

## Cumberland County Fire Chief's Association

### Minutes of January 26, 2009 Monthly Meeting

The meeting was sponsored by Cape Fear Valley EMS and conducted at EMS Base on Gillespie Street. We thank Director Roye and his staff for their hospitality and use of their facility.

**Opening Prayer:** Chief Wayne Lucas provided the opening prayer.

**Roll Call:** Roll call was conducted with 17 Departments and 7 Associate members present.

Members Absent: Stations 2, 8, 15, 20, 21, FBNC, Pope AFB,

Associate Members Absent: Forestry, Fire Commissioner, Christian Firefighters

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the December 2008 were approved as presented

**Guests:** None

**Vendors Present:** None

**Treasurer's Report:** Deputy Fire Chief Johnson Jr. (1302) presented the treasurers report and stated that the current balance as of today was \$ 203,360.01. A balance and category sheet is included in all members' packets. There were no question from the membership and the report stands approved as presented.

#### **Meeting Point of interests:**

- **Next Chief's Meeting** will be held February 23, 2009 at Station 16, Wade Fire Department in Wade. The dinner meeting will begin at 7:00 pm.
- President Johnson passed out the following informational papers;
  - Call Volume for the Month of December and Year to date
  - Memo from Tim Bradley OSFM concerning Senate Bill 238 concerning 2007 firemen's relief fund checks
  - USFA Releases Provisional 2008 Firefighter Fatality Statistics
  - Fire Service Court – Implementing SOG's
  - Extracts from NFPA 1221 outlining pre-alert and voice radio tests twice daily
  - Legal Brief's for Fire Chief's December and January 09 edition
  - CCFCA Meeting Schedule dated January 2009
  - EMR-ISAC CIP Bulletin 12-08 - Post Blast Response - First Responder Awareness Card
  - NIOSH Report – Death in the Line of Duty –
  - Surrey Fire Safety Homes – Purchase Confirmation
  - 2009 AFG Grant Class Schedule for North Carolina <sup>1</sup>

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## OLD BUSINESS:

1. President Johnson informed the membership that we received our Fire Safety House purchase confirmation from Surrey Fire Safety. The home will be delivered sometimes in late April or May. This new home has state of the art technology built in and is designed to teach and reach both children and adults. It comes with a built in bleacher section to accommodate small classes and groups. Training will be the key on maintaining this new public education aid. More will be discussed as the time gets closer to delivery. The fire safety house will be delivered to Station 4, Cotton Fire Department.
2. A discussion amongst all members concerning the Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) training props and availability for instructors followed. President Johnson used this time to inform the membership that parts of his overall plan to better meet this RIT standard was to apply for a regional equipment grant in an attempt to standardize our SCBA's. He passed around a survey sheet for all Chief's in attendance to complete in order to gauge what type and how many various SCBA's we currently utilize in Cumberland County. He stated that his department uses Interspirro but he was willing to give up Stoney Points Interspirro SCBA's for the overall good of the intend to meet equipment interoperability in this area. Chief's Hall (501) Lucas (1701) Marsh (2401) provided information about SCBA's they recently ordered and or purchased. Assistant Chief Johnson (1902) informed the membership that equipment interoperability was critical during RIT operations. He cited his attendance recently at the North Carolina Breathing School in Gastonia. President Johnson then asked if any department is not planning on submitting a AFG Grant in 2009 to consider letting the association use their FDID number in order to apply for several regional grants on behalf of the entire county. In addition to the SCBA's we also need to apply through the regional process for mobile repeaters that would assist our communications efforts. We will bring this back up for further discussion during next months meeting. He stated he only mentioned SCBA's but there is other equipment interoperability options we could also consider. Lastly anyone needing a RIT class is to coordinate the class through FTCC Mr. Ward.
3. President Johnson inquired with the Fire Marshal section about the Alarm Testing dilemma whereas alarm companies test alarms without notifying communications and or the Fire Department resulting in false alarms. Director Curry stated that protocols are in place to deal with this issue and the enforcement of the same.
4. A question from the membership inquired about the pending County Fire Contract and President Johnson informed the membership that he was awaiting a call from the County Attorney about the contract. President Johnson stated that he was going to put in writing the sales tax plan approved by the association in October last year. Chief Herndon inquired if there were any other finance plans and President Johnson informed him that he would mention Chief Bullard's (2301) plan and asked Chief Bullard to briefly explain his special fire district tax increase plan. Chief Bullard briefly stated his plan involving an increase in the special fire district tax in order to raise minimum levels to \$ 250,000.<sup>2</sup>

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5. Chief Herndon (1801) inquired about the VFIS insurance plan that has not been voted on and discussed during last month's meeting. All Chiefs then were asked to go back to their perspective governing bodies and inquire on their intent of the VFIS plan that would increase coverage. There were two plans discussed Plan "A" & "B". After a brief discussion on both plans, Fire Chief Wayne Lucas (1701) made a motion that we support and vote on plan "A" of the submitted plans. The motion was seconded by Fire Chief Kevin Herndon (1801). A roll call vote recorded on the roll call sheet as VFIS Vote resulted with 13 yes votes and 2 no votes. Therefore the motion carried. Members that do not utilize VFIS as their primary insurance carrier did not vote on the motion.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. President Johnson informed the membership about the 2009 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Workshops scheduled for North Carolina. The closest workshop will be in Apex. He stressed that stations applying and are not clear of the process to attend the class. If submitting a grant without attending the class he urged all members to read and follow the grant guidance document.
2. President Johnson stated that he received several calls with questions about the NIOSH requirement for work uniforms for full time employees. He stated that the NIOSH report said **SHOULD** provide fire fighters with station / work uniforms that are compliant with NFPA 1975. The report did not say SHALL OR WILL it said SHOULD. So if departments that can afford to comply with the requirement should do so, all others should budget accordingly until such time that you can afford to comply with the requirement.
3. President Johnson updated the membership on the Statewide Annexation Committee efforts that completed its work on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of this month.
4. President Johnson spoke to the entire Chiefs Association about the association. He stated that the association is a good association that brings about good initiatives, plans and policies. But he stressed it could be a far better association than what it is. The association is all the members within, but only a few do all the work and others complain after the meeting in the parking lot. We all would be much better served with good constructive input, dialogue and participation. The Cumberland County Fire Service is changing and our association has to change with the changes affecting our county and enhance our service delivery to the impending changes afflicting our county, state and the Fire Service. He stated that it was imperative that as we carry out our county-wide activities of suppression, rescue and emergency medical response we must plan and organize. He stated the best way to approach this effort is through good Strategic Planning. Strategic Planning simply put is a pathway of where our organization is going over the next year or more and how we are going to get there and how we will know that we got there or not. He provided an example of strategic planning that affected our organization that started in 2005 and is just about finished. He cited the County-wide 800 MHz interoperability quest as an example. We need to look at some goal and issue based strategic planning and work to accomplish the plan. He stated that our organization would greatly benefit from Strategic Planning and hopefully our strategic planning would bring about strategic planning in your department as well. <sup>3</sup>

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Therefore we will each year in January look at our strategic planning and update. He stated that each department chief officer is a member of the association and there is really not an excuse not to participate in committee meetings as well as other association business. Chief Herndon (1801) brought up that in the past we conducted committee meetings during our monthly meetings and it appeared to work out. President Johnson stated he remembers those meetings and stated that we will bring this back starting with our meeting in February in Wade. He will assign stations to committees and then break down immediately after the administrative portion of the meeting and then come back before adjourning to receive committee reports.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **ID CARD COMMITTEE** Lt. Tara Johnson (Stoney Point) Chairperson

- **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 tara@stoneypointfire.com

### **FIRE PREVENTION/EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

- No report

### **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE** Chief B. Bullard (Stedman) Chairperson

- No report.

### **STANDARDS & POLICY COMMITTEE** Chief K. Hall (Cumberland Road) Chairperson

- No report<sup>4</sup>

### **TRAINING COMMITTEE** Chief P. Strahan (Westarea) Chairperson

- No report.

### **MEMORIAL COMMITTEE** Chief S. Blackburn (Ft. Bragg) Chairperson

- No report

### **AUTOMATIC AID/MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE** Chief J. F. Hall (Bethany) Chairperson

- No report

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

- No report

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

- No report

**EASTERN FIRE SCHOOL** Chief R. Marley (Pearces Mill) Chairperson

- No report

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS REPORT**

**EMERGENCY SERVICES DIRECTOR/ ECC-911** Kenny Curry, Director

- Director Curry introduced Ms. Mindy Ingram assistant communications supervisor in the 9-1-1 center.

**EMS DIRECTOR:** Michael Roye, Director

- No report

**HAZMAT** Capt. Hieu Sifford, FFD - POC telephone for HAZMAT is 433-1432

- No report<sup>5</sup>

**FORESTRY DISTRICT** Ranger J. Johnson

- No report

**FTCC** Ernest Ward

- Ernest advised the membership that there will be a Forestry Wild Land Class at Station 24 starting on February 21<sup>st</sup>. This will be a 5 day class and to register early whereas there will be a limit.

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE** Sheriff Butler

- Sergeant Steven Hodges, CCSO Arson Investigator informed the membership about a recent arrest of a suspect impersonating a firefighter at the Fantasy Lake Fire. He stated that although he has not been charged with the Arson of the Fantasy Lake Fire he is a person of interest in the fire as well as several others.

**HIGHWAY PATROL**

- Deputy Fire Chief Johnson Jr. briefly spoke on the use of courtesy red lights in POV's. He informed chief's that the use of a red light in any POV does not authorize the user and operator of a vehicle utilizing a red light to respond to an emergency call to speed, or otherwise violate motor vehicle general statues. He urged all Chief's to discuss this with their membership.

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**CHRISTIAN FIREFIGHTERS** Chaplain Casanova

- No report

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** Fire Commissioner Ed Melvin

- President Johnson informed the membership that Commissioner Melvin called him and informed him that he was in Key West Florida on vacation and would not attend the meeting.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:**

1. Chief Kevin Herndon informed all members that his department will be hosting their annual Barbeque at station 18 on Saturday February 7, 2009 starting at 11 AM until.
2. Chief Johnson Sr. thanked all the members that assisted with the Fantasy Lake Fire. He also provided a brief update on the station 19 building progress.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Chief Kenneth Hall (501) made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Assistant Fire Chief Danny Matthews (1802) and the meeting Adjourned at approximately 2020 Hours.

Respectfully Submitted By:

*Freddy Johnson*  
Fire Chief Freddy Johnson  
President

*Mark A. Melvin*  
Deputy Chief Mark Melvin  
Secretary<sup>6</sup>

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