



Council of Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squads, Inc.

July 21st, 2021

In-person Meeting At: VB EMS HQ (some members joined remotely)

Minutes:

Members in attendance: Joyce Mullins and Kay Laws (R02), Richard Saul (R04), Nancy Gregory (R06), Paul Kalmus (R09), John Neumayer (R14), Kyle Musicant (R16), Joan Davis and Jo Robinson (R17), Billy Hacskaylo and David Wheeler (MRT), Ellen McBride, Ed Brazle and Joey Hundley (EMS), Kristen Howard and Gina Benefiel (Foundation).

Meeting commenced at 18:15 with President David Wheeler presiding.

Approval of Minutes by motion (Kyle Musicant moved, Joan Davis seconded), with no comments or corrections.

President's Report: David Wheeler previewed the agenda and asked if there were any changes needed. He said that one objective for this year is to make the Rescue Council more active and he sees the proposed bylaw changes and ability to do virtual meetings as helping to accomplish that.

Treasurer's Report: Bonita Teaford sent her report to the President who provided the following:

- Checking \$20,050.15
- Savings \$13,214.36
- Deposit \$13,650.00 made on July 10th.
- Squads that still owe for dues and insurance:
 - Ocean Park \$1,800
 - Davis Corner \$1,200
 - Chesapeake Beach \$1,650
 - Sandbridge \$1,650

City of VB Department of EMS Report, Q&A: Chief Ed Brazle brought a letter for squad signatures to thank the City Council for the Ambulance replacement grants and other COVID funds. He provided the following update:

- We are still following COVID separation and masking guidance from the CDC, as well as related rules on duty, and protocols and PPE for high risk calls.
- COVID vaccination is finished in the large scale Convention Center way that we have been doing it, but we'll still be supporting some vaccinations and will still need volunteer help with that.

- The Medical Operations/Training/Fleet/Supply Committees still haven't met in a while.
- Announced the upcoming night at the VB Aquarium (with Awards ceremony), and a "cook-out" in September.
- Ricky LaBlue is setting up an EMS blog.
- Recently there was an incident in which a squad committed to an event but was unable to be there. Please let EMS leadership know immediately when such a situation is developing so that a substitution can be arranged.
- Ambulance staffing is still not good and we really need for Recruiting and Retention efforts to step it up a notch.
- Paul Kalmus asked about the security situation and reduced access hours at the City Garage. Chief Brazle said he was meeting with the Public Works Director to discuss the problems. He said Public Works is a different department and wouldn't just give a gate key to EMS supervisors.
- Gina asked when Observers would be allowed again. Chief Brazle said not as long as COVID continues to be a risk, but the policy is under review.

Sustainability Committee:

- Ellen McBride said those missing COVID warrior items are still coming (on order and will be distributed as they arrive).
- EMS Supervisors have been identifying worthy recipients of Wawa gift cards. Usually this is for willingly moving or picking up shifts on red days and short notice.
- Looking into identifying AEMT ambulance in Oscar and MDT like we used to do with shock/trauma, as a matter of recognition and to make better use of their skills.
- COVID Warrior hoodies are available for \$26, see the Facebook notice.
- Along with the Foundation and squad's retention teams, looking into ways to get academy graduates to the certification tests.
- Creating one minute videos to share experiences.
- Still meeting on the 3rd Thursday of each month (except July) at 1830 at rotating locations and hybrid (on-line).

VB Rescue Squads Foundation Report(s):

- Gina Benefiel reintroduced Kristen Howard now in her new role as Director of Community Outreach and Recruiting.
- Discussed the Foundations offer and desire to jointly meet for the purpose of unveiling the unifying brand results and said that a video will accompany that event featuring leaders from the squads.
- Foundation grant applications are now being accepted through October. Discussed that providing an annual report input (data through September) is a pre-requisite. David Wheeler said we'll make it easier, by adjusting the RC's Annual Report period from September2020 to September2021.
- Just about ready to announce the opportunity for the TCC Non-Profit Excellence Academy 101 class to grow the next generation of squad leaders and managers.

- Kristen will start bring the Foundations RnR Reporting Dashboard to the RC meetings for awareness.
- Gina offered that a professional videographer is still available to support unique squad requirements...just ask.
- There will be a picnic in the Fall for families with brand-themed education and activities.

Rescue Council Coordinator Reports

- David Wheeler, filling in for Jay Kerr on Cooperative Fund-raising, opened the topic and Ellen McBride said we have to correct some things to be more efficient and effective. The Cooperative Fund-raising is twice per year, in early November and during EMS Week in mid-May. Gina Benefiel offered to help.

Unfinished Business

- Outcomes of the Executive Board meeting.
 - David Wheeler reported that the meeting was looking ahead at Rescue Council's goals and capacity to get things done. He said that cooperative working groups with EMS, the Foundations and the squads was necessary.
 - He said that we recognize the Sustainability Committee was a result of the Rescue Council not solving problems and we would like to take some of the burden back off Ellen McBride.
 - There was a suggestion that Council might ask VB City Council for funding annually, but only after analyzing the actual needs and implications for the volunteer system.
 - He said the Rescue Council should pursue a Volunteer Rescue Squads - EMS History Project to capture stories, show and tell them to the community. We're looking for a historian.
 - Chief Brazle asked us to let him know how we want the arrangement to work and he would support.
 - Ellen McBride suggested that there be an assessment of the squads' web sites to find way to improve findability. Gina Benefiel said she could provide expertise to help with that and funding to help squads build their web presence. There was a brief focus on Davis Corner's recent web presence decisions and the best way forward and staying in synch with the rest of the system. Kristen Howard said should would work with Joyce Mullins and already has a relationship with the company providing the services to DCVRS.
- Bylaws changes.
 - John Neumayer reminded the Council of the proposed changes to the Bylaws which had already been discussed at the previous meeting and one additional change which was suggested at the previous meeting. John's motion to accept these changes was seconded by Joyce Mullins and the Bylaw changes were approved by unanimous vote.
- Ambulance insurance follow-up discussions.
 - David Wheeler said that the Insurance Handbook provided by Chief Lipscomb was helpful for clarifying some questions raised in the previous meeting. Jo

Robinson said that she would be interested in continuing to discuss options with Chesterfield Insurance.

New Business

- David Wheeler announced a Special Rescue Council meeting in August for the unveiling of the Volunteer Squads and EMS “brand” on August 25th.
- Any other business:
 - Richard Saul asked about training AEMTs in house. Chief Brazle said they are working toward that. It will require hiring two additional instructors, funding, and accreditation. They have looked at other options, including Norfolk FD, but they only teach M-F days, which would not work for volunteers.
 - Richard then asked if Dept of EMS has prepared talking point for taking to the people running for City Council. Chief Brazle said being a city employee he would not offer to do that. Gina Benefiel said the Foundation has an advocacy responsibility like the Rescue Council and they could offer talking points.

Squad Reports – Brief Reports from each Squad present

- **R1-** Nothing to Report (NTR)
- **R2-** Kay Laws reminded about the VAVRS Convention at the VB Convention Center September 22-26.
- **R4-** Richard Saul said their squad is growing and busy with new members.
- **R5-** NTR
- **R6-** Nancy Gregory reported that their Oxygen refill system is broken. R14 and R17 said give a call if you need refill support.
- **R9-** Paul Kalmus said they also have new people and at the same time have members heading off to Physicians’ Assistant school.
- **R13-** NTR
- **R14-** John Neumayer said the squad is already placing an order for two new ambulances in 2022 prior to a price hike.
- **R16-** Kyle Musicant said renovations are underway at his station. They are expecting their new ambulances as early as September.
- **R17-** Joan Davis thanked the Foundation for the support; announced their September 11th Pig Roast and said they are getting a 4 wheel drive pick up truck in September.
- **MRT-** Billy Hacskaylo said that Boat 3 will be repaired. MRT is training together with Ocean Park August 7th and 21st and reaching out to other squads for future opportunities. MRT is conducting boat patrols every weekend.

Announcements / Dates to Remember

- **Next regular meeting:** Sept 15, 2021 at EMS HQ.

Meeting adjourned at 20:06

