



**Prince Georges County Fire Commission Meeting  
Wednesday, May 21, 2003  
Ritchie Volunteer Fire Department  
Station 37**

1930: Meeting called to order by Chairman Robison. Prayer and pledge given by Chaplain Litchfield.

Welcome by Ritchie VFD.

Chairman Robison reports that Commissioners Smith and Norris will not be in attendance due to illnesses. Also, Nancy Roberts will be departing on a cruise on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

Secretary Mutchler: (041A)

- **Motion by Secretary Mutchler second by Commissioner Fuller to approve the minutes of the May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting as submitted. Motion approved.**
- **Motion by Secretary Mutchler second by Commissioner Woods to accept request by station 3 to spend \$3,764.00 for Insurance. Motion approved.**

Commissioner Woods: (059A)

- Offered to check with Capitol Cardiologist concerning the problem with stress test and treadmill problem. The current machine being used at Express Care is unable to handle persons over 350 lbs. (Discussed Express Care and Physicals.)

Commissioner Fuller: (120A)

- The Fire Chief has approved the VRS class that was approved at the last Fire Commission meeting. The class will start Tuesday.
- The request we made to increase the number VRS classes next year from 6 to 11 has gone through the Fire Department and is sitting in County procurement and that is looking good.

Commissioner Wood: (120A)

- **Motion by Commissioner Wood second by Commissioner Fuller to accept equivalency training for Active Firefighter to:  
Nicholas Martin – station 33  
Gregory Masenheimen - station 10  
Motion approved.**

Commissioner Granados: (133A)

- **Motion by Commissioner Granados second by Commissioner Fuller to accept the request for LOSAP from, Curtis J. Bloom, station 43 for 34 years. Motion approved.**

Vice Chairman Strine: (141A)

- Budget meeting was postponed until tomorrow so there is no report on the budget.
- **Motion by Vice Chairman Strine second by Commissioner Granados to approve station 5 spends \$4,500.00 of station management money for Ocean City Convention. Motion approved.**
- Received a written request from the President of station 56 requesting they receive total funding as any other station in Prince Georges County.  
(Discussion)
- **Motion by Vice Chairman Strine second by Commissioner Granados to approve to fully fund station 56 in both Station Management and Operational Funding. Motion approved.**
- Discussed fundraiser for HEROES.

Chairman Robison: (250A)

- **Motion by Chairman Robison second by Commissioner Woods to approve station 23 spends \$9,000.00 station management money for Ocean City Convention. Motion approved.**
- **Motion by Secretary Mutchler second by Commissioner Woods to approve station 34 spends \$2648.00 for Insurance. Motion approved.**
- **Motion by Commissioner Woods second by Commissioner Granados to approve station 30 spends \$2,800.00 for Ocean City Convention. Motion approved.**
- Discussed meeting held with Dr. Brown, Prince Georges County Chief Administrative Officer with the Fire Commission, Association, Ladies Auxiliary and Chiefs Council. It was an excellent meeting and after a break we presented County Executive Johnson with a fire department helmet. There is a photo on the web site of the presentation. There is a feeling that a lot of ground was covered at the meeting but further work and meetings will be needed to consummate our concerns. (Discussion of what was discussed at the meeting.)
- We faxed a letter to Dr. Brown requesting her to intervene in the closing of Fire Department Logistics without the knowledge of the Fire Commission or the County Fire Chief. We had requested a meeting but her agenda was full and it was suggested we fax the information now so she could review it as soon as possible. As of today, we have not received a response from this fax. Logistics is normally closed in June so we are missing another 17 days of supplies and some companies have already overspent their \$15,000.00 allotment. Although we strongly disagree with the closing of Logistics, it does not give the Fire Commission a strong argument with the County Executive in giving the Fire Commission the full control of the operating budget.
- We met last Wednesday with Lt. Col. Wells at Apparatus Maintenance on the estimated short fall of this year's budget. We have identified target areas in the Apparatus Maintenance Budget of \$100,000.00. This savings will not side line any apparatus but could defer some repairs until after July 1. Vice Chairman Strine will review the saving again at the budget meeting tomorrow.

- We are still holding Station Management checks. The station must meet the requirements of the Station Management Contract. Accident and Injury reports that are due are on the front table if needed. If you have a problem with the reports call Sheila Sutphin at the BOSH office @301-583-1951.
- We just received a letter from Dr. Blob, Medical Director of Express Care which advises us that their Cardiac Stress Test Machine will only take a client up to 350 lbs. Anyone over 350 lbs. will be required to have his or her primary care physician perform the Quinton 4000 treadmill Q55 test. Anyone in this category will need to contact Nancy Roberts at the Fire Commission office and she will supply the necessary forms to be completed. Copies of the letter are on the table. We had a firefighter who was turned down today at Express Care because of his weight. It appears that the Fire Commission does not have an option now of paying for anyone to have this test due to the contractual agreement process. This is one of those items that must be addressed with Dr. Brown, but in the mean time it would appear that the local volunteer fire companies will have to pay for this test out of their incentive funds.
- Chief Blackwell has put out a new directive, 03-1, on First Responders. There is NO charge for this course. Bill Huttenlock questioned Charlie Wills, Chairman of the MSFA EMS committee on the proposed \$25.00 charge by MIEMSS. Charlie spoke to MIEMSS and they advised there would be no charge for First Responder Test but would be a charge for out of state certification. Chief Huttenlock advised today that five of his members took the course and were pleased with the instructor.
- The Fire Commission received a copy of a letter from Chief Blackwell to a member of the college Park Volunteer Fire Department that states, "This approval is granted under the condition that you may not operate any Fire/EMS department apparatus until the points on your motor vehicle record expire." The fire Commission has requested this before and we applaud the actions of the Fire Chief.
- A copy of those units that are overdue for the Preventive Maintenance has been given to the Commissioners for distribution to their stations.
- The next meeting of the Fire Commission will be held on June 4<sup>th</sup> at the Hyattsville VFD, station 1. The second meeting in June is canceled due to the MSFA Convention in Ocean City.

Jim Trexler: (592A)

- Still waiting for the Automotive and Cleaning supply contracts for the stockless inventory.
- Station 43's roof is still waiting for (illegible) they mobilized.
- The warehouse will close on June 13<sup>th</sup> for inventory. Stations need to get their stores requests in for EMS supplies by the next Fire Commission meeting. Anything after June 13<sup>th</sup> will be charged to next years budget.
- There was an accident at station 8 where the squad ran into a column in the station. The column between two of the doors is going to have to be completely replaced. Will keep the Commission updated. (Discussion)

- Have several proposals needing direction from the Commission on whether to hold them until next fiscal year. Boulevard Heights has some damaged doors, estimated at \$5,240.00. If it is OOS it will be repaired.
- Facilities Maintenance obtained quotes to install safety eyes for doors in 3 stations that do not have them. Two of the stations are 40 and 31. It will cost \$3,600.00 each for both stations. (Discussion) This project will be delayed until after July 1.
- The duct cleaning already approved by the Fire Commission is not done, the cost is \$2,134.00. This will be held until after July 1.

Wayne McBride:

- Discussed the South Side Upgrade, the Fire Department side is complete. (Further discussion)
- Discussed other future radio enhancements.

President Tucker:

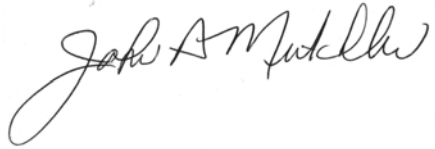
- Discussed the memorial boot drive held this past weekend.
- Discussed Golf Tournament for Jack Johnson. Will be requesting the Association BOD to allow the Association to be the host of the tournament. The tournament will be held on July 7<sup>th</sup>. More information will be forthcoming.
- Have 5 summaries of the meeting with Dr. Brown if anyone would like one they will be on the table. A complete review will be held during the next Association meeting.
- Meeting with Iris Boswell will the President and the Chairman will be rescheduled for May 30<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be dealing with staffing.
- Old newsletter items will start appearing in the next Association newsletter. It will be interesting to see what we were talking about in the past that we are still talking about today.
- House Bill 67 was recently passed in the state. There is a difference of opinion of who is in charge of the drivers license issue. The Fire Chief believes he is and the Association believes it is the individual corporation chief. An opinion from the AG has been requested to see who is actually in charge of the program.
- Request support from the Fire Commission for the Association to use the \$50,000.00 grant from Prince Georges County to hire a Recruitment Specialist. **Motion by Vice Chairman Strine second by Commissioner Woods to support the Associations request. Motion approved with one no vote from Secretary Mutchler.**
- One of the brand new Laptops purchased for the Association was stolen out of the Association office.
- The next Chiefs Council meeting will be held at the FSB on the 29<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. It is imperative that your Chief and President are there.

Questions and comments from around the room.

Report from Chaplain Litchfield.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned at 21:25.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Mutchler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

John A. Mutchler  
Secretary

Thousands of tiny flaps lining air intake ducts on jet engines could mean supersonic planes will fly about 20 percent farther and use less fuel. The "smart flaps" minimize the negative impact of airflow on the jet engines.