



***Council of Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squads, Inc.***

**March 17, 2021**

**In-person Meeting At: Court House Horizons**

**Approved Minutes:**

**Members in attendance:** Jay Ker (R01), Aaron Stauffenberg (R01), Kay Laws (R02), Michael McCracken (R04), David Coulling (R05), Andrew Rabideau (R05), Debbie Volzke (R06), Nancy Gregory (R06), Paul Kalmus (R09), Kristine Benadum (R09), John Neumayer (R14), Kyle Musicant (R16), (R16), Joan Davis (R17), Julie Barnes (R17), David Wheeler (MRT), Sarah Druy (MRT), Curtis Woodruff (MRT), Ed Brazle (EMS), Ellen McBride (EMS), Kristen Howard (Foundation), Gina Benefeil (Foundation), Prope Woodshire(unknown affiliation)

**Meeting commenced** at 18:18 with President David Coulling presiding. Guests were welcomed and introductions made.

**Approval of Minutes** by motion, with no comments or corrections.

**President's Report** – David Coulling made farewell comments for his last meeting and offered his continued assistance including Information Technology support.

**Treasurer's Report** - Bonita Teaford provided the following balances and requests:

- Checking \$ 19,911.15
- Savings \$13,213.92
- Deposit \$750.00 on 3/17/21
- Due to checking being misplaced during turn over, we need the following Squad's to please reissue check.
  - Kempsville Rescue Squad \$300.00 Dues
- I do not show we received other payments. Can each squad please check with the treasure to make sure payment was submit?
  - Kempsville Rescue Squad – I don't show 2019 gap insurance paid \$2,700.00
  - Ocean Parks Rescue Squad – I don't show 2019 dues paid \$300.00
- Squad's owe Dues for 2020 and some owe for gap insurance as follows:
  - Ocean Park 4X \$450.00 = \$1,800 and dues \$300.00
  - Princess Anne 3x \$450.00-\$1,350.00 and dues \$300.00
  - Kempsville 6x \$450.00=\$2,700.00 and dues \$300.00
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**Department of EMS Report, Q&A** – Chief Ed Brazle provided the following update:

- Although we are reviewing COVID precautions, we are not ready to change yet.

- In partnership with the Health Department, we are very busy with administering vaccinations and still looking for more volunteers. Vaccinator training is available and we are beginning to allow EMTs.
- The Dept of EMS Communications position is open again, and is expected to be flat, but include Burton Station.
- The Dept will be hiring some more medics very soon.
- Funds have been distributed to the Squads for Ambulance replacement grants.
- The City Budget is about to come out from the city manager.
- CARES funds were spent on LUCAS devices and video laryngoscopes.
- Jay Kerr asked Chief Brazle about the status and funding of Burton Station. The Chief said money was moved to salaries to address shortfalls. New hires should occur in the first half of next year.
- Call volume is back on the rise.
- COVID has set back the intake of new students, we are having trouble filling classes...so adding more academy classes won't help.
- Billing For Services:
  - Informal discussion with members of city council regarding billing for service. Some support, and some oppose. Chief Brazle's presentation to Council on this topic was pulled from the agenda recently. Some members (or inactive life members) of squads have contacted the City Manager to express their opinions. Chief Nedelka is looking into Medicare possibilities.
  - Chief Brazle said "it is time that Rescue Council adopted a position."
  - David Wheeler read aloud the Council's 2018 resolution: *the CVB should not charge for our emergency services until w, at a future time and as a collective body, create an agreement between the CVB, Rescue Council and all associated volunteer organizations.*"
  - Mike McCracken and John Neumayer agreed to work on the wording for a position statement, which could be a new resolution or a point to start the debate. It can be presented to the Council at the next meeting and voted on at the following meeting at the earliest.
  - Mike McCracken talked about the lack of knowledge on the matter, and questioned whether the squads were informed enough to provide their input. David Coulling asked if Mike was calling for a vote on something. Mike said no just "to get the vibe of the squads."
  - Jay Kerr said that a resolution shouldn't go further than saying we, the Rescue Council, are ready to consider Billing.
  - David Coulling said we should put more teeth into it.
  - Mike McCracken asked if there was any squad against it.
  - John Neumayer said some members of his squad definitely are opposed, but he didn't know how many favor, are opposed, and don't care. He said he would survey them.
  - Mike McCracken said a survey would help and he would lead to create and send one to all the volunteers.
  - Jay said Ocean Park is not close, they even voted against the 2018 resolution, but I'll say we are ready to talk about it.

- David Coulling said to Jay to get the ideas on paper and we should not delay, but no one is demanding an immediate change.
- Chief Brazle said the position statement has to say that Billing is necessary.
- David Wheeler asked about the funding split, to which Chief Brazle explained the Loudoun County model he thinks make the most sense and who the portions would go to including paying salaries, some for the RnR budget.
- Nancy Gregory asked if getting fees would jeopardize our non-profit status? The Chief said no, not at all.
- Jay said we aren't firm about things we put on paper either, and now is only the time to consider.
- Chief Brazle said look, you can't hold a gun to City Council's heads.
- Mike McCracken said, we can longer be reactive, but rather must sustain our organizations, like being able to buy future ambulances. Let's lay out the opportunities, answer the questions. Any step forward is good.
- Chief Brazle asked what happens if one squad says no? He offered to come to each squad to explain that billing is the only way forward.
- Gina Benefiel asked if there was a Frequently Asked Questions sheet yet created for the Billing for Services issue to squash false rumors and educate the public. People will be asking why we need funding, if we are ready to take in that kind of cash. He answered that it was a good idea.
- Gina asked when will be the next EMS strategy session. The Chief said probably next month.
- **Medical Operations Steering Committee** – Nothing To Report (NTR)
- **Training Steering Committee** - NTR
- **CURED Board Committee** - NTR
- **Fleet Committee** - NTR
- **Supply Committee** – NTR
- **Sustainability Committee** – Asst Chief Ellen McBride talked about the good things her team is doing including:
  - Getting ready to distribute the COVID Warrior gifts on March 26 and 27; there are still about \$14,000 of Wawa gift cards for later use (asking the Rescue Council for ideas);
  - There is an initiative to coordinate the squad's supply purchases, which is looking for a leader. Andrew Rabideau volunteered, and Ellen accepted, saying that she is looking for more people to participate.

## Coordinator Reports

- **Rescue Foundation**
  - **Administrative Report/Recruitment Coordinator** – Gina Benefiel introduced Kristen Howard who is replacing Mary Ellen McClean.
  - She provided a Recruiting and Retention Report handout prepared by Jennifer Long. It talked about the advertising spots being at the same levels as when Bobby Hill coordinated; talked about the successes so far of the “new referral program” with giftcards and prizes as incentive; putting

signs recognizing high year members at HQ and stations; and working with Virginia Beach Public Schools to get out the word about volunteering in the Rescue Squads.

- Gina explained the status of the S&B “branding” and advertising campaign research and design work which was presented to leadership and to three on-line town hall meetings.
- Gina then reported on the over \$200,000 in grants recently awarded (extension of 2020), and said the next cycle will be in the fall.
- Gina announced a “non-profit 101” class that will be made available to help squads be better prepared to sustain themselves.
- **Multi-Squad Fund Drive Coordinator** – Jay Kerr said let’s thank Gina and the Foundation for the grants they’ve given the squads. Jay reported that there is an upcoming planning meeting and photo shoot for the April Fund Drive.
- **Recruitment Coordinator** – Jay Kerr said he is meeting with Jennifer Long.
- **Jr. Rescue Squad Liaison** – Jay Kerr said he is meeting with Deputy Chief Hundley and Chief Watson about the Junior Rescue doing hands on things in EMS HQ training facilities. COVID has slowed things down but Fire Cadets are resuming, so Rescue should be able to as well.
- **EMS Week Coordinator** – Jay Kerr talked about last year having a \$600 budget and buying candy delivered to the squads. He said he would like someone else to take it. John Neumayer volunteered. Gina said the Foundation will partner on this Retention effort. John, Gina and Jennifer will talk.

### **Unfinished Business**

- David Coulling said the Annual Squad Reports were finished and delivered without input from a couple squads.
  - Gina said the Foundation directors really liked the Council’s Annual Report, and that they want to see it as a condition for future grants. She also asked for feedback on the Foundation’s grant process to make it better, easier, etc.
- Billing for Service Revenue for RC Discussion – David Coulling said we discussed Billing for Services enough already tonight, but we need to justify the 2% cut for Rescue Council with real analysis if we intend to ask for that.
- VAVRS Membership/BOD Reps – Chief Brazle said with EMS paying the bill, Chief Hundley will be the representative to the Board of Directors, but if other Council or Squad representatives want to participate in committees and report back to all of us, that would be fine, talk to Chief Hundley.

### **New Business**

- Election of Rescue Council Officers
  - President Coulling reported those persons who had been nominated in advance and asked if there were any more nominations from the floor. Ballots were distributed where there was a choice and Chief Brazle was the independent ballot counter.
  - For President: David Wheeler and Mike McCracken were nominated.
    - David Wheeler was elected President of the Rescue Council.

- For Vice President: Andrew Rabideau and John Neumayer were nominated. John withdrew to fill the secretary nomination void.
  - Andrew Rabideau is Vice President.
- For Treasurer: Bonita Teaford and Jay Kerr were nominated.
  - Bonita Teaford was elected Treasurer.
- For Secretary: John Neumayer volunteered.
  - John Neumayer is Secretary.
- For Member-At-Large: Mike McCracken was nominated.
  - Mike McCracken is the Member-At-Large.
- John Neumayer raised an issue about arrangements to keep one or more ambulances that are being replaced to use for EVOC or as a reserve. Jay Kerr called it a “mothball fleet.” Chief Brazle said he still doesn’t want to own ambulances, but keeping one for EVOC makes sense if it is not a maintenance problem. He was aware that VBVRS ambulances 1428 and 1429 are still low mileage but that repairs have been expensive, so we would want to keep those around.
- David Coulling asked for someone to lead the Bylaws Review Committee. John Neumayer and Jay Kerr volunteered. David Wheeler asked John to fix the inconsistency of the dates for new officers previously decided.

#### **Squad Reports – Brief Reports from each Squad present**

- **R1-** Aaron Stauffenburg is still Captain and Jay Kerr is still President. They’ve ordered three ambulances, got their cart back, and renovated rooms in the squad’s building.
- **R2-** Kay Laws said the same officers have been re-elected.
- **R4-** Mike McCracken said they have increased their membership numbers, mentorship and training. The Easter Bunny drive by is generating money. Recent elections resulted in a full Executive Board. Jeanette Manzer is the new President.
- **R5-** Have order one new ambulance with CARES funds and one with RSAF. Easter egg hunt upcoming March 28. The status of events at the Amphitheater is unclear for this season.
- **R6-** Have ordered one ambulance and was thankful for the grant.
- **R9-** They have sold ambulance 920 for a good price and order one new ambulance. Put a new sign in front of station 9 and doing some upgrading.
- **R13-** NTR
- **R14-** Upcoming Oyster Roast in drive through format. Have started cart training to get ready for summer. Two Ambulances ordered.
- **R16-** Two ambulances ordered. Making some station improvements. Increased interns in the pipeline for the squad.
- **R17-** Warned of Sandbridge Road construction problems.
- **MRT-** Announced boat training to include flares fired just off the coast.
- Chief Brazle suggested a joint thank you letter from the Squads / Council for the city’s grants for ambulance replacement.

## **Announcements / Dates to Remember**

- Chief Brazle said Sand Soccer might still happen June 11-13.
- Chief Brazle said it looks like the new Virginia legislation on Heart-Lung Presumption will be passed on to the localities to accept and fund. It would require fitness standards, physical exams, tobacco prohibitions. There are no changes planned for Virginia Beach.
- **Next meeting date:** May 19, 2021

**Meeting adjourned** at 20:00.