundays, 1-2 on Fridays to include trainings with Marine Medics, focusing on recovering mannequins, drownings, and on board intubations. Having difficulty releasing interns due to lack of EVOC opportunities for non-academy participants.



- **Ocean Park (1)**-Membership stable, Ordered new Polaris cart to be delivered by end of July, Recommended 2 hour online UTV/ATV course for all providers to obtain UTV license. Capital Improvement projects have been reopened. Was not awarded RSAF grant-working on solutions for ambulance replacement.
- **Davis Corner (2)** -Optimistic, Fund drive has slowed down, Things are pretty good
- **Chesapeake Beach (4)**- Membership stable, looking into creative fund raising avenues, Amazon Wishlist has been hugely successful, Two community outreach events this month: Blood drive and Car Wash, Fund drive was successful, unsure as to comparison of last year, had a record month for love letters-best in 3 years, started sending out thank you notes to all donations, staffing cart for July 4th per city's request and plan on staffing for future weekends, trying to get Corp Sponsorship program up and running.
- **Virginia Beach (14)** -Cart issues, Cart 8 over heated, other issues with Cart 14, not as busy on the beach with the carts this year, working on the incomplete patient reports issue, wants to know what do about provider's non-compliance with PPE, and what the solution is for better fitting PPE and lack of sizes. Chief Hundley's response was that we have no room for error with the wearing of PPE. VBEMS is not prepared to recover if 25% of our providers/system go down with COVID. Call out the non-compliant providers and call a supervisor if a paid staff is not wearing PPE.
- **Plaza (16)**-new ambulance and hosted successful cookouts for duty crews
- **Sandbridge(17)**-Two largest fund raising events canceled, fund drive went well, but not well enough to recover losses from canceled events, Boost committee is working hard to reach out to donors. Sandbridge is crowded and booming.

Next meeting date: November 18, 2020