

III. OPENING COMMENTS

Vice Chairperson Sykes, Commissioner Forte, and Ann Hardy addressed the Commission and attendees to dispel rumors that Brunswick County administration and staff are working towards creating a County Fire Department system in place of the existing fire departments.

Additionally, Mrs. Hardy explained that some Emergency Services personnel participate in training to ensure that necessary manpower and equipment is available for unique rescue situations that the Brunswick County Utilities and Operations departments may have, as well as being available to assist the fire departments if there is a need. Brian Watts will be sending an email to all fire departments to inform of what he is looking at doing and working to accomplish, regarding training and equipment.

Appreciation was expressed to the fire departments, for the service they provide. Also, should they have any questions, an open line of communication with county administration and Chairperson Eccard is available and encouraged.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Eccard asked for a motion to approve the minutes; Mayor Bozeman made the motion to approve and Chief Doug Todd seconded the motion.

V. FIRE CHIEFS' OPEN FORUM

Present Fire Chiefs were given the opportunity to address the Commission. The following spoke to discuss their concerns, and ask questions about, the proposed standards presented at previous Fire Commission meetings:

Assistant Chief Bruno, Calabash FD
Chief Crisco, Yaupon Beach FD
Chief Crisco, Bolivia FD
Chief Tickle, Boiling Spring Lakes FD
Chief Dahill, St. James FD
Chief Drew, Southport FD
Chief Williams, Navassa FD
Chief Todd, Tri-Beach FD

The Fire Chiefs expressed concerns with the respect to the standards as presented. Additionally, no Chief spoke in favor of the standards.

Chief Dahill thanked the committee for giving the fire chiefs an opportunity to address the committee and taking the time to listen.

Chairperson Eccard informed the attendees that five departments have not provided requested data. Mack Smith said he sent an additional email to these departments requesting correspondence.

Mayor Holden made a recommendation that fire department representation, at Fire Commission meetings, be included in the minutes, no objection was given.

The procedure of reciprocity was questioned and discussed; Mack Smith said he will direct departments that would like assistance with the process, but they will have to complete the steps that NC requires. Chairperson Eccard stated the Commission will have the county take the lead in asking the County Commissioners what resolution or political actions can be taken to address the issue of reciprocity. No objections were given. Chairperson Eccard asked Ann Hardy, Mack Smith, and Brian Watts to take the lead and report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

VI. NEXT STEPS

Chairperson Eccard would like the fire departments that have not responded to the Commission to do so within a week, if possible. Next, the subcommittee will schedule a meeting to go over all written responses that are received.

Tentative date for next meeting is March 22nd, at 7:00pm (pending the subcommittee being able to meet prior).

Ann Hardy informed the attendees of the upcoming County Commissioner's Budget Retreat on February 19th, approximately 9:00am-4:00pm. There will be a Fire Commission update given to the Commissioners but no action will be taken.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:44pm, Chairperson Eccard asked for a motion to adjourn; Vice Chairperson Sykes made the motion to adjourn and Chief Tickle seconded the motion, no objection was given.