

EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Indian River County (IRC) Emergency Services District Advisory Committee (ESDAC) met on Thursday, January 17, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. in Conference Room B1-501 of the County Administration Building B, 1800 27th Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

Present were members: Chairman Toni Teresi, District 3 Representative; Joseph McManus, District 5 Representative; Colleen Jeeves, District 4 Representative; Council Member Sal Neglia, City of Sebastian Representative; Councilmember Bill Fish, City of Vero Beach Representative and Commissioner Gary Wheeler, non-voting Commissioner Liaison (arrived at 9:45 a.m.).

Absent were members: William Ramsey Sr., District 1 Representative (excused); Craig Fletcher, District 2 Representative; Councilman Francisco Magana, City of Fellsmere Representative and Phil Redstone, Town of Orchid Representative (all unexcused).

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; and Darcy Vasilas, Commissioner Assistant, District 3. Others present were Joseph Paladin, Interested Citizen.

Call to Order

Chairman Teresi called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Approval of Minutes of March 15, 2007

ON MOTION BY Ms. Jeeves, SECONDED BY Mr. McManus, the members voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the minutes of March 15, 2007 as presented.

Approval of Minutes of July 19, 2007 and September 20, 2007

ON MOTION BY Ms. Jeeves, SECONDED BY Councilmember Fish, the members voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the minutes of July 19, 2007 and September 20, 2007 as presented.

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

ON MOTION BY Mr. McManus, SECONDED BY Council Member Neglia, the members voted unanimously (5-0) to elect Ms. Colleen Joy Jeeves as Chair of the Emergency Services District Advisory Committee for 2008.

ON MOTION BY Council Member Neglia, SECONDED BY Ms. Teresi, the members voted unanimously (5-0) to elect Mr. Joseph McManus as Vice-Chair of the Emergency Services District Advisory Committee for 2008.

General Update of Emergency Services Stations

Mr. John King, Emergency Services District Director, briefed the Committee Station 2, located at the east end of the Barber Bridge, had all staff moved from the modular unit into the building within the past 30 days. The modular unit had been removed January 11, 2008. He related a Conditional Certificate of Occupancy had been issued for the new building.

Discussion was held regarding the possibility of the members taking tours of the stations either as a group, or individually.

Mr. King reported Station #9, currently located in Sebastian on U.S. Highway 1, would be relocating on the property purchased near the intersection of Roseland Road and U.S. Highway 1. He explained there were two parts to the construction. Part One consisted of an agreement which was design services and Part Two was construction services. Mr. King stated the current status was midway through Part One of the agreement. Part Two would soon be going back to the Board of County Commissioners within the next 60 days for approval in order to begin construction.

Mr. King stated all FEMA modular units would be gone, with the exception of Station 9, within the next 30-60 days.

Mr. King related an ALS (Advanced Life Support) engine had been enacted at Station #4 off Oslo Road. The goal of Emergency Services for FY07/08 was to have three ALS engines in service. He noted a second unit would be placed in south county and the third in the north.

Commissioner Wheeler arrived at 9:45 a.m.

Chairman's Comments

Chairman Jeeves reviewed the membership list. Ms. Vasilas informed the Committee Mr. William Ramsey had contacted her and would be resigning due to health issues.

Committee Members Suggestions/Comments

Mr. McManus wished to start the new year by researching the history and purpose of the Committee to determine which direction they would like to go in the future. He suggested that Indian River County Ocean Rescue should be coordinating with Emergency Services during search and rescue operations.

Mr. McManus suggested having a meeting to discuss the role of Ocean Rescue as it related to Emergency Services.

Councilmember Fish related the City of Vero Beach was undertaking a project at Humiston Park identified as the "Flamevine Project". He continued the current wooden fence at the entrance of the beach off Flamevine Drive would be removed and he was concerned what type of barrier would replace the fence because it would become an access for emergency vehicles to the beach.

Council Member Neglia asked what would happen with the building used for the current Station #9. Mr. King responded the building was structurally not sound and an inspector recommended demolition. He was unsure if the County would keep the property as there had been some discussion of doing a land swap with the City of Sebastian or putting the property up for auction.

Other Matters

Chairman Jeeves asked all members for their input for agenda items.

Councilmember Fish asked to revisit the access issue to the beach concerning the Flamevine Project.

Mr. McManus requested follow-up regarding the incident command issues at submersions by coordinating Ocean Rescue and Emergency Services efforts.

Mr. King provided a brief update on the new 911 center at the City of Sebastian.

Chairman Jeeves requested a status report from Mr. King at the next meeting of training for Fire Rescue employees in conjunction with the addition of new equipment, the consolidation of Fire and EMS, and when an employee at an upper level retires, their replacement having the necessary training to immediately step in and fill the position. She felt it was important to be competitive in staffing and skills with neighboring counties.

Discussion was held regarding the potential budget constraints that could be imposed if there were changes due to the January 29, 2008 state elections concerning budget cuts. Mr. King explained the IRC Budget Director, Jason Brown, had given the Board of County Commissioners his projections for what would happen if the budget cuts went through and anticipated a 6.4% cut, or \$1.7 million, to just Fire Rescue.

Ms. Teresi requested all Committee communications, agenda, etc. be e-mailed. Ms. Vasilas agreed to do so.

Commissioner Wheeler recommended all present tour the new Emergency Operations Center, he felt it was well done and impressive.

Adjournment

ON MOTION BY Mr. McManus, SECONDED BY Council Member Neglia, the members voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2008.