

VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD

Administration, Policy and Finance Committee

Friday, February 20, 2020

Virginia Beach Convention Center

1:30pm

A regular meeting of the Administration, Policy and Finance Committee was held at the Virginia Beach Convention Center in Virginia Beach, VA at 1:30pm on Thursday February 20, 2020. Walt Bailey served as the Chairman of the committee since the Vice Chair has not been elected by the board. A quorum was present.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

James Calvert

David Collins Hankley

Ernie Little

Walt Bailey

James Moore Stokely

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Bettie Reeves-Nobles

Jerome Williams

Keith Johnson

Scott Garber

James Poindexter

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Stephanie Koren

Lee Day

GUESTS PRESENT

Richard Harris

Tim Menzenworth

Larry Gwaltney

Mike Armstrong

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AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT

Travis Rickman Brook Pittinger
Mike Reilly

CHANGES IN THE AGENDA

No Changes

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments made.

CONSENT AGENDA

No Changes to the previous meeting minutes member Ernie Little moved to approve the previous minutes with a second from Board Member James Stokely and the previous minutes were approved.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Chairman did not have any comments and moved directly to the discussion on the increase of ATL minimums

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Topic:** Discussion on the Increase of Aide to Localities Minimums

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Motion: A motion was made by James Calvert to Increase the Minimum Aid to Localities from \$10,000 to \$15,000 for towns and from \$20,000 to \$30,000 for county and city jurisdictions. The motion was properly seconded by committee member Jim Stokely.

Topic Discussion: The Chairman made remarks to the committee as to the need of the increase of the minimums and touched on how the committee has gotten to this point. The Chairman brought up a possible change of the ATL Minimums to increase the appropriation of minimums to \$10,000 to \$15,000 for towns and from \$20,000 to \$30,000 for cities and counties. He asked VDFP staff what the increase would look like if we increased those minimums and was told that it would be a \$952,000 increase. The Chairman then made the point that with this change smaller localities would be getting a larger share of the ATL funds and the larger localities would still see an increase but it would be significantly less than their normal yearly increase. Board Member Keith Johnson did want to point out when the discussion came about over why the larger localities got such large increase was because of their population and the increase of the Fire Programs Fund. He also pointed out that the increase that they were discussing would be a change in how the increase of the fire programs fund would be distributed year over year. It was discussed that even if we did increase the minimums we need to find additional revenues to increase the pie or Fire Programs Fund to be able to offer more to the local departments. The Chairman asked that all documents pertaining to the change be sent out to the board before the full board votes on the final page.

Vote: The Board voted unanimously to send the recommendation to the full board for approval

Motion Action: Send to the full board for approval on Friday, February 21st.

2. **Topic:** Northumberland County Fire & EMS Study Request

Motion: To approve the Northumberland County Fire & EMS Study request and send it to the Full board for approval on Friday, February 21st for final approval. Was made by member David Hankley and was properly seconded by James Calvert.

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Topic Discussion: The committee inquired where Northumberland County was in the state and the committee clerk responded that it was coastal in the northern neck.

Vote: It was unanimously supported by the committee

Motion Action: The motion send the request to the full board for approval on Friday, February 21st.

3. **Topic:** Discussion on the Greene County Study

Motion: N/A

Topic Discussion: The Chairman of the committee asked for the board committee clerk to give an update on the status of the Greene County study. The clerk responded saying that there were some items that the research committee still needed before they completed their report such as dispatch services. It was stated that the study would come before the committee at the next meeting for full approval. Board Member Bettie Reeves-Nobles echoed those comments and agreed that it was imperative that we get in touch with the dispatch services before we submit to the full board. Member Reeves- Nobles asked if we could do some follow up on the studies that we do in the future to get feedback to see the status and effectiveness of the studies that the board conducts.

Motion Action: N/A

Member Bettie Reeves- Nobles requested that we send out further correspondence after the study is completed to see if the studies are producing any results. The Chairman talked about how some localities use it to the fullest extent but others choose to brush it off and not take those recommendations. Bettie talked about the money we expend to do these studies and she believed that we should require the locality to give us feedback.

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ADJOURNMENT

Committee had a motion to adjourn by David Hankley motion properly seconded by James Calvert, the committee adjourned at 2:30pm

Clerk of the Committee

Travis Rickman

REVIEWED BY: