

Prince Georges County Fire Commission Meeting
Wednesday, March 20, 2002
Marlboro Volunteer Fire Department
Station 20



Meeting called to order by Chairman Robison, at 1930 hrs.

Prayer and pledge by Chaplain Litchfield.

Commissioner Woods:

⇒ No report.

Commissioner Russell:

⇒ No report.

Commissioner Wood:

⇒ We have gotten some equivalency training forms in. If any stations needs any call and they will be sent.

⇒ **Motion by Commissioner Wood second by Commissioner Fuller to approve equivalent training for FF1 to the follow individuals,**
Benjamin Ridgely - District Heights station 26
John Borden - District Heights station 26
Kathleen Lynch - Bowie station 39

Motion approved.

⇒ I have been receiving officer certifications and am going through them and filling them.

Vice Chairman Stine:

⇒ Discussed the monthly budget review meeting with Mr. Crisman, John Watkins from Finance, Danny Benedetti and Jim Trexler. The deficit is down from last month to \$281,337.00. After reviewing each item another \$172,000.00 more in savings. After getting the deficit down to \$59,337.00 Mr. Benedetti said the \$130,000.00 he was getting for apparatus maintenance was not enough. This figure was raised to \$171,500.00. This puts us back up to almost where we were. Further discussion on budget sheet received at the meeting.

Commissioner Norris:

⇒ No report.

Commissioner Granados:

⇒ **Motion by Commissioner Granados to conditionally approve the following applications for LOSAP pending verification of records, second by Commissioner Fuller,**

Fred W. Holzberger II 28 years
Thomas C. Stummel 46 years
Motion approved.

Commissioner Fuller:

- ⇒ **Motion by Commissioner Fuller to pay bill just received for a First Responder class approved by the Commission around last July for \$693.50, second by Mike Granados. Motion approved.**
- ⇒ It appears that there are some classes scheduled that haven't been brought to the Commission. Everyone needs to be aware that the Commission needs to approve any expenditure for classes.
- ⇒ Chairman Robison and myself have a meeting at the training academy next week and hopefully we will get some information concerning the VRS contract.

Secretary Mutchler:

- ⇒ Voiced disgust concerning the article in the Gazette newspaper that contained outright lies by the PIO. Thanked Jim Trexler for being honest when contacted by the reporter.
- ⇒ Minutes of the March 6th meeting are available on the web page.
- ⇒ **Motion to approve the March 6th meeting as amended second by Commissioner Wood. Motion approved.**
- ⇒ **Motion to approve Riverdale VFD station 7 to use \$2,775.00 station management money to replace the heat shield on the bucket of Tower 7. Motion approved.**

Chairman Robison:

- ⇒ **Motion to approve Beltsville VFD spends \$2,000.00 each from station 31 and 41 to pay for insurance second by Commissioner Wood. Motion approved.**
- ⇒ **Motion made by Chairman Robison second by Secretary Mutchler to accept a request by Greenbelt station 35 for expenditure from station management funds. Amount and purpose will be read at next meeting. Motion approved.**
- ⇒ **Motion by Vice Chairman Strine second by Commissioner Norris to approve Accokeek VFD to spend \$4,596.00 of station management funds to purchase equipment for their new Tower. Motion approved.**
- ⇒ Chairman Robison, President Smith and the 3 Presidents of the MSFA had a meeting with Councilman Estep. The following issues were discussed;
 1. Resolution 43
 2. Told him of the possibility of stations losing their career staff. He insinuated he would fight this.
- ⇒ Attempted to meet with the County Executive but he was not in. Requested to his appointment secretary that the Chairman, President Smith and the Presidents of the MSFA would like to meet with him.
- ⇒ Met with the Fire Chief and the following items were discussed;

1. Staffing. Ask him to quantify what he was doing and why the Association, the individual Fire Chiefs and the Fire Commission were not involved or had any input. It was expressed to him that we felt that once the decision was made that it would be too late for us to have any meaningful input. His response was, "this is what I get paid to do and I am going to do it."
 2. President Smith explained to the Chief why he got the vote of no confidence from the volunteers.
 3. The Chief was invited to the Fire Commission meeting.
 4. President Smith advised Chief 27 as Chairman of the Chiefs Council, to wait until all meetings with Lt. Col. McGown are finished and then call a meeting with all the affected Chiefs.
 5. Discussed with him the problems of Apparatus Maintenance.
 6. Discussed with him the fact that expenditures for FedEx field are being charged to the volunteer budget.
 7. Discussed the disciplinary procedures concerning volunteers. Expressed to him that the volunteers should handle disciplinary procedures for volunteers.
 8. Updated him on meeting with Councilman Estep.
 9. Expressed to him that we feel the appeals for new applicants should go through the Fire Commission.
 10. President Smith discussed the Resolution 39 hearing being held in Annapolis.
 11. Chairman Robison reported that the representatives from the MSFA and members of the Prince Georges County volunteer representatives were invited to a meeting at the White House to meet with Governor Ridges staff.
 12. Discussed station management contract. Suggested that the money should be given to the volunteers and let them manage it themselves.
 13. Suggested to him to move the requirement to turn in certification of members to February 14th.
- ⇒ Next Tuesday, March 26th a hearing will be held with the County Council on the new contract for L-1619.
- ⇒ **Motion made by Secretary Mutchler second by Commissioner Russell that Chairman Robison be authorized to speak on behalf of the Prince Georges County Fire Commission at the hearing in Annapolis on House Resolution 39. Motion approved.**
- ⇒ Presented the Fire Chief a copy of the privatization of the EMS service. He was told that the Fire Commission and the Association will review it and make appropriate comments.
- ⇒ President Smith advises that John Crisman has said there is enough money for vehicle maintenance and major repairs up to and including April. After April there will be no more money for these items.
- ⇒ **Motion by Commissioner Woods second by Commissioner Fuller to approve expenditures for West Lanham Hills VFD station 28 & 48 of \$4,000.00 each of station management funds for Insurance payments. Motion approved.**

Jim Trexler:

- ⇒ Reported the death of the mother of Jack Godfrey.

- ⇒ Gave the Commission the back order issues that were canceled so they can be sent back to the stations for their information.
- ⇒ There is a meeting on the roof replacement on station 28 Friday, March 8th at 2 PM.
- ⇒ Received the latest revisions for ramp designs for stations 20 & 33.
- ⇒ **Motion by Commissioner Fuller second by Vice Chairman Stine to approve \$50,000.00 + for repairs to be charged to CIP. Motion approved.**

President Smith:

- ⇒ All stations can expect to receive a refund check for the trash fee everyone was charged last year.

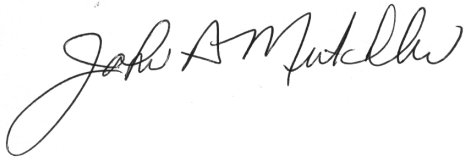
Questions and comments form around the room.

Chairman Robison reports that next week he will be attending a meeting in Greenville PA for the 5-state meeting.

Chaplains Report.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned at 2055.

Respectfully submitted,



John A. Mutchler
Secretary