



MINUTES

**Holly Springs Fire-Rescue District
Commission Board of Fire Control
Tuesday, October 14th, 2014
6:00pm**

A public meeting of the Holly Springs Fire-Rescue District Commission Board of Fire Control was held on October 14th, at 7:00 pm. in the Clara W. Edwards Community Center of the Holly Springs Fire Department administrative building. Chairperson Roger Hall presided. The following members were present or absent as indicated:

List Present or Absent

Commissioners

Chairman Roger Hall - Present
Vice-Chairman Lee Jeffcoat – Present
Commissioner Jerry Jackson. – Present
Commissioner Robby Golightly – Present
Commissioner Scott Yarborough - Late

Administration

Chief Brent Blackwell – Present
Secretary Bonnie Fulton – Present
Accountant Ken Everham - Absent

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, notices of this meeting were posted on district website, posted on public information board, & mailed to the local media or other interested parties that formally requested such copies.

Invocation was rendered and the beginning prayer was led by Mrs. Bonnie Fulton.

Agenda items were addressed out of order as indicate

- 1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER @ 6:04 p.m.**
- 2. APPROVAL TO ADOPT CURRENT AGENDA** Commissioner Jeffcoat made a motion to approve the current agenda. Motion seconded, vote unanimous 4/0, motion carried.
- 3. EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Commissioner Hall made a motion to go into Executive Session for a discussion with an attorney. Motion seconded, vote unanimous 4/0, motion carried.
- 4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTHS MINUTES - September and Workshop Minutes** Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the September Minutes. Motion seconded, vote 4/1 (Commissioner Yarbrough abstained as he was not here for September meeting), motion carried.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the September Workshop Minutes. Motion seconded, vote 4/1 (Commissioner Yarbrough abstained as he was not here for September

workshop), motion carried.

5. FINANCIAL AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Financial: Nothing available as Mr. Everham was unable to be here

Chief: New classes being done by some of the staff; Utility 1 is still in repair, all are aware of issue; CAD report handed out for review; Copy of current policy/guideline book handed out for review by Commissioners and Attorney; roof is leaking, contact last repairman as he guaranteed it; department has received a grant from 2 years ago and air packs are do in any day.

6. OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Substation Committee Report – nothing new to report, but we can have a sign made and put up at this time.

b. Final Report – Fundraiser for Backpack Ministry Raised \$1801, Thank you cards need to go out to contributors.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Vote on any items from Executive Session – no vote

b. New Conference Room Discussion – All workout equipment is moved and Conference Room relocated. Discussion about possible sound proofing, no decision made.

c. Insurance Claims for 9/25/2014 MVA & Actions – Truck is totaled, insurance company is not willing to pay amount due, refusing to pay for paint and detailing, etc. Chief to go ahead and turn in rental so it does not come out of general budget.

Commissioner Jeffcoat made a motion that the department hire Attorney Ryan Langley to handle any further discussion or action with the insurance company. Motion seconded, vote 4/1 (Commissioner Jeffcoat abstained due to personal involvement so far), motion carried.

Chief brought up ladder truck and the fact that we have no where to keep it. It is currently not running. Discussion concerning a new building, tarps, a shed, etc ensued. Fire fighters are to be asked if they are willing to do fundraisers to restore it if the department builds a building for it. Chief to find out and report back.

Chief also requested an Assistant Chief. He has someone particular in mind. Commissioners suggested that Chief open the application process from now until next meeting. Candidates need to meet minimum NFPA requirements, NFPA 1, NIMS Training, 5 years experience, 2 years company officer. Chief is to write job description. Post and take applications.

Commissioners to interview on November 4th from 5-7, prior to Commissioners Meeting.

d. Discussion & planning on upcoming holiday events/awards – Department will not do Drive Through this Halloween. However, they will have a truck at the church for Trunk or Treat. Chief will get a sign up going for Thanksgiving Breakfast to determine interest. Chief to meet with Officers and Fire Fighters about Christmas dinner.

e. Mobile Kitchen Fryer for Fundraising – Tabled until a later date.

f. Annual Officer Election – All positions had only one nomination, therefore

Commissioner Jeffcoat is the new Chairman
Commissioner Golightly is the new Vice Chairman
Commissioner Hall is the new Treasurer
Mrs. Fulton will remain as Secretary

8. CITIZENS AGENDA

Elton Chapman- Read a letter he had written explaining his dissatisfaction with a decision regarding his son earlier this year, he felt the punishment did not fit the crime, his son was now working at another fire department and would continue to do so. There was nothing the department could do now. Elton also resigned his position as President of the Support Team, effective immediately, because he felt that the fire fighters and officers did not support this department. Elton remained steadfast in his decision regardless of the Commissioners attempts to change his mind.

Scott Yarbrough – at Scott’s request, the following is verbatim:

“Like Elton I have a few things to say tonight, I’m going to tell y’all now, it was my full intention to walk in here tonight and resign my seat...because of what goes on here. It starts right here with us five. Ok? Now I talked to a fellow a couple weeks ago, called him and told him ‘Hey, we started this together, I feel like it’s only right you be the first to know. I’m done. Done all I can do. Finished. Tired of it. It’s wrong.’ Fellow called me back and said ‘hey, you need to talk to this fellow’. I said ‘Nah, ain’t gonna do me no good. I’m done.’ Called me again! I said ‘Ok, I respect the man enough to go talk to him.’. Went and talked to the fellow. Fellow told me, he said ‘You know what? If you think they are doing wrong,’ he said ‘prove it.’ He said ‘I think you the man to do it.’ He said ‘Cause you sat, or he sat, I remember calling you from a ballfield ‘ I think he said Augusta ‘ on a hot summer day’. He said ‘You the one that’s gonna hold ‘em straight.’. That man was Hugh Jackson. I’m not gonna go back years, I’m back 6 months. But I’m gonna prove some wrong doing, and I’m gonna prove some wrong doing that was done tonight! Ok? Tonight. Tonight. I’m not gonna resign. I’ma hold you accountable. Every one of us. Alright, we’re gonna start out, we gonna start, with something that was said up here 2 months ago, I missed last months meeting. Talking about the Junior fire men, they can fight fire. Let me tell you something, legally in the state of South Carolina, they can not fight fire.

Commissioner Hall: What is your definition of fighting fire?

Commissioner Yarbrough: Putting on an air pack and turn out gear. Can’t do it.

Commissioner Hall: They can put air pack on and turn out gear all they want.

Commissioner Yarbrough: Oh yeah they can. You can let ‘em run around and drive too.

Commissioner Hall: The statement was made they can not go in a house that is active.

Commissioner Yarbrough: 54LLR”Explorer Participants are not fire fighters.”

Commissioner Hall: You’re right, they’re not. But they can support.

Commissioner Yarbrough: Right. Support ain't holding a hose. And I'm not here to argue with them. The question was asked "If a Junior fire man got hurt on the scene, is this fire department responsible?" Yes, we are. Yes, we are. It plainly says right here why. "Junior members shall attend and train like all other students and participate in all aspects of the course. Upon successful completion of a course, the junior member will receive an Academy Provisional Certificate which will validate on the Juniors 18th birthday and will be clearly printed on that certificate."

Commissioner Hall: Alright.

Commissioner Yarbrough: So until he's 18, that certificate is worthless.

Commissioner Hall: So, the...you're right, that's the South Carolina Fire Academy rules and regulations. But standing in the yard is not fighting fire.

Commissioner Yarbrough: The film I seen, kid had on turn out gear, air packs, spraying water on a working house fire. That was on the news. I'm just telling you. Again, I'm not calling anybody wrong, I'm just saying, we need to overlook... or we need not to overlook this. We need to re-look at our practices.

Commissioner Hall: And I don't disagree with that.

Commissioner Yarbrough: And how we do things.

Commissioner Hall: The question that was asked after that meeting with several members including Tim St. Louis and several of the officers...

Commissioner Yarbrough: Bonnie I want all this wrote down.

Commissioner Hall: ...'Did he go interior' and they said 'No.' Child Labor Laws keeps him from going in.

Commissioner Yarbrough: Child Labor Laws keeps them from, that's why...I want to tell you. It was October 1st, 2010. I didn't know this. I'm not even gonna claim to know it. But when I talked to Phil Russell down in Columbia. Phillip Russell told me that's why it only come about in 2010. Years previous to that, they wouldn't even train a junior or a 17 year old. He said they quit for several years because the state felt like they were gonna be liable. So they come up with these rules, 2010, then they passed into law. I don't know, he may have been blowing smoke, I have no idea.

Commissioner Hall: Well, There's two ways that South Carolina Fire Academy recognizes anyone under the age of 18. Either you have to be a BSA Explorer or you have to be a junior member of a department. Now, anyone of the age of 16 and above can go to certain classes and that includes Firefighter I and Firefighter II.

Commissioner Yarbrough: I'm not arguing that.

Commissioner Hall: Give me a second. In Firefighter I and Firefighter II. They do no different than the training that we go through in Firefighter I and Firefighter II. That includes putting them in a controlled environment of an IDLH atmosphere, but it's controlled because they have instructors inside. But, they

have to be a member of one or the other because of insurance purposes. They have to be covered. Alright? Under that umbrella, either BSA or a Fire Junior program in order to go to those classes. Alright, they get into an airpack, they get into turn out gear...

Commissioner Yarbrough: But that insurance is a secondary type insurance.

Commissioner Hall: It is secondary. I agree with that.

Commissioner Yarbrough: Again, Sherry was told that night that there was \$50,000 on the boy scouts that would cover them. That's actually your insurance, we get sued...

Commissioner Hall: It's a secondary policy, but what I'm saying is we asked, 'did this individual go interior and fight fire?' and we were told No.

Commissioner Yarbrough: Right.

Commissioner Hall: We got no other evidence that says anything different other than a 2 second camera shot of him out in the yard. I'm not disputing but the question was asked during the meeting, after the meeting and Chief was even told, they were told to make sure that these kids did not go interior. That they did not fight fire. That they only did what they BSA allowed them to do.

Commissioner Yarbrough: So, you're standing outside a house, working house fire, turn out gear and air pack, you gonna call that a safe...are you calling that safe? Because I know of a place, a structure that has burned to the ground that I wouldn't want to walk in and inhale what was in there. After the fire has been out for days.

Commissioner Hall: In my opinion, it depends on the situation. Are there any clap zones, or is the smoke level rising or is it coming across, low lying? There's a lot of variable factors that's laying there. If they are in a clap zone, yes it's dangerous. Is the smoke blowing in the direction that they are standing, yes that's dangerous because they are inhaling it. You know, Explorers are supposed to act in a supporting role. I've said this from day 1, we can't...Explorers are supposed to act in the supporting role which the supporting role would be rehab, changing air cylinders, all these things in that frame of a structure fire is not life endangering. They are back at the truck changing the air cylinder...

Commissioner Yarbrough: He wasn't changing an air cylinder.

Commissioner Hall: Well, I know that but I'm saying that's what was stated from the beginning. There are certain things they can't do and there are certain things that they can do.

Commissioner Yarbrough: All I'm saying is that state law says they can't do it. Now, if we want to assume the responsibility, which I don't, I'm not gonna assume the responsibility.

Commissioner Hall: I don't either...but I'm not willing to get rid of the Explorer Program...

Commissioner Yarbrough: I didn't say get rid of it.

Commissioner Hall: ...based off a couple of mistakes either.

Commissioner Yarbrough: Never said get rid off it. I said if you're gonna do it, do it right.

Commissioner Hall: And I agree with that.

Commissioner Yarbrough: We'll move on.

Chief Blackwell: Um...one thing.

Commissioner Yarbrough: Go ahead.

Chief Blackwell: I'm the same thing, I'm not gonna doubt anything you saying with that right there, but it also right here says 'Use pressurized hose lines, if properly trained, under the direction of Incident Commander and in an out of danger area.' And it also does here does state 'They may not perform fire suppression involved structures, vehicles, ...' but it does not say anything about they can not wear air packs.

Commissioner Yarbrough: It doesn't say they can't wear air packs. It doesn't say that. I'm just saying they can't fight fire. They can't be on a house, I understand what you're saying, but I'm not gonna... Let me ask you this, are you willing, because this is what it's gonna come down to if something ever happens, are you willing to lose your business and your own house over this? Cause I'm not.

Chief Blackwell: Well, I'm not really willing to lose my business or house over any of it.

Commissioner Yarbrough: Well, I'm just saying, cause I promise you, if something happens, this fire department and eventually we are gonna be sued.

Chief Blackwell: I'm not gonna put them in something, if that mug is burning, they are definitely not going in.

Commissioner Yarbrough: It would be nice if we could see the future.

Chief Blackwell: You're exactly right.

Commissioner Yarbrough: And I mean, cause we don't know what's gonna happen.

Chief Blackwell: But also, do you happen to have that video?

Commissioner Yarbrough: No. I'm sure we can get it from the news... it maybe...

Chief Blackwell: Cause I would love to see it to see exactly what you 're talking about. I have yet to see it.

Commissioner Yarbrough: It was on line for a while and that's where I saw it.. I saw it that morning and I saw it again on line. But anyway,

Commissioner Jackson: (spoke too quietly for the recording to pick it up)

(Several people talking all at once)

Commissioner Hall: Would y'all have all the Rules and Regulations as set forth by the state in hand?

Commissioner Yarbrough: Anyway, um, anyway, get back to several things done wrong here tonight or...I ain't gonna say wrong, I'm just gonna say it may not have been right.

Commissioner Hall: You've made that statement a couple of times. Honestly and truthfully, I don't consider this the Citizens Agenda. This is a personal agenda.

Commissioner Yarbrough: No, this is a Commissioner talking. Um, I want to bring something to your attention.

Commissioner Hall: Ok, what is it that you consider has been done wrong.

Commissioner Yarbrough: Ok, number one...

Commissioner Hall: Cause you've mentioned it twice.

Commissioner Yarbrough: Ok, I'm gonna show you Roger. Ya'll adopted these minutes of September 2nd, tonight? I got 'em right here. Ya'll approved 'em. Jerry, who all's, who all's present? On the administration side?

Commissioner Jackson: Roger Hall, Lee Jeffcoat, Jerry Jackson...

Commissioner Yarbrough: Let me just say this. Who, who, are we all present here?

Commissioner Jackson: No you're not.

Commissioner Yarbrough: I'm not present. I'm absent. Who's present here on the administration?

Commissioner Jackson: Blackwell, Bonnie and Ken.

Commissioner Yarbrough: Did ya'll know ya'll passed these minutes here? An hour ago, two hours ago? Financial Department Reports – down there, what's that say?

Commissioner Jackson: (spoke too quietly for the recording to pick it up)

Commissioner Yarbrough: It says Mr. Everham not present!

Commissioner Hall: Yeah, and that's in the minutes...

Commissioner Yarbrough: No it's not. It says up on time he's not present, or he is present.

Commissioner Hall: Well, it's an honest mistake. We can amend...

Commissioner Yarbrough: That's your law. If something...

Commissioner Hall: Yes. And I agree, we can amend these, that's something I missed.

Commissioner Yarbrough: When, ok, we started this meeting at 6:00 o'clock tonight. When did that happen. I never got nothin'.

Commissioner Hall: We discussed that last meeting.

Commissioner Yarbrough: In the last meeting.

Commissioner Hall: And we've tried calling you.

Commissioner Yarbrough: Ok. What meeting was that? What meeting was that you discussed that in.

Commissioner Hall: That was in the workshop.

Commissioner Yarbrough: In the workshop?

Commissioner Jackson: Was it the workshop. I can't remember if it was in the workshop...

Commissioner Yarbrough: In the workshop? You told me it was in the September meeting. It's not in those minutes. Um, it ain't in the workshop minutes.

Commissioner Hall: I'm not sure which meeting but it was posted. It was posted.

Commissioner Yarbrough: You are wrong. It's wrong. And I'm telling you, like I said it starts here.

Commissioner Hall: And you're right. It does start here. But you know, if you've got something that's wrong, then being a part of the commission board, you need to help point these things out.

Commissioner Yarbrough: I'll tell you right now...

Commissioner Hall: We can't catch it all.

Commissioner Yarbrough: Bonnie, you're getting, now I want this down. (To Mrs. Tate) – Are you recording this? Are you recording this? - No I'm not gonna be responsible. (To Mrs. Tate) Are you recording this? Can I have that tape for the next few days so Bonnie can have it?

Mrs. Fulton: I'm recording it on my phone.

Commissioner Yarbrough: Ok, if you're recording that's fine. Cause I want this down word for word. I want this down word for word. So, just pointin' those out to you. That's just a few things tonight. That's just a few things tonight.

Commissioner Hall: Anything else?

Commissioner Yarbrough: No, I'm done. I'm done. I'm done with all that (tossed papers at Commissioner Jackson).

Commissioner Hall: Anyone else?

Commissioner Golightly: Scott, we gonna hold you accountable also. Now, ...there's mistakes made, you make mistakes too.

Commissioner Yarbrough: Hey, I make a bunch of mistakes.

Commissioner Golightly: We all do, remember that.

Commissioner Yarbrough: we all do. We all do. But I mean, and I'm telling you.

Commissioner Hall: Well, I'll say this...

Commissioner Yarbrough: Things gonna start being done right.

Commissioner Hall: we make mistakes, but when we call...

Commissioner Yarbrough: When did you call me?

Commissioner Hall: and advise you...I haven't but Lee has.

Commissioner Yarbrough: You said...Lee ain't called me!

Commissioner Hall: Lee called, Lee said he called...

Commissioner Yarbrough: Lee's called me one time...

Miss Leanne Golightly: I feel like, can I say something right quick?

Commissioner Yarbrough: Sure.

Miss Leanne Golightly: I feel like this is a back and forth kind of thing that needs to be handled between, obviously, you five, wherever Lee went, and it doesn't need to be discussed in front of us because I feel like it's just smoke in the air and until ya'll can figure it out, we don't need to hear it. Bottom line. Finished. Done.

Commissioner Yarbrough: Well, all I can say, I'm putting it out there and if he don't like it...

Miss Leanne Golightly: but until this stuff is decided between ya'll five, we...

Commissioner Yarbrough: It ain't between us five Leanne, I can promise you that.

Miss Leanne Golightly: Well, what ever it is, I feel like ya'll are turning on one another and instead ya'll need to be on level ground with one another.

Commissioner Hall: Alright, so is there anything else?

Commissioner Yarbrough: I'm done.

Commissioner Hall: Any body else?

9. ADJOURNMENT

Commisioner Hall made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded, vote 4/0 (Commissioner Yarbrough had already left), motion carried.