

EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Indian River County (IRC) Emergency Services District Advisory Committee (ESDAC) met on Thursday, March 20, 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 **Colleen Joy Jeeves**; District 4 Representative; **Charles Martoe**, District 1 Representative; **Craig Fletcher**, District 2 Representative; **Toni Teresi**, District 3 Representative; **Joseph McManus**, District 5 Representative; Council Member **Sal Neglia**, City of Sebastian Representative; and Councilmember **Bill Fish**, City of Vero Beach Representative.

Absent were members: **Francisco Magana**, City of Fellsmere Representative (unexcused); **Phil Redstone**, Town of Orchid Representative and Commissioner Liaison, **Gary Wheeler**, (both excused).

Also in attendance were IRC staff: John King, Emergency Services District (ESD) Director; Ed Prime, Assistant Chief Support Services, Fire and Rescue; and Darcy Vasilas, Commissioner Assistant, District 3. Others present were Susan Thomasson and William Ramsey, Interested Citizens.

Call to Order

Chairman Jeeves called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. She introduced new member, Charles Martoe, District 1 appointee.

Approval of Minutes of January 17, 2008

Mr. McManus wished to make a revision to the January 17, 2008 minutes on Page 3, the second sentence of the first paragraph should read:

“He suggested that Indian River County Ocean Rescue should be coordinating with Emergency Services during search and rescue operations.”

(09:09:46)

ON MOTION BY Mr. Fletcher, SECONDED BY Ms. Teresi the members voted unanimously (8-0) to approve the minutes of January 17, 2008 as revised.

Discussion of the Flamevine Project/Humiston Park (09:10:20)

Councilmember Fish updated the committee on access points being planned for the renovations for the Flamevine Project at Humiston Park.

Mr. King, IRC Emergency Services District Director, followed up with the various methods Emergency Services uses for beach rescues.

Discussion of Coordinating Efforts Between Ocean Rescue and Emergency Services

Mr. King asked that this item be deferred until later in the meeting when Mr. Brian Burkeen, IRC Assistant Chief, Emergency Services, could be present to present this item.

Status Report Regarding Training of Fire Rescue Employees in Conjunction with New Equipment and Replacement of Retirees (09:15:24)

Mr. King reported there were currently ten staffing vacancies and staff had recently completed new hire testing of over 90 applicants. He explained there were three tiers of employees they were looking for:

- **Tier 1** – Those people who are Firefighter/Paramedics
- **Tier 2** – Those people who were at least Firefighter/EMT's and currently enrolled in Paramedic School or Paramedics currently in Fire School
- **Tier 3** – A person who was either a Paramedic not in Fire School, or a Firefighter/EMT not in Paramedic School but were intending to go in the near future

Mr. King related the testing consisted of demonstration of written exam knowledge, practical exams, physical agility testing, and oral interviews. He noted the scores had been computed and job offers would be going out this afternoon. The goal was to have the new hires begin on April 4, 2008.

Mr. Fletcher inquired of the approximately 90 applicants, how many were actually qualified. Mr. King responded there were 18-19 applicants meeting all the requirements at this time, but throughout the year as the other applicants upgraded their education and skills, they could add those to their application.

Mr. Fletcher asked of the employees that had left IRC to take positions with other counties, had exit interviews been conducted to find out why they were leaving. Mr. King responded exit interviews were offered to employees and some took advantage of the opportunity. He opined for the most part, the reasons for leaving were not the working conditions or the work, but the salaries. The difference appeared to be the beginning pay was comparable to neighboring counties, but five or ten years down the road IRC was not comparable.

Mr. King announced a tentative agreement had been reached with the labor contract negotiations and they knew the people leaving the organization were dual certified with seven to eight years of on-the-job experience. He added those employees who were dual certified would receive 90-cents per hour more if the contract was ratified as presented.

An Indian River County Department of Emergency Services Organizational Chart was distributed by Mr. King. A copy of this chart is on file in the Commission Office. Discussion ensued regarding the various funds the monies were derived for each division.

Mr. Ed Prime, IRC Assistant Chief Support Services, Fire and Rescue, explained the history of the current staffing and provisions being made for upcoming upper management positions due to attrition. Mr. King interjected there would be an approximately five-year transition period due to the attrition process.

General Update of Emergency Services Stations (9:47:03)

Mr. King related the only change since the January 17, 2008 meeting, was the acquisition of the former Division of Forestry property on the corner of 4th Street and 43rd Avenue which was being purchased for a future Fire/Rescue station.

Chairman Jeeves asked if updates could be provided for the long time members as well as entire committee books for the new members. Mr. King offered to provide this information in the near future.

Mr. McManus expressed his concern regarding the revenue funding over the next few years and options for obtaining grants for those items which would come under the budget shortfalls. Various grants were discussed and what those funds could be used for.

Discussion was held regarding the consolidation already in place with the mechanics for the School District, IRC, and Emergency Services by using the same building and equipment.

Item #4 – Discussion of Coordinating Efforts Between Ocean Rescue and Emergency Services

Mr. Prime announced he had spoken with Mr. Brian Burkeen who was unavoidably detained and not able to make this meeting. This item would be tabled until the next meeting scheduled for May 15, 2008.

Chairman's Comments (10:02:17)

There were none.

Committee Members Suggestions/Comments (10:02:32)

Mr. McManus requested for the next meeting hurricane preparedness be discussed for the 2008 season and how the budget cuts would impact the plans.

Councilmember Fish related he had toured Station #2 and was impressed with the facility. He thanked staff for the tour.

Other Matters

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

Discussion was held regarding ALS (Advanced Life Support) engines at the fire/rescue stations. Mr. King related his goal before the end of the 2007/2008 fiscal year was to have an ALS engine at Stations 7 and 8.

Adjournment (10:13:16)

ON MOTION BY Councilmember Fish, SECONDED BY Mr. Fletcher, the members voted unanimously (8-0) to adjourn the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2008.