

Council of Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squads, Inc.

Meeting Minutes

Called to order: 21 March 2018 / 18:08 / Rescue 8

ATTENDEES

Dave Coulling, Jay Kerr, Demetrius Devore, Nancy Gregory, Debbie Volske, Paul Kalmus, Korinne Islam, Bobby Hill, Ed Brazle, Kay Laws, Ed Leonard, Debbie Leonard, David Wheeler, Gina Benefiel, Jay Leach, and additional guests: Chuck Crews, Travis Smith and Robin Stephens

AGENDA

Welcome/Introductions- Dave Coulling

Approval of Minutes- Dave Coulling

Motion made by Paul Kalmus to approve last meeting minutes, seconded by David Wheeler, approved.

Treasurer's Report- Nancy Gregory

Balance as of February 28, 2018 is \$34,796.92. One check has been written. The paperwork and check for the State Corporation commission was lost in the mail, was cancelled and resent. Has received dues from 13, 6, and 14. Has received supplemental insurance payments from 2, 6, 9, and 14; is reportedly in the mail from 4.

Department of EMS Report, Q&A- Chief Brazle

The city is looking at implementing Pulse Points. The program will alert members to cardiac arrests and to locations of the closest AED.

There are separate CADs for EMS, Fire, and Police, which is why only EMS units are visible during cases. Hopefully, there will be a "fix" by the end of the year. There are still glitches, the department is working on identifying and remedying them.

The City Manager's budget proposal is coming next week. An additional Brigade Chief for safety and scheduling, a van, and life guard needs have been requested. The department is preparing for replacing equipment, such as Lifepaks, etc.

Burton Station is moving forward. No new career medics will be funded for this location. Staffing will need to be a cooperative effort between volunteer and career staff. It will tentatively open in 2020.

Staffing is up slightly from this time last year.

Retention data shows that about 25% of members leaving the department left because of moving out of the area, new jobs, etc. This is a factor which cannot be effectively mitigated by the department/stations.

College student status: a request was made to consider some option to assist students who live within the radius. A suggestion was made to advocate for half shifts and other creative scheduling to alleviate the time constraints.

The Training Center website is being updated to allow for ease of access to training opportunities.

Please advise EMS Administration if stations have notable events to allow a better chance of Chiefs to make arrangements to attend.

Two representatives from each station should attend the Strategic planning workshop. Discussion will include ambulance staffing, billing for service, and community investment in the squads. The department is NOT currently researching on billing for service.

Discussed Fire Department response to every EMS call. EMD will be scaling back on the Priority 1 category and therefore the fire response.

A question was raised on a rumor of thoughts to merge the rescue squads. The department is not looking into this and conversely, has gathered information on preserving rescue squads.

Coordinator Reports

- Foundation Recruitment Coordinator- Bobby Hill

A Social Media Workshop will be held at EMS Administration on March 28, 2018 from 18:00-21:00. There will be catering from Mission Barbeque. Please have 2 members from each station attend. Attendance to this workshop is not required to receive a grant from the foundation, however, other workshops in the future may bear this requirement.

Gina Benefiel, VBRS Foundation Executive Director, has provided a handout to help explain role of the Partners for Life Task Force. The mission is to support the VBEMS system and promote public awareness, including to create a unified public perception and to teach the community how we operate for better understanding and how to become involved in various ways. The task force has members from the foundation and the Dept. of EMS, but us looking for members from individual squads as well. The task force is specifically looking for 4-10 squad members to join, no more than 1 member from each squad. A task force representative will come to each squad to explain. The first task force meeting is expected to be held in mid-April. Debbie Volske, Debbie Leonard, Demetrius Devore and Jay Kerr have volunteered to join, representing their respective squads. Please have further interested members reply within 2 weeks.

The Foundation would further like to have a representative of Rescue Council to join the Foundations Board. Rescue 14 is already represented, this member should be from another station.

Recruitment- A number of job fairs have recently been attended. EMS Week/Rock the Squads- a number of observer shifts have been reserved, as well as radio and TV airtime to help promote volunteering. The fund drive campaign should go out around the same time. Squads can help promote their presence via social media, "but will need to do more than just 'like' things on Facebook. Suggestions include sharing the social media on personal profiles to reach a larger audience. Also, a recruitment event will be held at Lynnhaven Mall on May 19, 2018 and the presence of Cart 15 will be requested.

- Multi-squad Fund Drive Coordinator- Jay Kerr

Arrangements are being looked at to provide a 4x9 two-sided card stock to promote individual squad events or localized messages, more information will be forthcoming. A photoshoot will be scheduled. The fund drive is expected to go out around May 21-23, 2018. Stations 1, 2, 5, 9, and 14 are confirmed as participating, other squads will still be welcomed. The current plan is to use "scary" pictures of potential dangers about to occur, as these images seem to generate more income than static pictures of smiling volunteers. The fund drive campaign may eventually merge in with the Partners for Life Campaign. It is too late to revisit this idea for this year, but could be looked at in the future.

- Explorer Post- Jay Kerr

Meetings will now be held at EMS Administration and the kids are excited to be able to utilize the simulators. The program is being modelled after the EMT academies. The kids will break up into groups and will be doing skills rooms. Help would be appreciated to facilitate this, and representation from all squads would be welcomed. These skills days will be held every other Sunday from 17:00-19:00. Youth programs such as this tend to have an approximate 50% return to the volunteer force as adults for Fire and EMS. The website is ExplorerPost800.com for those interested in further information. Rescue Council has not yet given the \$1000 budgeted donation/funding to the Explorer Post for 2017 or 2018. The Post is looking into joining/competing in HOSA.

- Grant Workgroup- Jay Kerr

Has not yet met.

- Ambient CO Detector Coordinator- Chief Brazle

The grant was received and ultimately ended up with one extra device.

- Apparatus Task Force- Kevin Lipscomb, not present

Has not been active.

- Supply Committee- Kevin Lipscomb, not present

- MORB (Medical Oversight and Review Board) Committee- Kevin Lipscomb, not present

A representative will be needed for this committee, ALS preferred.
Debbie Leonard, Jay Leach, and Dave Coulling all volunteer to help.

- IT/Social Media/Website- Dave Coulling

Working on both the .com and .org pages. Working on obtaining Office 365. Reminder made to be aware of members using social media and making inappropriate posts, including posts which impair operational safety SWAT/LEO. Please educate members as to appropriate behavior and squads can pursue inappropriate behaviors as necessary.

Unfinished Business

- Rescue Council Position- Billing for Service

Historically, the Rescue Council stance has not supported billing for service, and would only do so when the squads reach a point of financial inability to provide service. At this time, the Rescue Council would like to review this stance to be sure that it is still valid for the system. Representatives are asked to discuss with their respective squads: Are the squads interested in looking into billing for service? What is the minimum financial economic threshold?

- Rescue Council Position- Junior Members

Discussion held as to some merits of possibly incorporating junior members into the department. Representatives are asked to discuss with their respective squads: Do the individual squads wish to further look into this possibility? The City Attorney's office would need to be consulted.

- Rescue Council Position- Stance on Ambulance Ownership

Presented by Jay Leach that there has been an understanding that the individual rescue squads would be responsible for providing ambulances

to fulfill their mission of providing service to citizens within the city's framework. The city has been trying to minimize liability, improve efficiencies in terms of maintenance, and has been making recommendations and mandates to the independent volunteer rescue squads on the type of ambulance chassis that will help minimize hidden costs for the city. In order to maintain their autonomy, retain each squad's unique climate and culture, to sustain their financial partnership with the community through annual fund drives, and advertise their organization on the streets of Virginia Beach, it is recommended that the Rescue Council resolve that the independent rescue squads be the sole provider of state certified ambulances for the City of Virginia Beach.

- Rescue Council Position- Review of Mission and Vision Statements

No potential changes/improvements identified. Statements still appear to be effective.

New Business

- Foundation System Retreat-

An email will be forthcoming for the April 25 event.

- Rescue Council representative for Foundation Board-

Motion made by Jay Kerr to add this role to the duties of the Rescue Council President for the duration of their term, seconded by Debbie Leonard. Discussion included whether this would place unnecessary burden on the individuals who take on the role of president. Motion amended by Jay Kerr to include "or designee", seconded, approved.

Medical Trends and Issues- Group Talk

- Service animals (official) are allowed in ambulances.

Station Reports/Announcements

- Station 1- cookouts will resume starting next month. Reminded of the ambulance competition during Rock the Squads.
- Station 2- working on building community outreach including attendance at local civic group meetings.
- Station 4- Easter Egg hunt this weekend at Bayville Farms.
- Station 5- Easter Egg hunt this weekend at Station 5. Working on a YouTube channel and also beginning plans for the Strawberry Festival.
- Station 6- nothing to report.
- Station 9- looking to build recruitment retention plans.
- Station 13- nothing to report.
- Station 14- Skylight project is complete. Carpet will be starting shortly. Powerload systems have been placed in all of the trucks. Susan Bowman received the Cape Henry Rotary Public Safety Award.
- Station 16- the new ambulance 1622 should be in service soon, the station has recently been repainted with new carpet coming soon.
- Station 17- nothing to report.
- MRT- community outreach event, Boater Safety class will be held tonight and tomorrow day. Tomorrow will be the Laying of the Wreath for the 'Norweigan Lady' shipwreck. Attendees are asked to wear dress uniform and the event will be held 12:00-13:30 at 25th St./Boardwalk.

Adjourned at 21:02