

EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Indian River County (IRC) Emergency Services District Advisory Committee (ESDAC) met on Thursday, September 20, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. in the First Floor Conference Room "A", County Administration Building, 1801 27th Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

Present were members: William Ramsey Sr., District 1 Representative; Joseph McManus, District 5 Representative; Maria Aguilar, Alternate, City of Orchid Representative; and Councilmember Bill Fish, City of Vero Beach Representative.

Absent were members: Chairman Toni Teresi, District 3 Representative; Craig Fletcher, District 2 Representative; Councilman Francisco Magana, City of Fellsmere Representative (all unexcused); Colleen Jeeves, District 4 Representative; Council Member Sal Neglia, City of Sebastian Representative and Commissioner Gary Wheeler, non-voting Commissioner Liaison (all excused).

Also in attendance were IRC staff: John King, Emergency Services District (ESD) Director; Brian Burkeen, Assistant Chief, Emergency Medical Services (EMS); Ed Prime, Assistant Chief Support Services, Fire and Rescue; Brian Nolan, Assistant Chief and Fire Marshall, Fire and Rescue, and Darcy Vasilas, Commissioner Assistant, District 3. Others present were Dale Justice, Assistant Chief of Operations, Emergency Services; Wayne Chesney, President of International Association of Fire Fighters Local 2201; and Rachel Ivey, Staff Assistant IV, Department of Emergency Services.

Call to Order

Since a quorum was not present, John King, IRC Emergency Services District (ESD) Director, called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Approval of Minutes of March 15, 2007 and July 19, 2007

Mr. King related since a quorum was not present, the minutes from the March 15, 2007 and July 19, 2007 meetings could not be approved at this time.

Election of Vice-Chair

Mr. King reported at the March 15, 2007 ESDAC meeting, Councilwoman Cheryl Hampton had been elected as the Vice-Chair for 2007. Since that time, she has been placed in the Alternate position representing the City of Fellsmere, so a new Vice-Chair would have to be elected. He explained this action would also have to be tabled until such time a quorum was present.

General Update of Emergency Services Stations

Mr. King reported the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) met September 4, 2007 to discuss purchasing additional properties for future stations. The BCC approved the purchase of a piece of property near the intersection of Roseland Road and U.S. Highway 1, east of the railroad tracks. He related the closing was scheduled to take place within 30 days and there would be an approximate 10 month construction period.

Ms. Ivey distributed aerial maps showing where the property was located, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office.

Mr. King informed the Committee it was their intention to relocate the staff and equipment from the current Station #9 to the new location.

Mr. King stated the second action the BCC took was to make an offer to purchase the Florida Division of Forestry property at the intersection of 4th Street and 43rd Avenue.

Mr. King related prior to the 2004 hurricane season, the County entered into an agreement with the IRC School District to lease a modular home that was on School District property at 2726 45th Street in Gifford, next to Gifford Middle School.

Mr. King told those present Station #3 now had both fire and ambulance crews and a crash truck that mans the Vero Beach Municipal Airport.

Mr. McManus asked if the ambulance that was near Gifford Middle School was now at Station #3, Mr. King responded in the affirmative.

Mr. King explained the County was also looking at a piece of property at 49th Street and 35th Avenue that was obtained through a Development of Regional Impact with Waterway Village. A grant bill had been applied for to get a Community Development Block Grant to help in the construction of a station at that location.

Discussion was held regarding the staffing for the stations on the barrier island. Mr. King explained there were three stations under the purview of the IRC Emergency Services District, one at Wabasso Beach, Station #11; one at the east end of the Barber Bridge, Station #2; and one on South A-1-A north of St. Edwards Upper School, Station #6. He continued Stations #6 and #11 have four personnel assigned, where Station #2 had five personnel. It had been discussed at the IRC Budget Hearings to increase the staffing at Stations #6 and #11 to five, with a total of seven employees to cover the various shifts and for sick or relief.

Mr. King related the BCC directed staff to come back October 2, 2007 to revisit the issue to determine if funding would be feasible for the additional seven positions.

Other Matters

Mr. Brian Burkeen, Assistant Chief, Emergency Medical Services reported a State of Florida EMS Grant in the amount of \$52,000 had been received to replace computer equipment used on the ambulances. He explained the current equipment was a handheld PC which generated Patient Care reports. The current equipment does not have the memory capabilities to run the necessary programs now needed.

Mr. Burkeen related a Samsung P-1 laptop computer was found that was made with a 7-inch screen that would run both the Patient Care reports as well as the fire reports in the field. He stated with the grant they would be able to purchase 40 of the new laptops to replace those on all ambulances and fire engines in the IRCEMS system.

Adjournment

Mr. King announced the next ESDAC meeting was scheduled for November 15, 2007. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:09 a.m.