



# Cumberland County Fire Chief's Association

*"Preservation of Life and Property through Organization"*

## Minutes of the March 22, 2021 Monthly Meeting



The Chiefs' meeting was hosted by Spring Lake Fire Department. The meeting format was relaxed in accordance with the newly issued CDC COVID 19 guidelines pertaining to fully vaccinated members, with others participating by teleconference. Dinner was served. We thank Chief Williams and his staff for their hospitality.

- Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Johnson at 7:00 pm.
- Opening Prayer:** Chief Brock conducted the opening prayer.
- Pledge of Allegiance:** President Johnson led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Roll Call:** Roll call was conducted with 19 departments and 8 associate members present.

### **Members Absent:**

- Fire/EMS Departments: **None.**
- Associate Members: **Retired Fire Chiefs and Sheriff's Office.**

**Approval of Minutes:** The February 22, 2021 minutes were approved as presented.

**Guests:** Senator Kirk Deviere was unable to attend, due to meetings in Raleigh but is in contact with President Johnson about issues and support affecting our public safety mission.

**Vendors Present:** Mr. John Briggs, Motorola Government Sales and Mr. Brandon Fields, Regional Motorola Direct Representative provided a brief display and update on the radios and accessories being purchased.

**Treasurer's Report:** Not Applicable (Quarterly - next report May 2021)

### **Meeting Points of Interests:**

*Next Chiefs' Meeting is scheduled for **Stedman Fire Department** on Monday, April 26, 2021 at 7 pm. Dinner will be served. (Due to COVID only **two** Agency Chief Officers per department, all others call in at 1930 hours) This meeting will be held at the Stedman Baptist Church across the street from the fire department.*

- **Vander Air 2** assumes air truck rotation during the month of April 2021 followed by **Fort Bragg Air-1** in May 2021.

## **Items of Interest Handouts**

- ✓ Assorted handouts in your packets.
  - Bethany BBQ – Saturday 3/27/21
  - ER contract for the new data system
  - American Rescue Plan Act
  - Safety Stand down documents
  - Training Schedules for classes in the area
  - 2020 Valor awards booklets

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Assistant Chief Sean Johnson updated the membership on the radio programming project and informed the Chiefs that testing over the past month identified issues on the City side of the Code-Plug relating to device ID's. This issue is being worked on by Durham communications representatives and should be completed over the next month. The COF is on the Durham radio system. With plenty of time on our side, whereas even after install we will still be working on the old code plug pending the purchase and implementation of our portable radios. Once completed Mobile Communications America (MCA) will start the process of installation and we will also provide all our regional partners a copy of the new code plugs. Sean stressed that we are only focusing on our new radios and not our current radios. President Johnson advised for every new radio we turn on, an old radio will be turned off on the VIPER system.
2. President Johnson informed the Chiefs that the Emergency Reporting Records System contract has been signed and submitted. Emergency Reporting is to begin migration of our current data and station account set up in the coming weeks. ER will reach out to the POC listed for each department. A process of several group zoom calls will occur as we move forward in stages.
3. President Johnson reminded the Chiefs about the upcoming 2021 Fire Protection Service District Grant Program and our number 1 portable radio group purchase priority. He passed around the group signature page for signature by each attending Fire Chief or district representative. The signature page will be attached to our regional grant application. President Johnson has Chief Bradshaw, Chief Parish and Chief Brock serving on the grant program and is looking for several business representatives that would be willing to serve. The grant process is scheduled to be completed by the middle of April or no later than the end of April, to meet budget deadlines and approval by the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. President Johnson discussed the American Rescue Plan Act and advised that Cumberland County was set to receive approximately \$65 million dollars and that we need to ask for some of this money to offset some of our needs, especially our portable radio requirements. With public safety funding through the American Rescue Plan our county grant program would be freed up for other essential needs. The written portion or bill of the American Rescue Plan Act is somewhat vague and requires further guidance. A copy of the bill and funding information for Cumberland County and all municipalities is provided in everyone's packet. He will be working this issue with our Fire Commissioners and the County Manager's Office.

2. President Johnson met with some former board members of the Lafayette Village FD. They currently have over \$40,000 in their bank account that they would like to donate to the Association for the exclusive use of a new Memorial. Attorney Neil Yarborough will be working this issue for both parties. The new memorial will be placed at the new training center.
3. President Johnson briefed that he wants to bring back the Arnold J. Koonce award which will be awarded annually to a Fire Officer and a Firefighter. This award was given for several years in the late 80's and early 90's as a tribute to Chief/Fire Marshal Arnold Koonce after his retirement. Arnold was Cumberland County's first Fire Marshal and helped stir our early rural countywide fire issues and programs. Both Chiefs Melvin and Parrish were recipients of this prestigious Award. When the award was first introduced the Cumberland County Fire Marshal's Office was the administrator for the award. However once Fire Marshal Ricky Strickland retired the new administration no longer supported the program. Because our association does not have a formal award program, and we should have, we will bring this award back in honor of Arnold Koonce and support the award through the association moving forward. Additional guidance and award protocols will be forthcoming.
4. President Johnson briefed that we all need to look at a safety stand down event to ensure safety guidelines are being followed in our stations and on the emergency scenes. A handout was provided outlining the 5 major areas of concern as identified by NIOSH.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **ID CARD COMMITTEE**

- **FYI.** Fire Chiefs are required to send a signed letter or memo with a firefighter requesting an ID Card. For any questions or an appointment contact 424-0694 or e-mail at [cjohnson.spfd@gmail.com](mailto:cjohnson.spfd@gmail.com)
  - President Johnson again asked the members to please continue to recycle or return the clips used for our ID Cards. These clips are extremely expensive, and we need to reuse them as much as possible in order to hold down costs. Please collect clips when your members leave a department and recycle the clips. He also reminded the membership that we do not print blue tags, which are considered temporary tags only.

### **LIFE SAFETY/EDUCATION COMMITTEE** Kevin Lowther (Fire Marshal)

E-Mail: [klowther@co.cumberland.nc.us](mailto:klowther@co.cumberland.nc.us)

- Fire Marshal Lowther stated that the smoke alarm campaign was going well and that if any department needed additional smoke alarms to please follow the new SOG and reach out to his office for any assistance needed.

### **STANDARDS & POLICY COMMITTEE** D/C Tracy Smith (Pearce's Mill FD) Chairperson,

E-Mail: [pmfd0302@nc.rr.com](mailto:pmfd0302@nc.rr.com)

- No report.

### **MEMORIAL COMMITTEE** Chief R. Marley (Pearce's Mill) Chairperson,

E-Mail: [pmfd0301@nc.rr.com](mailto:pmfd0301@nc.rr.com)

- No report.

**TRAINING COMMITTEE** Assistant Chief Kevin Murphy (Stoney Point) Chairperson

E-Mail [kmurphy1903@gmail.com](mailto:kmurphy1903@gmail.com)

- Chief Murphy provided a hand-out on upcoming classes both local and regional. Advised the Chiefs that he will meet with department training officers to discuss training needs over the next several weeks. It will be both an in-person meeting with virtual options.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE** Deputy Chief Freddy Johnson Jr. (Stoney Point) Chairperson,

E-Mail: [spfd1302@nc.rr.com](mailto:spfd1302@nc.rr.com)

- No report. (Provided quarterly during Chiefs only meeting)

**RESCUE COMMITTEE** Deputy Chief Hank Harris (Cotton FD) Chairperson,

E-Mail: [cfd402@nc.rr.com](mailto:cfd402@nc.rr.com)

- No report.

**COMMUNICATIONS / DISPATCH STEERING / AVL COMMITTEE** Chief Chuck Hodges (Hope Mills FD), Chairperson, E-Mail: [clhodges@townofhopemills.com](mailto:clhodges@townofhopemills.com)

- No report

**RECORDS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** – Division Chief Brandon Hanzal (Stoney Point) Chairperson, E-Mail:

- No report.

**HOSTILE RESPONSE / ACTIVE SHOOTER** – Assistant Chief Kevin Morgan (FFD) Chairperson, E-Mail: [kmorgan@ci.fay.nc.us](mailto:kmorgan@ci.fay.nc.us)

- No report

**RECRUITMENT / RETENTION COMMITTEE** – Fire Chief Justin Nobles (SVFD # 23) Chairperson. E-Mail: [Jnobles@stedmanfire.com](mailto:jnobles@stedmanfire.com)

- No report.

**JOINT INCIDENT / DISASTER RESPONSE COMMITTEE** – Assistant Fire Chief Richard Bradshaw (VFD) Chairperson, E-Mail: [rbradshaw1@nc.rr.com](mailto:rbradshaw1@nc.rr.com)

- No report.

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS REPORT

**COUNTY MANAGERS OFFICE** – Assistant County Manager Tracy Jackson

E-Mail: [tjackson@co.cumberland.nc.us](mailto:tjackson@co.cumberland.nc.us)

- Mr. Jackson participated on-line and advised that he would check with Finance in order to provide information on the availability of funds for our up-coming 2021 Fiscal Year Cumberland County Fire Protection Service District Grant Program and make the information available as soon as possible.

**EMERGENCY SERVICES DIRECTOR/ ECC-911** (Gene Booth, Director),

E-Mail: [gbooth@co.cumberland.nc.us](mailto:gbooth@co.cumberland.nc.us)

- **Director Booth** – *Director Booth discussed the NARCAN issues within the County Fire Departments and will work with the five departments wanting to begin a NARCAN program. He advised the association that he had hired Garry Crumpler as the new EM coordinator and Mark Baker as a new EM planner. He also stated that he was pushing to resume some WEBEOC training and exercises so that during major events the personnel using WEBEOC will feel more comfortable and be more efficient.*
- **Emergency Management Director Crumpler** – On-Line No report.
- **FM Lowther** – Reported during the FLSE Committee reports.
- **Adam Johnson** – Not Present No Report.

**EMS DIRECTOR:** Brian Pearce, Director E-Mail: [bpearce@capefearvalley.com](mailto:bpearce@capefearvalley.com)

- No report.

**HAZMAT:** AC Robert Brinson, FFD - POC telephone for HAZMAT is 910-584-9550,

E-Mail: [rbrinson@ci.fay.nc.us](mailto:rbrinson@ci.fay.nc.us)

- No report.

**FORESTRY DISTRICT** Craig Gottfried, County Ranger, E-Mail: [craig.gottfried@ncagr.gov](mailto:craig.gottfried@ncagr.gov)

- Ranger Gottfried is suspecting a busy spring fire season. He has hired a new seasonal ranger (Smoke Chaser) Mr. Stefano Rizzotto who will be working with the Forestry Office until May 30<sup>th</sup> and then separate for three (3) months and return on September 1, 2021.

**FTCC** Steve Drew, E-Mail: [drews@faytechcc.edu](mailto:drews@faytechcc.edu)

- No report.

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE** Sheriff Wright [ewright@ccsonc.org](mailto:ewright@ccsonc.org) (Sr. Sgt. Steven Hodges) Email - [shodges@ccsonc.org](mailto:shodges@ccsonc.org)

- No report.

**FAYETTEVILLE POLICE** – Police Chief Gina Hawkins, Email [ghawkins@ci.fay.nc.us](mailto:ghawkins@ci.fay.nc.us)  
(Captain Jay Devane) [jdevane@ci.fay.nc.us](mailto:jdevane@ci.fay.nc.us)

- No report.

**NC HIGHWAY PATROL** – Major Freddy Johnson Jr. SHP Special Operations.

E-Mail: [Freddy.johnson@ncshp.org](mailto:Freddy.johnson@ncshp.org) or Sergeant S. Johnson SHP Raleigh Training Center  
E-Mail [sean.johnson@ncshp.org](mailto:sean.johnson@ncshp.org)

- No report.

### **CUMBERLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

- Both Fire Commissioner Jimmy Keefe and Assistant Fire Commissioner Michael Boose were in attendance, with Commissioner Keefe addressing the membership concerning the critical NARCAN issue and the availability thereof and urged all VFD's to obtain and carry this life saving NARCAN. Please contact Emergency Services Director Booth to be put on the list for distribution.
- Commissioner Keefe also addressed the American Recovery Plan Act.
- Commissioner Keefe briefed the Chiefs about his plan to coordinate a Firefighter and Family appreciation event on Saturday October 2, 2021 at JP Riddle Stadium in conjunction with the 2021 annual October Fire Prevention Month. There will be firefighter games and competition, children's events, food and beverages and band to complete the evening. He stated that he met with key Fire Chiefs and Dr. Keen President of FTCC, and they are all on board. He stated that he will provide a detailed overview during the April 2021 meeting in Stedman and how to move forward with a planning and event committees.

### **FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:**

Bethany Volunteer Fire Department is sponsoring a BBQ plate sale on Saturday March 27, 2021 at their station starting at 11 AM. Please see the attached flyer.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made to adjourn by Chief Parrish and seconded by Chief Brock. The meeting was adjourned at 2100 hours.

Respectfully Submitted By:

*Freddy L. Johnson Sr.*  
Freddy L. Johnson Sr., CFO  
Fire Chief / President

*Mark A. Melvin*  
Mark A. Melvin, CFO  
Fire Chief / Secretary

### **Enclosures – 1.**

1 – March 22, 2021 attendance roster

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION**  
**ROLL CALL ROSTER - 2021**

		MEMBERS PRESENT (19)	19	16	19										
		ASSOCIATES PRESENT (10)	8	5	08										
		Total Number in attendance	NA	30	41										
<b>CC Fire Chiefs</b>  <b>DEPARTMENTS &amp; ORGANIZATION</b>  <b>Chief's Only Meeting</b>		25-JAN-21- PMFD-Zoom	22-FEB-21- PMFD-zoom	22-MAR-21- SLFD COVID	26- APR-21- SVFD # 23	24-MAY-21-PMFD #3	28-JUN-21- TBD COVID	26-JUL-21- TBD COVID`	23-AUG-21-PMFD-Zoom	27-SEP-21 - TBD COVID	25-OCT-21 - TBD COVID	22-NOV-21-- PMFD-Zoom	20-DEC-21 - SHERIFF		
<b>MEMBERS</b>			<b>MEETING DATES</b>												
01	BEAVER DAM STA 26 & 27	P	P	P											
02	BETHANY STA 12	P	P	P											
03	COTTON STA 4	P	P	P											
04	CUMBERLAND ROAD STA 5	P	P	P											
05	EASTOVER STA 1	P	P	P											
06	EMS EMERGENCY MED SVC	P	P	P											
07	FAYETTEVILLE FIRE DEPT	P	P	P											
08	FORT BRAGG FIRE DEPT	P	E	P											
09	GODWIN - FALCON STA 17	P	E	P											
10	GRAYS CREEK STA 18	P	P	P											
11	GRAYS CREEK STA 24	P	E	P											
12	HOPE MILLS STA 21	P	P	P											
13	PEARCE'S MILL STA 3	P	P	P											
14	SPRING LAKE STA 22	P	P	P											
15	STEDMAN STA 23	P	P	P											
16	STONE POINT STA 13 & 19	P	P	P											
17	VANDER STA 2 & 8	P	P	P											
18	WADE STA 16	P	P	P											
19	WESTAREA STA 15-20 & 25	P	P	P											
<b>ASSOCIATE MEMBERS</b>															
01	CC EMERGENCY SERVICES	P	P	P											
02	COUNTY COMMISSIONERS	A	A	P											
03	COUNTY MGR OFFICE	P	P	P											
04	FAYETTEVILLE PD	P	A	P											
05	FORESTRY	P	A	P											
06	FTCC	P	P	P											
07	HAZMAT	P	P	P											
08	HIGHWAY PATROL	P	P	P											
09	RETIRED FIRE CHIEFS	A	A	A											
10	SHERIFFS OFFICE	P	A	A											