CITRUS COUNTY FIRE SERVICES  
Minutes of February 24, 2016 Meeting  

The Citrus County Fire Services held a meeting on Wednesday, January 20, 2016, in the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166, 3600 West Sovereign Path, Lecanto, Florida. The public meeting was advertised in the Citrus County Chronicle and the agenda was available on the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) website at http://www.citrusbocc.com

I. Introduction of participants (Commissioner Scott Carnahan)

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Citrus County Commissioner Scott Carnahan
Citrus County Sheriff Jeffrey J. Dawsy
Frank DiGiovanni, City Manager, Inverness, Florida
Dave Burnell, City Manager, Crystal River, Florida

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT
Charles “Randy” Oliver, County Administrator
Citrus County Fire Chief Jim Goodworth
Hernando County Deputy Fire Chief Mike Nickerson

Absent:
James Adkins, Hernando County Commissioner

Commissioner Carnahan called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance led by Chairman Carnahan.
2. Invocation was given by Commissioner Scott Carnahan

II. Open to the public – Jim Kupcho asked Commissioner Carnahan for a list of names of who he contacted from Baltimore County and along the eastern coast, regarding how their inspections were done.

Henry Burkhard, V.P. of the Citrus County Civic Association, expressed his concerns over two man versus three man at the fire station as they have a lot of schools in that area.

III. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Inverness City Manager Frank DiGiovanni to approve and authorize the January 20, 2016 minutes as presented. Seconded by Crystal River City Manager Dave Burnell. Motion carried unanimously.
Presentation by GSG (Government Services Group) on the Fire Assessment Program for Citrus County.

Sandi Melgarejo began the presentation, joined by Camille Tharp, Sr. V.P. and John Walker, Consultant. GSG suggested providing EMS services for a year or two to look at the numbers before you make any change, and then have to change it again. Commissioner Carnahan stated that our methodology is where it needs to be at the present time. The Committee agreed 4 – 0.

IV. Discuss Methodologies for Charging for Fire Services

V. Discuss Recommendations

Randy handed out two maps showing actual response time taken out of the 911 system between January 22nd and February 21st. The Fire Department during that time responded to 300 fire calls and 605 medical calls. The average response time on both was slightly over 8 minutes. Randy Oliver stated that we need to budget to build a new Fire Station over the next 5 years. While it does not need to be site specific, the Cardinal area would seem to be a candidate. Frank DiGiovanni pointed out that the new highway may divide the area from one side to the other. Randy Oliver stated the new stations need to be located to permit crossing the Sun Coast II. Jeff Dawsy suggested looking into grants to help fund and equip the station.

Station Staffing: Chief Goodworth stated that at our career staff stations, two are staffed with three personnel per shift and the others are staffed with two. He reviewed “two in, two out”, and that he would like to see all stations manned at three, with the fourth being a volunteer. Sheriff Dawsy stated they could establish funding sources by charging for fire inspections, and methodically building staffing. Frank DiGiovanni said they will have 10 volunteers on board and will eventually build up to 24. He also stated they are working with Nature Coast EMS to work out a procedure on calls. Randy Oliver pointed out that in the last 30 days, there were 605 medical calls. Deputy Chief Nickerson stated that you needed 3 people on an ambulance for critical calls. Chief Goodworth stated that they are automatically dispatched to all Delta and Eco calls with Nature Coast EMS.

Location of Inspection Staff/Charging for Fire Inspection Services: Commissioner Carnahan stated that the stations should do the inspections. Chief Goodworth stated 3 inspectors and a Fire Marshall is what they currently have. Sheriff Dawsy reviewed the breakdown on the budget of $357,766. Chief
Goodworth went over different issues they have with inspections, when they can get to it, and occupancy and fire suppression inspection. Deputy Chief Nickerson stated that they utilize the Fire Volunteers for safety education and their inspection staff for an average of three inspections per day. Dave Burnell said the County inspects their schools, the mall, and they contract for other inspections.

Ken Clamer, Fire Marshall, gave a brief discussion on public education, fire investigation and as of 2/1/16 the cities have turned over jurisdiction to them. Mr. Oliver stated since MSTU and MSBU funds were only collected in the unincorporated areas, spending these funds in the cities was contrary to State law.

**Use of Floaters, part-time fire fighters and volunteers** – Chief Goodworth stated they were looking at 3 driver/engineer floaters, with no part time positions. Frank DiGiovanni said he has 10 volunteers, and Chief Goodworth has 36 combat volunteers. Chief Goodworth stated they pay a stipend ($10.86 per call) to their volunteers. It was stated Nature Coast has gone to status zero 57 times so far this year.

Requested information for the last meeting.

1. Three man, five year budget projection adding inspection fees and new hires
2. By current staffing and adding a station
3. By floaters
4. Five stations
5. Fee collection for inspections
6. Jim Faulkner to pull out calls

Commissioner Carnahan will contact Nature Coast EMS and find out the cost to add another ambulance and determine if it is increased demand or back up at the emergency room. Chief Goodworth uses Firehouse System which is a fire incident report. Deputy Chief Nickerson stated Hernando County uses Image Trend.

**VI. Set final meeting date and time**

The next meeting date will be March 29, 2016, at 1:00 p.m., at the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166, Lecanto, FL
VII. Other Business/Open to the Public

Jim Kupcho stated that the most important factor is the safety of our fire fighters and there should be four per truck.

Janet Barek asked the following questions:

1. Eight minutes – for first truck or two trucks
2. Fire/EMS redundancy
3. Volunteers that work a specific day and time
4. Need four fire fighters in every house
5. Schools – Chief or Sheriff should be the public relations person

Tim Kenny, local fire fighter, stated you need four firefighters on a truck, that calls come in 24/7, and safety is what they need.

VIII. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

These minutes were approved on March 29, 2016.

_______________________________________
Debra Stack, Executive Assistant