

Emergency Services Committee

Minutes


Cumberland County Board of Commissioners

Feb. 23, 2023

4:30 in room 310 of the old Cumberland County courthouse.

- Meeting called to order by Convener David Gibson
- Present: Rebecca Stone, Joe Sherrill, Mark Baldwin, David Gibson, Deborah Holbrook
- Absent: Sue York, Nancy Hyder, Jack Davis, John Patterson
- Others present: Commissioners Tom Isham and Dewey Walker; Mayor Foster; Press—Heather Mullinax
- Election of Officers
 - David Gibson, nominated as chair, nominations closed and Gibson chosen as chair
 - Mark Baldwin, nominated as vice chair, nominations closed and Baldwin chosen as vice chair
 - Deborah Holbrook, nominated as secretary, nominations closed and Holbrook chosen as secretary.
- Updates from Emergency Services were generally positive and things are running smoothly in all departments right now. Phase 2 and radio encryption were discussed.
 - Travis Cole, Emergency Services Director, reported on the free emergency app which has 12,000 users; after several years of upgrading radios, the system will be upgraded to Phase 2 capabilities with encryption of all first responder channels and should be operational in 6-8 weeks; storm-ready credentials partnerships including with schools. Questions: training on OSHA and TOSHA (Sherrill) and tornado/fire/active shooter drills (Stone)
 - Trevor Kerley, Fire Chief, reported on same Phase 2 radio project and encryption, new fire trucks ordered, \$2,000 grant from Mid-Tennessee Gas for smoke detectors, rookies starting on fire hydrants in March. Questions: how volunteer firefighters are insured (Stone), staffing which always is an issue, fewer volunteer fighters these days (Holbrook)
 - Casey Cox, County Sheriff, reported that department to receive a \$124,000 grant to replace systems for reports, booking, etc. (ISOMS), new cameras, high call volume, 10 fentanyl-related overdose deaths since 1/1/23, 110,000 deaths nationwide last year, stolen catalytic converter laws, Juvenile Justice Education Academy set for the summer, staffing and turnover. Questions: demographics of overdose deaths (Sherrill), recommendations re: Narcan (Holbrook), location of deaths (Baldwin)
 - Discussion: recommendation to take capital expenses to budget committee (Stone), praise for Trevor Kerley from Casey Cox
- Old Business -- none
- New Business -- none
- This committee will meet as needed. No future meeting scheduled.
- Adjourned.

~Respectfully submitted, Deborah Holbrook



7/31/2023