

EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Indian River County (IRC) Emergency Services District Advisory Committee (ESDAC) met on Thursday, November 19, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in the Emergency Operations Center located at 4225 43rd Avenue, Vero Beach, Florida.

Present were members: Vice Chairman **Colleen Joy Jeeves**, District 4 Representative; **Charles Martoe**, District 1 Representative; **Sal Neglia**, District 2 Representative; **Harry Howle** (arrived at 9:37 a.m.), District 5 Representative; Council Member **Jim Hill**, City of Sebastian Representative; **Councilman Fernando Herrera** (arrived at 9:38 a.m.), City of Fellsmere Representative; and **Gary Wheeler**, Commissioner Liaison (non-voting member). Please note there is currently a vacancy for City of Vero Beach Representative.

Absent were members: **Toni Teresi**, District 3 Representative; and **Phil Redstone**, Town of Orchid Representative (both excused).

Also in attendance were IRC staff: John King, Emergency Services (ESD) Director; Ed Prime, Assistant Chief of Support Services and Rachel Ivey, Staff Assistant IV, Emergency Services; Commissioner Joseph Flescher, District 2, and Darcy Vasilas, Commissioner Assistant, District 3. Others Present: Susan Thomasson, Chairperson, Fire Exploratory Committee, Vero Lake Estates; Sean Prescott, President, Vero Lake Estate Property Owners Association; Zachary Wilkersmith, Vero Lake Estates Volunteer Fire Department; and Wayne Schasane, Local Union 2201.

Call to Order

Vice Chairman Jeeves called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m., welcomed everyone in attendance and introductions were made. Ms. Jeeves announced Item #2, Tour of the Emergency Operations Center, would be moved to the end of the meeting and since there was not currently a quorum present, the minutes from the September 17, 2009 ESDAC meeting could not be approved at this time.

Updates on Personnel, Retirement & Recruitment, Continuing Education, Equipment and Infrastructure

Mr. King reported on the following items:

Infrastructure: Mr. King recapped the discussion from the September 17, 2009 meeting had been regarding Station 9 moving north to the Roseland Road

area. He continued an agenda item went before the Board of County Commissioners on September 22, 2009 regarding the future use of the old Station 9.

Mr. Howle arrived at 9:37 a.m. and Councilman Herrera arrived at 9:38 a.m.

Mr. King then showed, via PowerPoint, the current location of all stations and the rating results of proposed fire stations from the recent Insurance Services Office (ISO) study:

- 1) N. Derry Drive & W. Derry Drive
- 2) Wimbrow Drive & Gerald Street
- 3) US Hwy 1 between 45th Street & 42nd Place
- 4) 58th Avenue & 49th Street
- 5) 4th Street between 45th & 43rd Avenues
- 6) 20th Street between 66th and 71st Streets
- 7) Highland Drive SW & 6th Avenue SW
- 8) South US Hwy 1 & Forest Park Drive
- 9) 81st & 59th Avenues

Vice Chairman Jeeves asked the ISO list be sent to all committee members.

Mr. Martoe inquired how the ISO list was determined and what criterion was used. Mr. King replied the standard criteria had approximately 50% to do with availability of water supplies; the next criterion was for staffing and training; then how 911 calls were received and dispatched.

Mr. Martoe clarified he was asking how the nine locations listed were selected over other locations. Mr. King reported surveys were conducted on where people were actually living, where fire hydrants already existed, and those areas that were more than five miles from an existing station.

Vice Chairman Jeeves noted two more members had arrived so she moved back to the approval of the September 17, 2009 meeting minutes.

**ON MOTION BY Council Member Hill, SECONDED
BY Councilman Herrera, the members voted
unanimously (6-0) to approve the September 17,
2009 minutes as presented.**

Presentation – Fire/EMS Needs Assessment for Central Eastern District 1

Mr. Sean Prescott, President, Vero Lake Estates (VLE) Property Owners Association; Susan Thomasson, Chairperson, VLE Fire Station Exploratory Committee; and Zachary Wilkersmith, VLE Volunteer Fire Department, introduced themselves.

Ms. Thomasson gave a PowerPoint presentation following the booklet included in the agenda packet and on file in the Commission Office. She related they were here today to ask for the members' support in moving VLE up to the top of the list for a new Fire Station following up by making the same recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners.

Included in the presentation were letters of support and petitions for a fire station located within VLE; response time considerations by ISO; National Fire Protection Association's Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments (known as NFPA 1710); Response Time Effectiveness based on the comparison of response time and survival in an urban Emergency Medical Services System; and a report from a Fire Station Study Committee in Hanover, Massachusetts.

Vice Chairman Jeeves congratulated Ms. Thomasson on her informative presentation. She asked when the letters of support were received and Ms. Thomasson responded in April, 2008.

Vice Chairman Jeeves asked Mr. King why the VLE area did not have a fire rescue station. Mr. King replied it was a matter of economics; there were no extra employees on duty to man the VLE location, and no additional money to hire those employees.

Ms. Thomasson reiterated they were only asking for a station when there were funds available to build and staff a station.

Mr. Neglia asked if VLE was on the list presented earlier by ISO. Mr. King responded it was not.

Council Member Hill stated he had a vested interest in adding another fire station to the area being discussed as he lived in that area, but he felt it was important to rely on the professional staff to bring all the areas needing fire

stations to provide them. He continued before the members could make a recommendation to put the next station in VLE, they would have to have a full report from staff as to where they believed the next station should be and why.

Commissioner Wheeler opined Council Member Hill was right on target and also Ms. Thomasson presented a compelling argument, but there was a problem with the growth pattern added with the tax base, and any recommendations should come after looking at the entire county and creating a priority list. He felt before a recommendation from ESDAC to go before the Board of County Commissioners, the entire picture should be investigated along with recommendations from staff.

Mr. Howle felt the VLE area was in need of help.

Vice Chairman Jeeves asked Mr. King to look at the top three ranked areas from the ISO report at the next meeting scheduled for January 21, 2010. Commissioner Wheeler recommended having the IRC Director of Management and Budget, Jason Brown present at that meeting to provide the costs involved in adding a new station.

Committee Members Suggestions/Comments

Commissioner Wheeler suggested considering changing the meeting frequency at the January meeting from bi-monthly to on an as-needed basis.

Public Comments

Mr. Wayne Schasane, Local 2201, asked when the latest ISO study was conducted. Mr. King responded in September, 2009.

Mr. Schasane opined the county was currently short three stations and if previous ISO reports showed the need for additional stations why had money not been set aside in the budget to buy property or build stations. He felt the committee should determine what should be done in the next three to five years and not let the determination go through the County Administrator, but directly to the Commissioners.

Mr. Martoe asked how the committee would now proceed. Mr. King responded it was his understanding his instructions had been to put together some information about the three next most pressing areas needing a fire/rescue station to bring back to the members in January, 2010.

Adjournment

Vice Chairman Jeeves asked if there were no further items to be discussed, the meeting be adjourned to allow members to take a tour of the Emergency Operations Center. The meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.