

**WAKE COUNTY
FIRE COMMISSION
Thursday, May 4, 2017
(Special Called Meeting)
Adopted**

*(Audio Replays of the meeting are available upon
request)*

A meeting of the Wake County Fire Commission was held on Thursday, May 4, 2017, 7:00 PM, Wake County EMS Training Commons Building, Rogers Lane, Raleigh, North Carolina.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Commission Chair Billy Myrick called the meeting to order.

The following members were present: Chair Billy Myrick, Vice Chair Lucius Jones (Citizen Consumer), Matt Calabria (Wake County Commissioner), Lee Price (Firefighters Association President), Chief Ron Early (North Region), Chief Rodney Privette (East Region), Chief Tony Mauldin (South Region), Assistant Chief David Dillon (North Region Alternate), Keith McGee (West Region), Ricky Wright (Citizen Consumer), Bob Stagg (Citizen Consumer) and Matthew Stark (Citizen Consumer).

The following members were absent: Judge Keith Gregory (Citizen/Consumer), John Burns (Wake County Commissioner), Chief Garland Johnston (West Region Alternate), Chief Matt Poole (South Region Alternate), and Chris Perry (East Region Alternate).

The following County officials and staff were present: Deputy County Manager Johnna Rogers, Fire Services Director Nick Campasano, Deputy Fire Services Director Darrell Alford, Budget and Management Analyst Michael James, Fire Services Training Manager David Zoltoski and Sr. Accounting Technician Diana McBride.

Chair Billy Myrick called the meeting to order at 7:01pm and led the group with the pledge of allegiance. Vice Chair Jones gave the invocation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Wake County Fire Services Deputy Director, Darrell Alford requested that the Commission appoint a Chairman to the Budget Committee in addition to the Volunteerism and Recruitment Subcommittee. Bob Stagg moved to approve the agenda with the inclusion of the Deputy's

request. The motion was seconded by Chief McGhee and the agenda was approved unanimously by the Commission.

REGULAR AGENDA

SUB COMMITTEE PROPOSED APPOINTMENTS

Deputy Director Alford requested from the Chairman that he appoints Chief Barry Spain in the Primary and Division Chief Glenn Clapp as the secondary for the Southern Region, removing Scott Daniel. In addition, appoint Division Chief Glenn Clapp as the Primary to the Volunteer Retention Committee and Assistant Chief Hunter Byars as Secondary. The Fire Commission Chairman Myrick approved the appointments as stated.

APPOINTMENT CHAIRMAN (VOLUNTEERISM & RECRUITMENT SUB COMMITTEE)

Deputy Director Alford reviewed the members of the Volunteerism and Recruitment Sub Committee. He mentioned that there are no citizen reps on the committee. He asked Chairman Myrick to appoint Chief Glenn Clapp as the Chairman to the Volunteerism and Recruitment Sub Committee. The appointment request was granted by Chairman Myrick.

Chairman Myrick previously expressed being removed from the Chair position of the Budget Committee due to becoming Fire Commission Chair. Deputy Director Alford requested Chairman Myrick to appoint Chief Matt Poole as Budget Committee Chair. The appointment request was granted by Chairman Myrick.

ADOPTION OF FIRE COMMISSION RULES OF PROCEDURE

Wake County Fire Services Director Nick Campasano reviewed the recommendations made by the Fire Commission that was presented to the Wake County Board of Commissioners along with their changes. It defined a citizen appointee as any resident of Wake County. It also stated that a citizen appointee shall not be affiliated with a fire department or fire department board of directors. Another change was the absence policy; the County Commissioners are following their administrative rules for attendance. That changed the unexcused absence for the Fire Commission from 3 to 1 annually. It was also recommended that the Fire Commission define the position of fire service planning and service regional representatives as being filled by a fire member serving at the rank of Fire Chief. Those changes were approved at the February 6, 2017 Board of Commissioners meeting. The first item requested is for the commission to adopt the mentioned changes (handout of recommended motions). A motion was made by Bob Stagg and seconded by Vice Chair Jones, the motion carried.

Since that time a recommendation came forth for the Administrative Sub Committee to change some of the Rules of Procedure. The Administrative Subcommittee has the authority to make changes to the Rules of Procedure. Director Campasano pointed the Commission to the last recommendation on the handout. He explained that during the time County Commissioners was

voting on the changes, the changes were not communicated back to the Clerk's office and at the same time, the two citizen reps was being appointed to the vacant positions. County staff's recommendation is that because primary citizen reps will be meeting every two months and voting, the conflict clause makes sense to be there for that balance. The alternate citizen reps that would fill in, if there is an absence, may not fill in as a volunteer in that role where they may not be able to participate. Staff recommended that the conflict clause not apply to the alternate positions. Bob Stagg opposed Director Campasano's position due to an alternate voting on items that may directly or indirectly impact their department where they are a member of the board of directors. Bob Stagg expressed that would be a conflict of interest and goes against the core of what the Fire Commission is about. Commissioner Calabria explained that citizen participation is limited and encourages active participation. Vice Chair Jones believes that everyone on the board is here representing County and taxpayers and not one department in particular. Vice Chair Jones made a motion to recommend that the Wake County Board of Commissioners amend Section III D of the Wake County Fire Commission Rules of Procedure by adding "primary citizen appointees" before "shall not be affiliated with any County Fire Department of their Board of Directors". Vice Chair Jones made the motion, it was seconded by Commissioner Calabria; the motion carried with one nay (Bob Stagg).

There were four motions for adoption from the Administrative Subcommittee:

- To amend Section IV (A) by adding "Effective January 2018, no person shall be eligible to serve as Chair for more than four (4) consecutive one (1) year terms".
The Commission discussed the pros and cons of having term limits. Director Campasano suggested to Chairman Myrick to appoint alternate citizen appointee, Susan Ramsey so that she may participate and vote (as Primary). Chairman Myrick granted the appointment of Susan Ramsey to fill the primary position for this meeting and as the alternate citizen appointee going forward. Bob Stagg made the motion. The motion failed due to lack of support.
- To amend Section IV (B) by adding "Effective January 2018, no person shall be eligible to serve as Vice-Chair for more than (4) consecutive one (1) terms".
A motion was made to table this recommendation. It was seconded and the motion was carried by the Commission to table the item.
- To amend Section V (M) by adding the Pledge of Allegiance as the first agenda item, the invocation as the second item and listing Public Comment after the Approval of Minutes
Vice Chair Jones made the motion and Chief McGhee seconded the motion. The motion was carried by the Commission.
- To amend Section VIII (C) by removing the sentence, "No person shall serve on more than two committees"
A motion was made by Vice Chair Jones and seconded by Chief Privette. The motion was carried by the Commission.

APPARATUS REDUCTION AND MOVEMENT PLAN

Deputy Director Alford explained the apparatus reduction and movement plan in detail (handout in packet). All departments with the exception of one have accepted the plan. Deputy Director

Alford opened the floor to Chief Privette of Rolesville to express his concerns. Chief Privette briefly expressed his concerns and requested that a letter written to him from Wake County Fire Services Director Nicholas Campasano be included in the minutes and on record. Deputy Director Alford read the letter aloud to the Commission and submitted it for the record (letter attached to minutes). He added that his hope is the funding that is saved through this process is placed with staffing, as volunteerism is fading. Deputy Director Alford asked the Commission for a motion to support the fire apparatus reduction and movement plan as we presented it with the inclusion of the letter addressed to Chief Privette from Director Campasano. Vice Chair Jones made the motion and Bob Stagg seconded. The motion carried.

NORTHERN WAKE CONSOLIDATION

Director Campasano gave an overview of the proposed Northern Wake consolidation. Wake County Fire Services was approached by the Stony Hill and Bay Leaf Fire Department's board of directors in early fiscal year 2017. The two departments discussed the advantages of merging into one department, at that time the two departments created planning committees to look at items that need to be accomplished in order to achieve the consolidation. The committees looked at hierarchy, rank structure, standard operating procedures, uniforms etc. Since that time, they have presented a preliminary budget to the County; the County has a counter proposals budget that Nick presented. He does not anticipate the numbers to change significantly. The consolidation is in the final stages, with the legal review of the consolidation and memorandum of understanding. The proposed implementation date is July 1, 2017. Some of the benefits of the consolidation is a single fire delivery system versus two, is an improvement and streamlines things such as budget and fire protection agreements. It provides the opportunity to reduce cost and service delivery, consistent hiring practices and combining two insurance districts into one. Director Campasano presented the proposed budget (PowerPoint presentation). Chairman Myrick made the motion to accept the Northern Wake merger. The motion was carried unanimously by the Commission.

FISCAL YEAR 2018 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Budget and Management Analyst Michael James provided an overview of the fiscal year 2018 operating and fiscal years 2018-2024 CIP budgets. The Commission did not have any questions for Michael. Vice Chair Jones made a motion to accept the budgets; the motion was seconded by Chief McGhee and was carried by the Commission.

INFORMATION AGENDA

FIRE TAX DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORT

Michael James provided the Commission with the current financial report. He reports that revenues are coming in slightly over what was budgeted for fiscal year 2017.

STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES

Administrative Sub-Committee:

No report.

Apparatus Sub-Committee:

No report.

Budget Sub-Committee:

No report.

Communications Sub-Committee

No report.

Equipment Sub-committee:

No report.

Facility Sub-Committee

No report.

Staffing and Compensation Sub-Committee:

No report.

Steering Sub-Committee:

No report.

Training Sub-Committee:

No report.

CHAIR REPORT

Chairman Myrick praised the budget for allowing 3 people at each station throughout the County. It had been a goal for the Commission since him joining. He thanked the Commission for their work.

FIRE SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT

Director Campasano will present a plan at the next Fire Commission meeting that will consolidate some of the subcommittees.

Director Campasano provided an update on the health insurance. Blue Cross Blue Shield is currently examining all of the fire departments participation that they currently serve in the County. They will treat all of the departments as one employer and provide the cost so that we can compare cost to other insurance providers. Chief Cates has also researched the NC State Firefighter Association that firefighters can participate in. Chief Cates has confirmed that the departments are eligible to participate in the State's health plan. A memorandum of understanding is being drafted outlining the process for the department to move to the State's health plan. This will be a substantial savings for the departments.

TRAINING DIRECTOR REPORT

No report.

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR REPORT

Deputy Director Alford congratulated Chief Mauldin and the Fuquay Fire Department on a successful NC rating inspection.

Deputy Director Alford reported that all equipment has been distributed (boots, helmets etc.). There will be two more rating inspections in June (Swift Creek & Fairview).

Deputy Director Alford requested that the Commission do a proclamation for Barry at the next Commission meeting.

LOGISTICS MANAGER REPORT

No report.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, Billy Myrick made a motion to adjourn, the motion was seconded and the meeting was adjourned.