Fire Service Coordination Meeting

May 11, 2011

The meeting was held at the Burrville Fire House.

In attendance were the following: Chief Field, DC Brunoli, Comm. Potter, Comm. Battle, Comm. Benedetto, Chris Pepler Local 1567, DC Harmon, Chief Maccalous, Chief Dauphanais, DC Preato and Dennis Andrews.

The meeting was called to order by Chief Field at 19:05 hrs.

The minutes from the previously held meeting were approved. The motion was made and seconded by Chief Maccalous and Dennis Andrews. Comm Benedetto abstained.

**Apparatus:**

DC Brunoli reported that the new pumper and the Quint have arrived; they are in the process of training and getting some equipment mounted so they can be placed in service. The Tanker for Drakeville should be completed sometime after June 1st.

Chief Field stated that the City has moved all vehicle replacement money from everyone’s budgets and placed them in a separate line item. Commissioner Potter stated that too many departments were staking claim that it was their money placed into the accounts. That was the reason the money was separated out into a separate line item.

**Policies:**

Chief Field stated that the Board of Safety approved the Strategic Plan at their last meeting and he is trying to put it on the web site for public access. He also stated that we will continue to move forward using the plan as our guide.

Deputy Chief Brunoli brought forth some operational changes that cover all parties involved. They were as follows:

1. There will be a change to activated alarm response. The change will go to 2 apparatus with the 1st due responding in emergency mode and the 2nd going with the flow of traffic. If there is a second call from the facility the proper alarm assignment will be sent per the CAD. The assignments will be shown shortly.
2. There also will be a change on the East End to accomplish this goal. DC Brunoli would like to replace T-16 and give TVFD TAC -9 to carry personnel and equipment. The arrival of our new apparatus has allowed him to move enough equipment around to allow TVFD to operate TAC-9. They could equip the vehicle with the tools needed to support operations. He would like to place Engine 3 in the open bay vacated by engine 14 and would also need TVFD to pull the Mass Decon trailer and the Building Collapse/Trench Trailer. TAC 9 is the only vehicle able to pull those trailers. This would not change TVFD’s response time, this would only improve service overall to the entire City. DC Brunoli would also like to place a trailer on site to serve as housing for 3 of our paid personnel.
3. With this change the response to activated alarms would be as follows. District 1- Engine 4 & Ladder 2

District 2- Engine 2 & Engine 4

District 3 –Engine 3 & Engine 17 & TAC 9

District 4- Engine 2 & Engine47 &TAC 9

District 5 – Engine 4& Engine 2 & Engine 35

DC Brunoli would like to look at this before making it final.

1. The tanker response will be as follow s and respond City wide;

Brush fires near a structure

Car/vehicle fires in or near a structure

Chimney fires

Dumpster fires near a structure

Fire/Smoke in a structure

1. With the operational changes on the East End, DC Brunoli will adjust the 2nd alarm policy to include the 1st black helmet engine as it does now, and add TAC 9 to the assignment replacing Litchfield’s Ladder. Litchfield would be added to a later alarm assignment.
2. The mutual aid response from the downtown will change to E-2 with 3 personnel and TAC 10 with 2 personnel and TAC 9 with a minimum of 3 black helmet firefighters. This will be the assignment for all mutual aid unless a Department specifically requests something different. The volunteer department will send what is requested as it is currently.

**Training:**

Chief Field asked if they were meeting with the Training Officer. Chief Dauphanais stated that they are meeting regularly. Ernie Preato stated they are training 2 nights a week. They have four new members and are working on getting them trained. They will be doing another membership drive later this year.

Chief Field stated that he is looking for a better way to accomplish the training. With the cost of funding for schools and training rising, it will make it harder to accomplish the training. The costs could triple when the new budget for the State goes into effect. For us to send a Firefighter to recruit school it would cost us $6000.00 just for the school. Training at the regional schools could increase from $300 all the way up to $1000 for FF1 in the near future. The Chief stated we are looking at doing our own training in-house. Commissioner Potter asked if we could offer the class to surrounding towns. Chief Field mentioned we are working on fixing the training issue. Ernie stated that they have lucked out so far with the four new members and they have been showing up so far. Chief Field stated he would like to send our new hires to the recruit school but it may be more cost effective to train them through our own process.

Equipment Account Balance - $ 29,420.72 as of 4/29/2011 - report given by Chief Dauphanais.

There were no correspondences at this time

There were no public comments

**Issues from Members:**

Commissioner Benedetto asked that when the driver training is done on the Tanker that it be available to all Volunteer and Career.

DC Harmon stated that they would have 6 or 7 drivers. Chief Maccalous stated that it would take him about 15 minutes to come from work to get the vehicle.

Dennis Andrews stated that they would like to purchase the Scott SCBA. He asked if the Deputy had the price from Shipman’s. DC Brunoli stated that the cost for new with a spare bottle would be $5,775.00 for a total of $46,200.00 and DC Brunoli also stated if they wanted to purchase through Dalmatian Fire -- a refurbished SCBA with a 10 year warranty, the cost would be $3,295.00 or $26,360; a spare bottle at $625.00 or $5000.00 for a total of $31,360.00.

Dennis Andrews asked for $8000.00 to help defray the cost of the new packs. DC Brunoli made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Potter, to use $ 8000.00 from the Equipment Account to assist Burrville with the purchase of the SCBA. They would determine if they would purchase new or the refurbished.

Dennis Andrews asked about the drug testing and callbacks. Commissioner Potter stated it was never discussed. Chief Field stated that the policy allows for reasonable suspicion to cover callbacks.

Chief Maccalous stated he had a member who had a new test for TB and it was positive. He wanted to know who would pay the bill. Chief Field stated that the city would cover the costs.

Ernie Preato had nothing

Tom Harmon had nothing

Commissioner Potter asked how the evaluations were going with the Training Officer. Capt. Newkirk has helped with the evaluations, they took about 3hrs. The personnel should not be so nervous.

Commissioner Benedetto thought the proposal was a good one and hopes everything could be worked out.

Commissioner Potter stated that the three departments should have received a letter from the City regarding their agreement with the City. Comm. Potter is the liaison from the Committee of the BRC. The committee is looking at ways to make the Fire Service more efficient and effective. They want us to follow what is in the Strategic Plan. The agreement needs to have changes so that is why all 3 Departments were notified. Chief Maccalous stated it had people wondering what the changes are. When will they come 30-60-90 days, or what?

DC Brunoli had nothing.

Chief Field stated that they were coming to the end of the budget season and we took a hefty hit. We will not be filling 3 positions at this time. The state budget problems have created a ripple effect.

Chief Dauphanais asked how dispatch was coming. DC Brunoli stated it was moving along and they project dispatching fire by mid June and PD late June. Chief Dauphanais thought the proposal by the DC was a lot to digest and felt it was like a bomb was dropped on them. Commissioner Benedetto stated that we have talked for years of getting everyone more involved. Commissioner Potter stated that he has put a plan out there for your members to step up to the plate. With the increased involvement we will be able to try to grow your membership.

Chief Field stated that we had talked with you a while ago and asked for you to bring back the concerns from your members and that did not happen.

Chief Dauphanais stated that there was no plan and no discussion about TAC -9

Chief Field told him to take this info back and we can discuss it further.

Chief Field stated that we need to allow members to ride in different departments. For example Chief Maccalous works across from Burrville and he could help in making a full crew. It is good that you are all working on a plan to make that happen.

Commissioner Potter stated that this would be temporary until a station could be built. DC Brunoli stated we can do this with no cost to the taxpayer, except wiring the trailer. Everyone needs to remember that it is all about service to the citizens.

Commissioner Potter stated the plan would make more use of everyone throughout the City.

Jim Newkirk asked if Chief Field and DC Brunoli could come and talk to the members to explain. The Chief and DC agreed to come speak. Chief Field thought it might be a good idea to have some of the Commissioners there.

Jim Newkirk felt that with the career engine up on the hill they may get turned around more often and members would decide to go elsewhere to volunteer.

Chief Dauphanais would get back to the Chief with a date and time to meet with TVFD over the plan.

The meeting was adjourned, motion made and seconded by Dennis Andrews and Ernie Preato at 20:00 hrs

Respectfully submitted

DC Gary Brunoli