A worksession of the Albemarle County Fire/EMS Board was held on Wednesday, June 25, 2014 at 1800 hours in the Fire Rescue Conference Room of the County Office Building, Stagecoach Road, Charlottesville.

The following members were in attendance:
Dan Eggleston, Albemarle County Fire & Rescue
Preston Gentry, Crozet Volunteer Fire Department
Keith Shifflett, Earlysville Volunteer Fire Company
Calvin Butler, East Rivanna Volunteer Fire Company
George Stephens, North Garden Volunteer Fire Company
Mike Grandstaff, Scottsville Volunteer Fire Department
Chuck Stockton, Scottsville Volunteer Rescue Squad
Danny Tawney, Seminole Trail Volunteer Fire Department
Mike Reid, Stony Point Volunteer Fire Company
Kostas Alibertis, Western Albemarle Rescue Squad

Others in Attendance:
Howard Lagomarsino, Albemarle County Fire & Rescue
John Oprandy, Albemarle County Fire & Rescue
David Puckett, Albemarle County Fire & Rescue
Kathyrne Presson, Albemarle Fire Corps
Wendy Roberman, Albemarle County Fire & Rescue
Dustin Lang, East Rivanna Volunteer Fire Company
Lanny Moore, East Rivanna Volunteer Fire Company
Chuck Pugh, North Garden Volunteer Fire Company

I. Call to Order
Chief Alibertis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

A. Moment of Silence
Attendees observed a moment of silence.

B. From the Board: Matters not Listed on the Agenda
   i. Update from Chiefs – matters of importance from stations
      None were presented.
   ii. Addition of Agenda Items
      None were presented.

C. From the Public - Matters not Listed on the Agenda
None were presented.

II. Approval of Consent Agenda
Chief Stephens mentioned that he wasn’t present at the last meeting although the minutes indicated that he was, and said that Chief Pugh was present instead.

Chief Grandstaff mentioned that the minutes had transposed his comments with those from Chief Reid and Chief Butler in several places.

Ms. Roberman asked the chiefs to speak into the mics, and asked Chief Butler to say a few words for the recording for voice identification.

MOTION: Chief Gentry moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the changes to the minutes of May 28, 2014 meeting as presented. Chief Grandstaff seconded the motion, which passed unanimously (10-0).

III. Worksession
FY16 Budget: Strategic Initiatives and Capital Improvement Projects

Chief Oprandy stated that they had a lot of strategic initiatives and CIP projects, so it could take a while to get through all of them in this worksession, and said there would also be an opportunity for additional feedback over the next few weeks through email or phone calls to staff. He said that they were looking for additional information and input up to July 9, and after that point he would ask staff members responsible for this to finalize it and distribute it to the FEMS Board on July 21. Chief Oprandy noted that the Executive Committee would meet on July 7, so those members would also have an opportunity to provide input at that point – as well as to share information that’s been provided to them from members. He said that they would send out the final budget packet out to the FEMS Board on July 21, with the final budget presented officially to them at their regular meeting on July 23. Chief Oprandy stated that the budget goes to the budget office the following week. He said that at this worksession, they would go through the process of prioritizing initiatives and would provide input on the requests.

Chief Alibertis asked him to review the list of initiatives.

Chief Oprandy emphasized that the plan covers five years – not just next year – and reported that the list for FY16 includes an additional assistant fire marshal, a fleet maintenance supervisor, some additional items of coverage for the volunteer funding policy, volunteer insurance/worker’s compensation, volunteer marketing and advertising, volunteer retention, a data analyst and volunteer administrative support. He said that future years 17-19 include an EMS training instructor, an office associate, a daylight battalion chief, an EMT for nights and weekends on Medic 8 – for a total of three FTEs, daylight ambulance at Rescue 8, Seminole Trail tower staffing, and Pantops ambulance staffing, battalion chief staffing, and an engine.
Chief Shifflett said that volunteer insurance is the item that sticks out to him, as they’ve been battling it for 15-20 years.

Chief Alibertis noted that it’s for workmen’s compensation.

Chief Eggleston said that it’s a big decision, and the way it had been written up didn’t commit them to workmen’s comp, but the Executive Committee worked with Brodie Downs to consider all the options – and there weren’t a lot of alternatives. He stated that ideally they would have both worker’s comp and the Provident insurance, which would be sort of a “gold standard” and is what Chief LaBelle is proposing.

Chief Alibertis stated that workmen’s comp is not going to be solved by the next meeting, and there are a lot of issues with it – including the possibility of being denied. He said that the other complicating factor is that there are new standards that must be followed, such as physicals, and asked if it was retroactive.

Chief Eggleston said he didn’t think it was.

Chief Puckett said that he wasn’t aware of a requirement to go back and do physicals, but it’s possible that the insurance company might offer premium reductions for doing certain things. He noted that they are already doing initial physicals.

Chief Eggleston stated that the primary issue is the significant contrast between Provident and worker’s comp – where there is a big burden on the person who gets injured to prove that it was work-related. He added that even a moderate injury could exhaust the $200,000 they currently have set aside now.

Chief Shifflett said that was his concern, and they keep talking about this but it doesn’t progress, and it was very unfortunate not to have something available to cover someone’s expenses in their time of need if they get hurt.

Chief Eggleston said that they would need to make the policy decision to commit to the funding for it or not, which would be a difficult decision.

Chief Reid asked about the possibility of getting some kind of supplemental insurance like AFLAC, where they pay a small additional cost and get some benefit.

Chief Eggleston said that Brodie Downs looked at that, but they don’t have a policy that would cover the “catastrophic injury” with surgeries and lengthy hospital stay, and outside of Provident they haven’t been able to find anything. He stated that what’s changed since they started this process was the Affordable Healthcare Act, which requires anyone without insurance to get it – so they would have that to fall back on.

Chief Reid said that’s not completely true, because you can deny it and pay a penalty.
Chief Eggleston said that’s another issue: people who want to join but have no health insurance, and that’s a policy decision. He said that they’ve been told by insurance representatives that the best approach would be Provident and worker’s comp.

Chief Reid said that he still felt it was unfortunate that they provide medical service and are healthcare providers but don’t get anything from the government for volunteers.

Chief Stephens said that his concern with having two insurance companies is one pushing it over to worker’s comp, and possibly slowing down a process that is currently very efficient. He asked if they had talked to Provident about increasing their coverage.

Chief Eggleston said that they had, and Provident said that’s as far as they could go – and felt they should be used as supplemental in addition to worker’s comp.

Chief Stephens said that confirms what he just said, and claims would all go to worker’s comp first.

Chief Eggleston said that if worker’s comp denies it, then Provident would pay.

Chief Alibertis said that puts them right back where they are now, and still leaves them with the cap to deal with.

Chief Eggleston said that with worker’s comp, there are no guarantees.

Chief Oprandy said that the best case scenario is that they know what they need and know the dollar figure, and submit the request – but they’re not in that situation, so they’re trying to put a stopgap proposal together that combines options. He stated that there are too many questions to assign a specific dollar figure, but ideally they would have these issues solved between now and October or November. Chief Oprandy said that this would take more time, with the chiefs working with Chief LaBelle on this along with more work with HR and the insurance companies.

Chief Eggleston said that Chief LaBelle seemed to use a high quote for workmen’s compensation as a starting point.

Chief Oprandy said that his understanding was that this would be an estimate just as a starting point, since they didn’t have specific answers.

The figure discussed was $142,000.

Chief Puckett said that one scenario whereby they would reduce Provident to $100,000 and pick up workmen’s comp, the overall increase would be about $85,000. He said that the loss numbers would be neutral based on workmen’s comp, so the figure may rise – and Provident’s cost has increased by about 70% over the last several years.
Chief Reid asked how the Affordable Care Act would impact their costs as an agency, and asked if they could buy into it collectively as an agency.

Chief Alibertis said that there are some interpretations out there for volunteer agencies as to whether they are “employers.”

Chief Oprandy said that would require them to offer healthcare, so the determination has been that the volunteer system is not an employer – so they either get it through their job, or individually.

Chief Eggleston stated that it’s OK for them to put this forward as a number and then try to work through it, as they are very early in the process. He said that he would talk with Chief LaBelle to see if they can start engaging with HR to move this along.

Chief Reid asked what the “volunteer funding policy” was, specifically.

Chief Alibertis explained that it was adding to what the County covers under policy, which is snow removal, lawn care and accounting services.

Chief Oprandy explained that having someone just come in and take over as treasurer for a department was difficult, so this is providing some level of funding to have some bookkeeping done, which would be better than having a volunteer try to manage it all.

Chief Grandstaff said that the air-packs were in the CIP, but were not a part of the posted items for ranking, and asked if that was because they had already moved forward.

Chief Oprandy explained that once they were done with the strategic initiatives, they would move onto the CIP projects.

Chief Reid asked about the assistant fire marshal position, noting that he understands the workload they have in that office.

Chief Lagomarsino said that there are a number of different aspects to the fire marshal’s position – education, engineering and enforcement – and their staff has become very involved with the County’s plans review process for developments like Belvedere, which had significant access issues. He said that as the economy improves, development improves – and his office went from zero to 65, to over 200 plan reviews this year. Chief Lagomarsino said that this involves site visits, and some of the issues include where fire department connections are placed, and a lot of the building officials don’t have a fire background. He stated that they’ve reorganized the fire marshal’s office to gain some efficiencies, and they’re getting about 1000 inspections done – but they also have an 80% re-inspection rate. Chief Lagomarsino said that they’re only getting a fraction of what they need, so they split the inspections into one-year or three-year based on hazard, but they are still missing several hundred of the ones they needed to do one year because of the hazard.
He stated that they also needed to reorganize the public education aspect of their role, and the best way to accomplish that is through prevention. Chief Lagomarsino said that they’ve gone from 14-21 pub ed events per year to over 100 this year, and in considering the time spent at each function they have a shortfall in terms of what they accomplish. Chief Lagomarsino said that this person would be an “all around” fire marshal, including investigations, so everybody does everything.

Chief Eggleston said that the budget office would consider the costs for vehicles, computers, etc. to be one-time costs, so they’re really looking at the salary and benefits as the only recurring cost with this position. He added that there are four new Board of Supervisors members now who are very engaged and have prioritized public involvement, but the challenge with that is they want staff available. He stated that there are citizens walking around Station 11 this weekend because of a development behind that, and they want someone from fire and rescue there to answer questions – so the plans review piece is becoming a big demand.

Chief Lagomarsino said that his office has reached out to leverage ACFR staff and to assist other stations, and have a coalition going that includes a partnership with Michie Hamlet law firm to fund a 30-minute PSA. He stated that currently only Station 7 and Station 2 show up for the coalition, and it would be helpful to have additional participation as the goal is to get a consistent message throughout the County rather than trying to dictate a message.

Chief Alibertis said that the stations could also do a better job with the pub ed portion of their responsibilities, and hopefully the fire marshal’s office can facilitate that process more in the future.

Chief Lagomarsino stated that with their reorganization, they have a fire marshal assigned to districts – and Robbie covers 2, 6 and 15; Sean covers 7, 11 and 3 – but the problem is they are stretched really thin, and haven’t had an increase since 2006, having lost a position in 2007. He said that they have gone from doing about 1,300 work functions per year to about 2,400 work functions this year.

Chief Gentry asked if the money for the Pantops station had been approved.

Chief Eggleston explained that it was expected to be funded in this CIP process, and was at the top of the list along with the firing range and addition to one of the schools, but by the time they made it through the maintenance funds, there was no CIP money left. He said that the lease with Martha Jefferson would run out in 2018, so they would need a place to go, and the land is already there so it’s just a matter of the building.

The chiefs placed “dots” on their preferred priority items, which were posted around the room.
Chief Oprandy said that they would now move onto the CIP prioritization process, and read the list of identified items: air packs, apparatus replacement, renovate Rescue 8, Pantops Station 16, public safety training facility, new mobile data computers, fire rescue IT infrastructure, MDC replacement, volunteer facility condition assessment, and an extra bay at Earlysville. He explained that the maintenance projects are those related to existing equipment, such as fire apparatus, and all of those are already funded as a commitment but might need to be replaced. He said that they are also prioritized, but are treated a bit differently than new projects because they already exist.

Chief Grandstaff asked if they needed to use their dots on maintenance projects, or if they could just be used on the other items.

Chief Oprandy advised them not to spend their dots on maintenance projects, because it’s fairly certain they will be funded – and even through the economic downturn they funded maintenance projects already in the system.

Chief Grandstaff said that anybody would agree that they needed to be funded.

Chief Alibertis noted the IT infrastructure item.

Chief Oprandy said that it covers two things, explaining that all remaining stations that aren’t currently hooked up to the County’s fiber network to a high-speed fiber network, which is $10,000 per station as a monthly charge. He stated that they are looking into partnerships with the schools for this, but nothing is definitive yet so the project needs to be put forward, as stations need to be able to take advantage of technology. The second part of the request, he said, pertains to the stations that have duty crews, and proposes a notification system similar to those at Station 12 and 11. Chief Oprandy said that once that technology is in place, the system can notify more quickly and can control certain aspects of the building such as doors and lights.

Chief Alibertis asked if the CAD replacement was covered here.

Chief Oprandy said that it wasn’t included, and the CAD infrastructure is at ECC and anything functioning there such as servers, interfaces, etc. He stated that anything out in the stations and individual agencies would be in the fire rescue CIP, such as the mobile data system with the new CAD/RMS system.

Chief Grandstaff stated that there are a few stations that don’t have the IT infrastructure, but are not part of the IT network item in the CIP.

Chief Oprandy said that everyone should be included in the IT infrastructure.

Chief Grandstaff said that only stations 2, 4, 5 and 6 were included.

Chief Oprandy said that was for station alerting, and they’ve been submitted as the stations with duty crews – so they would have the station alerting system. He clarified
that there are two parts to this: the infrastructure, which includes every station that doesn’t currently have a connection, with two stations done per year for five years; and the alerting system for those stations with duty crews.

He noted that the rescue squads were missing here and should be included.

Chief Stephens asked if this included duty crews year-round, stating that he only uses his for about four months out of the year.

Chief Oprandy said that it’s up for discussion, and the budgeted amount is $100,000 so they would need to draw a line somewhere – but that’s up for them to discuss and decide at some point in the future. He noted that Ivy was considerably less.

Chief Eggleston said that what they’re talking about is a system that ties further up the stream of CAD, not something that goes off the same time as the pagers go off.

Chief Oprandy said that the benefit would be getting the information while you’re at the station.

Chief Eggleston asked if they had discussed the volunteer station condition assessment before.

Chief Oprandy said that they had provided a brief overview of the fact that there are needs at the stations – capital needs, roof replacements, major system replacements – and this would be assistance in helping to plan for those needs. He stated that the County goes out every year and does a major buildings system assessment of every facility to start planning for the next long-range improvements, which helps plan for funding in the future.

He noted that Chief Butler actually championed this, because he had some questions about Station 2.

Chief Reid asked if it had already been done for the County.

Chief Oprandy said that it had been.

Chief Alibertis asked if they were adding the firing range facility.

Chief Oprandy explained that the site where the burn building is located now is going to be the firing range site, as the proposed joint facility in Keene will not move forward at this time – and the City is more likely to be involved with the current site. He said that this would involve demolition of the existing building and putting up retaining walls to take advantage of that space, with a new burn building and tower as well as space for more exterior operations. He stated that the classroom facility would still be separate, and whether or not it would be with the police department was still undecided but would be a different request. Chief Oprandy noted that the police department is looking for a
classroom facility to do their regional academy, and it would be ideal if ACFR could be involved and have a portion in which they could conduct classes – but it would probably not work to use the existing police classroom space. He said that it remains to be seen whether they add a wing to Station 11 because it’s close to the training center, and they would discuss this further over the next several months, with Scott Lambert working on that effort.

Chief Gentry asked what would happen to the squad building that Station 8 has once the Seminole station is finished.

Chief Oprandy said that’s the building they’re talking about renovating, and there is still no estimate on that yet in terms of making it a permanent rescue building that would house an ambulance.

Chief Eggleston said that the Office of Facilities Development wants to do an assessment to put together a good budget number so they have a more definitive figure to start with, which is why Trevor Henry with OFD had reached out to them.

Chief Reid asked what Chief Tawney’s thoughts were on the renovation, and whether that had an impact on his station.

Chief Tawney said that it did not.

Chief Gentry said that he would like to get input from Chief Butler as to the situation with the new Pantops station and Station 2, because he’s heard there is some controversy.

Chief Butler said that there’s always going to be controversy, but his outlook is that in the long run it’s better that it’s coming and he hopes they’ll work together to make it a joint project. He stated that the Board hasn’t said one way or another, but they are aware it’s a process to be handled down the road. Chief Butler said that he’s offered to house the medic unit in inclement weather, and if for some reason the building’s not ready in 2018, they could discuss housing it at Station 2.

Chief Reid said that he’d also like to weigh in because it affects is area, and it will dip into his first due as well as taking away at least half of his call volume. He stated that his thoughts and plans are to [completely inaudible – no microphone], but he has no personal feelings about having Station 16 come online. Chief Reid said that he is hoping they will find a happy medium, and he has expressed to Chief Eggleston and Chief Puckett that he would be willing to put an ambulance at his station if it all works out. He stated that the area they are looking to be moving would put them at the five-minute mark, which is the goal, and it would help alleviate some of the call volume. Chief Reid said that they were approaching this as a long-term plan.

Chief Tawney asked if the goal for Station 16 was to bring the ambulance first and the engine company later.
Chief Eggleston said that the goal was to staff it with both a medic unit and an engine company, and whether it works that way is not certain yet – but it is the last piece of the strategy of putting stations in the development areas.

Chief Reid said that currently his station currently has no second due, but they have the City overlapping, Station 11 overlapping, Station 16 and Station 2. He stated that his station is pretty much “boxed in and isolated” as far as second due on the south and east end; with Station 4, Station 12 and Station 8 on the other end. Chief Reid said that they need to make a move, and he doesn’t know how long it will take, but there’s no way to keep the doors open if they’re only running 100 calls a year – and it becomes increasingly difficult to justify fundraising. He stated that they’d like to have new apparatus when it comes around, and there are many reasons why they should move in that direction. Chief Reid said that if they get closer between 16, 11 and 6, they can cut the City out of the contract on first due, which would save money.

Chief Butler said that regardless of whether it’s 16 or 15 or 11 or 12, in the long run they’re serving their citizens better if they can work together as the new projects are built, adding that they are running people ragged back and forth to the retirement homes at Pantops. He stated that the end goal would be to try to have more volunteers and try to staff better than what they are.

Chief Reid stated that he agreed, and the pie was getting sliced up further.

Chief Tawney commented that he understood the slice for Station 2 was getting smaller.

The chiefs placed dots on their priority CIP items as posted.

Chief Oprandy recapped the strategic initiative priorities, with the top items as additional fire marshal tied with volunteer funding policy; volunteer retention; and volunteer marketing and advertising. He stated that the top CIP priorities were: the public safety training facility, volunteer facilities condition assessment, IT infrastructure and the extra bay at Earlysville.

Chief Oprandy thanked them for their participation, and asked them to contact staff with any further comments. He said that they would put together the final budget package and would distribute it to them on July 21.

**IV. Executive Committee Updates**
There were none presented.

**V. Unfinished Business**
A. Strategic Goal #5 – Volunteer Recruitment and Retention
i. Ivy Station Recruitment and Retention Plan – Chief Puckett reported that as of June there were 19 total volunteers, with three completely released and 11 in the process of collecting calls, and five in either the fire or EMT academies. He said that Chief LaBelle has been using a working number of 24, with 18 released and six feeding the turnover.
B. Automatic Aid Agreement
Chief Eggleston reported that the agreement has been accepted by both City Council and the Board of Supervisors, so they are done except for writing a check at the end of the year and monitoring the calls.

Chief Gentry asked about Engine 10 coming to the 101 mile marker.

Chief Puckett said that he got a message from ECC earlier that morning, and it was an error in the programming that has since been corrected.

C. CAD/RMS Replacement project
Chief Oprandy reported that they were through the vendor demonstrations and were currently doing some site visits, which would continue into July – pushing the vendor selection into August or so. He said that once they selected a vendor, he would be able to provide a more comprehensive report on it, and he hoped to have more definitive information by August.

VI. New Business
A. Bat policy
Chief Puckett reported that the health department had sent him an email regarding some bat incidents, and after hearing about some bats that were released without being tested for rabies requested that ACFR adopt a policy. He explained that if they respond to an incident and the occupants meet certain criteria – such as bats in a room with someone who is sleeping, small children or elderly – the bat needs to be put in a box and call the health department to have it checked for rabies. He said that if the bat is released, there is no way to tell if a person who’s been bitten whether the bat was rabid, and may have to go through the treatment for rabies. Chief Puckett said that they ran this through the operations committee, and the question was raised as to why they were running animal calls – which could be another discussion.

Chief Alibertis asked about an animal control response to this type of incident.

Chief Puckett said that they wouldn’t come out to a non-domesticated animal incident.

Chief Grandstaff said that he was one of the people who raised the issue of why they were running these calls – snakes in the house, bats in the house, etc. – with at least two calls per week.

Chief Gentry asked why Albemarle County Police wouldn’t respond.

Chief Puckett responded that he wasn’t sure why and perhaps it was a training issue, but all they will deal with is domesticated animals.

Chief Eggleston said that this issue came up several years ago, and perhaps they should start deferring these calls to other professionals.
Chief Gentry said that all it would take was for a fire rescue personnel to get bitten by a copperhead in the house.

Chief Alibertis said that it would be just as bad if someone calls 911 and is told, “sorry we can’t help you.”

Chief Reid said maybe they should provide training.

Chief Grandstaff said that he shared Chief Gentry’s concerns about someone getting bit, and then they would be asked who trained them.

Chief Alibertis asked if they could engage the police department.

Chief Puckett said that they could, but he was certain they wouldn’t touch it.

Chief Eggleston said that the recommendation would be to call an exterminator, but the problem is after-hours response.

Chief Puckett said he wasn’t sure if there were companies out there that provide 24/7 service, and if so they could provide that information at ECC, but there might be a charge of a few hundred dollars.

Chief Stephens encouraged them not to lose sight of the fact that they’re responsible for public safety, and at the end of the day the last person responsible is in the fire department.

Chief Gentry said that he doesn’t know why the County has an animal control department then.

Chief Tawney asked if they could refuse to run those calls, as an organization.

Chief Alibertis said that people rely on somebody showing up, even if they don’t do anything about the situation.

Chief Gentry suggested that they call Chief Steve Sellers or another police representative to come in and sit in a meeting with them, adding that perhaps they’d be willing to change the policy.

Chief Eggleston said it’s a staffing issue with them also, and they have their hands full with domesticated animal problems – and he didn’t think they were even prepared to deal with cats.

Chief Tawney commented that he didn’t mind dealing with domesticated animals, but didn’t feel they should be putting members at risk for rabies shots and all the risks that go with wild animals. He asked if they had any say in the matter.
Chief Puckett said that they do have a say in the matter, and he suggested that it would be much better to do this as a County rather than by individual departments.

Chief Eggleston said that this was something they would need to address for the long term, and it would be a significant decision if they did not run these types of calls – so they would want to get some feedback from the public, as they probably wouldn’t like it.

Chief Gentry stated that he has had some members ask if the County has animal control personnel.

Chief Stephens said that his concern is that the list of things they didn’t want to respond on was growing longer and longer.

Chief Reid stated that he didn’t mind handling these calls, personally.

Chief Alibertis said there needs to be a policy on how to deal with it, and there should be training available.

Chief Grandstaff agreed, stating that if they’re going to do it there should be training.

Chief Tawney said that his concern isn’t them doing it, but having a member getting bitten by a bat they couldn’t capture hold overnight – because the state would come down on him for it if it wasn’t handled right. He said that there’s a difference there that needs to be considered, and if they can get someone from the health department to provide information as to what happens if there is a bite, that would be helpful. He expressed concern that someone might get bitten and not get appropriate treatment.

Chief Alibertis commented that non-treatment of rabies still carried a 100% mortality rate.

Chief Eggleston said that the health department doesn’t have any enforcement side of this, they’re just saying it’s a practice to capture the bat and bring it in.

Chief Puckett said that what the health department is asking them to do is find a box to keep the bat in so the homeowner can take it to the health department the next day to have the bat tested.

Chief Tawney said that he responds to an apartment every week or so with a bat incident, and those tenants would likely throw the box down the steps and go back inside. He said that he can’t even get the people on the property to take it seriously.

Chief Puckett said that maybe the health department can help in that regard, and serve as an ally in these cases.
Chief Tawney said that you could hear the bats inside the walls of this apartment, and if someone opens the attic hatch, they would be inundated with bats. He said that perhaps the health department needs to come in and address them on these situations.

Chief Gentry stated that if they’re going to continue responding to these calls, they need to have the right training and the right equipment to respond. He said that his station has a few pieces of equipment, and the members who don’t like snake calls won’t respond. He said that they probably ought to address the toning on these calls too.

Chief Tawney asked if ECC was obligated to dispatch these calls.

Chief Eggleston said it’s a service they’ve provided for years, so it’s really their decision. He said that Chief Stephens’ point is well-taken, as they are a “last resort” for citizens – and most would say they would still want them to respond for bats and snakes.

Chief Alibertis agreed, but said they should be able to do it in a safe manner.

Chief Reid said that if recommend hiring other companies, they would have to put them on rotation.

Chief Stephens stated that with training they would also need to consider the assortment of animals they’re dealing with.

Chief Reid said that they could start by calling a pest control person to find out where they get their training.

Chief Puckett suggested that he bring back some more information prior to moving the policy forward, and agreed with Chief Eggleston that it should go through the Executive Committee as part of the process.

Chief Eggleston said that it should go through the normal channels, and they can always discuss the long-term training needs in the future.

B. Insurance coverage renewal
Chief Puckett distributed the driver lists pertaining to insurance coverage renewal, and asked the chiefs to send their updates if they had not already done so in RMS or sent them to him. He said that there was information about new coverages with their insurance policies, with no costs associated – and their representative was going to work with individual departments regarding specific items.

C. CAD protocol review
Chief Puckett reported that he has been trying for quite some time to get ECC to undertake a protocol review, top to bottom, and that caught traction. He said that they were able to get Dr. Lembeck, ECC’s OMD, to spend some time with them. Chief Puckett said that he asked Chief Alibertis to attend as a representative of this group, so they met and went through the majority of call types. He stated that there were no
changes recommended with the majority of calls, and there were several calls for which there were recommended changes – with Dr. Brady and Dr. Lembeck driving a lot of the changes. Chief Puckett presented a list of call types that had some change in approach, so with abdominal pain and sexual assaults, they were pushed down to ambulance instead of ambulance and trauma unit. He said that if any information warrants it, the provider can upgrade the call and ask for additional resources. Chief Puckett said that for breathing problems or shortness of breath, they were considered to be a medical-level response – but there were also age factors impacting those.

Chief Alibertis noted that this would mean a 30% increase in medic-level dispatches in the City, and in the County it was 18%.

Chief Puckett said that it was just for that call type, not total number of calls.

Chief Alibertis clarified that for every shortness of breath call, there would be an 18% increase in the ones that were now medic-level in the County. He emphasized that this was how ECC was dispatching the call, not how they respond to the calls or first responders.

Chief Puckett agreed, stating that particularly first response was a system-level decision whereas how the calls are graded is based off of the OMD for ECC – so ACFR is not the decision maker on that protocol.

Chief Alibertis said that Dr. Brady and Dr. Lembeck pointed out in their meeting that medical personnel made those decisions, not ECC.

Chief Puckett stated that chest pain calls were medic-level, taking away the age factor; hemorrhage and internal bleeding/rectal bleeding were pushed down to ambulance-level; an injured person who is unresponsive is a medic-level response – which doesn’t have a net impact but is simply captured under this protocol.

He said that under the new protocol, there would be a 256 increase in the number of ambulance calls countywide; a 492 reduction in the number of trauma-level calls; and a 236 increase in the number of medic-level responses. He said that this would mean less first response unless you are Station 3 or Station 6, who respond to everything; stations that respond to trauma and medic-level calls would see a net decreased by about 250 calls less. Chief Puckett said that for the rescue calls, the net impact would be slightly higher medic-level calls and significantly lower trauma calls.

Chief Alibertis stated that some of these things could be addressed in the system.

Chief Eggleston said that it’s going to be difficult for the stations to respond differently than what has been dispatched by ECC and guided by two medical directors.
Chief Alibertis emphasized that there wasn’t complete agreement with the medical directors, especially with the shortness of breath protocol, because it means that now all asthma patients are medic-level.

Chief Puckett said that one of the things suggested with the breathing problems protocol specifically was to do a six-month trial period and try to glean information as to differences pre and post-treatment.

Chief Alibertis said that they are in theory piloting this approach.

Chief Puckett agreed, stating that that’s where the significant call volume changed so they wanted to be sensitive to that and look at some information to see if they were wrong.

Chief Alibertis said that he had disagreed with that protocol, and was concerned about the 30% increase in call volume.

Chief Eggleston said that their call volume shouldn’t jump by 30%.

Chief Puckett stated that taking one district as an example – FO5 – if they consider the shortness of breath and chest pains calls, there would be a net increase of less than 30 calls over a calendar year. He noted that Rescue 7 was very similar, and while it sounds significant per that call type, it’s not that way overall.

Chief Alibertis said that perhaps the City data was the 30%.

Chief Puckett said he didn’t have that information.

Chief Eggleston stated that he felt it was a good idea to pilot this, and his concern was the data Dr. Lembeck hoped to get out of state bridge, because he wasn’t sure it would be available.

Chief Puckett added that the data might not be meaningful. He stated that there would be another meeting to wrap up the EMS questions, then they would move onto fire protocol shortly thereafter. He said that he didn’t know if they wanted Chief LaBelle to represent them again, as he did at the first EMS meeting, and added that it’s difficult to manage a meeting if there are 30 people trying to talk through a protocol.

Chief Alibertis said that there are some decisions they can make within the system, such as public service calls being a non-emergent response.

Chief Eggleston stated that once they iron this out, they can look at the prioritization of all calls and dispatch based on that priority.
Chief Puckett said that they would likely have a lot more input on the fire side, because those protocols go to the City and County fire chiefs – and if they don’t approve it, the change can’t be made.

D. Other Matters
Chief Reid asked what the meals reimbursement amount was, and said that theirs was at $5.34 per person, which is the number he was given.

Chief Alibertis said that they reimburse at whatever level, and then there’s a variance.

Chief Eggleston said that he couldn’t remember exactly what the reimbursement rate was.

Chief Alibertis said that the Office of Management and Budget does that when the stations do their budgets.

Chief Puckett said that a 12-hour shift equates to two meals, and Chief LaBelle had sent out an email asking for input as to things in the funding policy that need to be increased – and food allowance may have been in that email.

Chief Tawney said that uniforms were mentioned, but he wasn’t sure about meals.

Chief Tawney moved to adjourn the meeting. Chief Reid seconded the motion, which passed unanimously (10-0).

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 19:49 hours.
ALBEMARLE COUNTY FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BOARD
ATTENDANCE LOG

Date: Wednesday 25 June 2014

VOTING MEMBERS (OR DESIGNATES)

Chief J. Dan Eggleston (Albemarle County):

Chief L. Dayton Haugh (CARS):

Chief Preston Gentry (Crozet):

Chief Keith Shifflett (Earlysville):

Chief Calvin Butler (East Rivanna):

Chief George Stephens (North Garden):

Chief Mike Grandstaff (Scottsville Fire):

Chief Chuck Stockton (Scottsville Rescue):

Chief Danny Tawney (Seminole Trail):

Chief Mike Reid (Stony Point):

Chief Kostas Alibertis (Western Albemarle):
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Guest/Other</th>
<th>Organization/Agency/Affiliation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mark Pegh</td>
<td>NSUFC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Katherine Presson</td>
<td>Albermarle Fire Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dustin Lang</td>
<td>East Rivanna</td>
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<td>David Puckett</td>
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<td>Nancy Moore</td>
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