

April 09, 2019

AT A WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF NOTTOWAY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, HELD AT THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT THEREOF, ON TUESDAY, THE 09<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF APRIL IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN AND IN THE 243<sup>RD</sup> YEAR OF THE COMMONWEALTH:

PRESENT: STEVE W. BOWEN, CHAIRMAN  
GARY L. SIMMONS, VICE CHAIRMAN  
NOEL R. SHEKLETON  
HELEN M. SIMMONS  
SHERMAN C. VAUGHN  
RONALD E. ROARK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
JOHN N. PROSISE, ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Chairman Bowen called the work session to order at 6:00 p.m.

Supervisor Steve Bowen provided the invocation.

Chairman Bowen stated the purpose of this work session was to hear input from the Nottoway County Emergency Services agencies on existing or potential obstacles that pose a hindrance to their delivery of services in the future. Each Agency was provided time to speak.

Burkeville Volunteer Fire & Rescue: Chief John Schutt provides the Board with an Operational Summary and begins his remarks by reminding that in 2012 his Department was on the verge of ceasing operations. Since this time the Department has implemented revenue recovery and is staffing paid employees. In 2018 the Department was able to update some of its equipment and currently staffs 3 full time firefighter/medics, 4 part time firefighter/medics and has a volunteer membership of 15. Chief Schutt explains that it is his intentions to annually increase payroll as funding allows and to add a second ambulance to its fleet before the end of 2019; he also hopes to add Crew quarters to the existing Station.

Chief Schutt states that 25.76% of their revenue is from State/Local funding. He expresses concerns about the stability of current funding, recruiting and retaining volunteers, and the ability to provide benefits for the paid staff.

Chief Schutt recommends the County study and test its Emergency Operations Plan and improve the emergency notification system. He expresses concern for the overall emergency medical service for the area and urges for County-wide Strategic Plan.

Blackstone Volunteer Fire & Rescue: Chief Dion Tomer provides the Board with statistical data relating to its first due coverage area, 140 square miles total with only 5 of those being in the corporate limits of the Town of Blackstone, and its annual operating figures, \$186,000. Chief Tomer expresses concerns for the sustainability of the services currently being provided at the current funding levels.

Chief Tomer reports that his Department has a current active volunteer roster of 50 Senior members and 13 Junior members. He further states that the approximate costs associated with outfitting a member, according to NFPA regulations, is \$4000; this is a necessary investment that will never reduce.

Chief Tomer suggests the County needs a full time Emergency Services Coordinator. And further states that he, and his Department, are expecting growth in the area upon full implementation of FASTC. This growth will come at a cost.

Crewe Volunteer Fire Department: Chief Val Wilson expresses that he, and his Department, are experiencing the same problems as Blackstone Fire. Chief Wilson expresses concern over an annual loss in revenue and increasing costs associated with equipment. He explains that the air packs used by his department are now expired and they are awaiting results of a grant application submitted to FEMA for funds for replacement. His department will also need to replace its Pumper in the next 6-7 years; they do not have the funds to do so.