County of Shenandoah

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DISTRICT 1 - DICK NEESE 540.740.3414
DISTRICT 2 - STEVE BAKER 540.477.3550
DISTRICT 3 - RICHARD WALKER 540.459.3149
DISTRICT 4 - CINDY BAILEY 540.481.0471
DISTRICT 5 - MARSHA SHRUNTZ 540.333.1042
DISTRICT 6 - CONRAD HELSLEY 540.481.6167

600 N. Main Street, Ste 102
WOODSTOCK, VA 22664

Tel: 540.459.6165 Fax: 540.459.6168
www.shenandoahcountyva.us

OFFICE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

MARY T. PRICE
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

EVAN L. VASS
ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Shenandoah County
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION AGENDA
January 5, 2017
4:00pm
BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM
County Government Center
600 North Main Street, Woodstock, Virginia

WORKSESSION TOPIC(S)

1. Discussion regarding a request from the Conicville Volunteer Fire Department for emergency staffing.

2. Discussion regarding a request from the Shenandoah County Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association regarding FF I & II Academy training funds.

ADJOURNMENT

SHENANDOAH COUNTY

1

Work Session Agenda

Shenandoah County Administrative Offices
600 N. Main Street, Suite 102 Woodstock, VA 22664
540-459-6165 FAX 540-459-6168
www.shenandoahcountyva.us

Meeting Date: January 5, 2017

Agenda Item: Discussion regarding a request from the Conicville Volunteer Fire Department for emergency staffing.

Requestor: Tim Williams, Fire & Rescue Chief
Mary T. Price, County Administrator

Department: Fire & Rescue
County Administration

Attachments: Correspondence from Conicville Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.
Correspondence from Orkney Springs Fire & Rescue

Staff Summary:

This request was discussed at the December 1, 2016 work session. At that time, it was determined that Shenandoah County career Firefighter/EMT's would meet the request by Conicville utilizing overtime resources. SCFR career staff was placed at the Conicville Volunteer Fire Department on December 7, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. Please see attached news release that was provided to the Board of Supervisors and the media. Also at the December work session SCFR and County Administration were asked to track call data over the approximately 30 days of career staff coverage and report at the January 5, 2017 work session for further discussion by the board.

Also, at the December 1, 2016 work session a letter from Orkney Springs Fire and Rescue was provided. I have copied that correspondence and the letters from Conicville Fire Department.

SHENANDOAH COUNTY

NEWS RELEASE
Office of the County Administrator
600 N. Main Street, Suite 102 Woodstock, VA 22664
540-459-6165 FAX 540-459-6168
www.shenandoahcountyva.us

For Immediate Release
December 7, 2016
Media Contact: Tim Williams, Chief Shenandoah County Department of Fire and Rescue
540-459-6167

Shenandoah County Fire Rescue Department Deploys Emergency Staffing to Conicville Volunteer Fire Department Inc.

Woodstock, VA – Shenandoah County Department of Fire and Rescue will begin staffing the Conicville Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. starting in the evening of Wednesday, December 7, 2016. This action is in response to requests for staffing received from the volunteer membership and leadership of the department in recognition of limited volunteer resources to meet call demand in their assignments. This emergency provision of staff will provide a two person crew on 12 hour shifts between 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. Wednesday through Sunday weekly. The department will utilize existing staff resources, relying on over time compensation the remaining hours will rely on existing volunteer resources.

The action is intended to meet the immediate request and call demand. In the meantime, department leadership and volunteer leadership will work towards a more long term staffing solutions.

Conicville Volunteer Fire Department is located off of Rt. 42 (Senedo Road) between Woodstock and Basye. They are one of eleven volunteer agencies that provide fire and emergency medical services to Shenandoah County residents.

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CONICVILLE VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.

763 CONICVILLE ROAD, MT. JACKSON, VA 22842

November 17, 2016

Mary T. Price
Shenandoah County
County Administrator
600 North Main Street Suite 102
Woodstock, VA 22664

Dear Ms. Price:

Conicville Volunteer Fire Department is requesting immediate emergency staffing, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. We have been requesting staffing since 2011, CVFD is a struggling volunteer department that is trying every mean to recruit and retain volunteers with little success. We are losing volunteers at a faster rate than we can recruit and certify them. With the fast growing demands of training being placed on us by the state, it is hard to maintain qualified personnel. Conicville's facility is ready for immediate staffing with a few minor modifications to mimic our neighboring department, Orkney Springs, to provide an environment suitable for both male and female providers.

Conicville Volunteer Fire Department has been dispatched for numerous significant incidents this year that has caused a loss of life or property. For example, a 911 call initially reported to be difficulty breathing turned into a cardiac arrest after having to wait over 30 minutes for an ambulance to arrive on the scene. The providers found the patient in cardiac arrest and due to the extremely delayed response the patient did not survive. This is one example of why our request cannot be denied again. Attention to this matter needs to become a top priority. Over the past two months Conicville experienced a 70% fail rate. This has caused a strain on the rest of the system, as units from other stations have had to answer our calls as well as the emergences in their own area.

We are constantly told that there is no money in the budget but what price is put on a person's life? It is a hard job to explain to a family why it takes more than 30 minutes to get an ambulance to the scene of a call or to get a fire truck to a fire that could have been suppressed and saved life and property. Our citizens pay the same taxes as all the other areas in the county but receive no guaranteed personnel to protect them. Again we ask what price do you put on your county citizens lives?

Respectfully submitted,

Billy Mumaw Jr., Chief
Conicville Volunteer Fire Department

Jay Ross, President
Conicville Volunteer Fire Department

CONICVILLE VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.

763 CONICVILLE ROAD, MT. JACKSON, VA 22842

November 18, 2016

Mary T. Price
Shenandoah County
County Administrator
600 North Main Street Suite 102
Woodstock, VA 22664

Dear Ms. Price:

Conicville Volunteer Fire Department had a special meeting on November 17, 2016 at 19:00. Supervisor Walker, Supervisor Baker, President Hockman, Chief Williams, and 13 members of CVFD were present at the meeting. After over an hour of discussion of potential solutions, we have exhausted all of our options within our control: therefore, we make this request. Conicville Volunteer Fire Department is requesting emergency staffing of 2 Firefighter/EMTs 5 days a week, Wednesday through Sunday from 18:00-06:00 effective immediately.

The staffing request that is dated November 17, 2016 is still accurately describing our needs for the current budget cycle. After much discussion during the meeting it was determined that the Shenandoah County Department of Fire and Rescue cannot immediately support that request due to lack of personnel. Several options were discussed during the meeting. The updated request will prevent the citizens in our response area from waiting an extended time for emergency services. It will also assist in covering second due response areas that are not staffed with SCFR providers during those time frames. CVFD understands that this request will lead to overtime until additional providers can be hired to support the full staffing request of 24/7/365. While this may be a large expense, it is unacceptable for the citizens in our response area to continue waiting extended amounts of times to receive emergency services.

Your immediate action on this matter is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Billy Mumaw Jr., Chief
Conicville Volunteer Fire Department Inc.

Jay Ross, President
Conicville Volunteer Fire Department Inc.

922 ORKNEY GRADE
PO BOX 374
BASYE, VA 22810

ORKNEY SPRINGS 18 FIRE RESCUE

www.osfr.org
540-856-2990

November 2016

Shenandoah County Board of Supervisors

Dick Neese, Steven Baker, Richard Walker, Cindy Bailey, Marsha Shruntz, Dr. Conrad Helsley

Shenandoah County Administrator Price

Shenandoah County Fire Rescue Chief Paul Williams

Orkney Springs Fire and Rescue Inc. in the south western corner of Shenandoah County, responds to roughly 62 square miles of Resorts, Wildland Urban Interface Communities, Timberland, and Farmland, with a population around 7000 -10000 persons, dependent upon the seasons. We have a moderate but shrinking membership that answers above 400 calls per year. Orkney Springs houses the Southern Swift Water Rescue Cache, Technical Rope Rescue, ATV Cache, 2) EMS transports, Engine, and Tanker response units. We have an active Inspection and Preplan System as well as Fire and EMS Prevention Program that has kept our call volume at bay for the last 5 years. Keeping in mind that we have been utilizing Shenandoah County Career Staff in these programs due to Volunteers not having the time to commit because there is no local business infrastructure. (Volunteers must travel for work)

Orkney Springs has not come before the Board asking for anything other than assistance in 24/7 help to answer calls in our first due in accordance with the County Agreement signed into action In June 2006 by Orkney Springs Fire and Rescue Chief Miller and President Moomaw, Shenandoah County Fire Rescue Chief Yew, Shenandoah County Administrator Poling, and Shenandoah County Board Chairperson Morris respectfully. Orkney Springs has followed this legally binding agreement between the county and the agency to the letter. Orkney Springs has exhausted its membership resources to comply with Section V. C. 1, of the agreement and has implemented Section V. C. 2, with Shenandoah County Fire Rescue, County Administration, Conicville Fire Department, and Supervisors Neese and Baker, in July 2015. This in no way was direct assistance from the Board of Supervisors but a collaboration through the county agreement to get calls answered in the Western corridor of Shenandoah County.

For the last 5 years Orkney Springs Fire and Rescue has come to the Board of Supervisors asking for 24/7 help. For the last 5 years we have been denied by you The Board. The only assistance given to us was 10 hour daylight persons every other week sharing with Conicville Fire Department in 2013-2015 per the agreement, then last year in June Woodstock Rescue Squad hired their own staff which freed up 2 extra SCFR staff. At this point we entered into meetings with SCFR, CVFD, Administration, and Supervisor Neese and Baker respectfully within their territories. An agreement was met to house 24/5 the SCFR career staff at OSFR to respond to all calls in CVFD and OSFR first dues and surrounding agencies as needed. Understanding that this is just a temporary fix to the issues we have, OSFR has continued to asked for 24/7 assistance.

OSFR is in the understanding that Board of Directors are in talks again with Conicville Fire Department currently to solve their response issues. OSFR feels we should be in these talks due to the fact we have yet to date received 24/7 assistance and can prove that Conicville has their own needs that need to be addressed separately by the County Board of Supervisors. At this time OSFR is requesting to complete our 24/7 staffing with 2 more personnel and give assistance to Conicville with staffing as their leadership sees fit with Chief Williams. There are only so many ways to ask for the same assistance needed for the last 5 years. You as Supervisors are not the faces the public sees on the street running fire and rescue and don't have to live with the ridicule and repercussions of the loss of love ones and property where they live.

Orkney Springs Fire and Rescue CO18

SHENANDOAH COUNTY

2

Work Session Agenda

Shenandoah County Administrative Offices
600 N. Main Street, Suite 102 Woodstock, VA 22664
540-459-6165 FAX 540-459-6168
www.shenandoahcountyva.us

Meeting Date: January 5, 2017

Agenda Item: Discussion regarding a request from the Shenandoah County Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association regarding FF I & II Academy training funds.

Requestor: Mary T. Price, County Administrator

Department: Fire & Rescue
County Administration

Attachments: Correspondence from Shenandoah County Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association

Staff Summary:

Chief Williams informed the volunteer association at their meeting in November about the planned cancellation of the Firefighter I and Firefighter II academy for winter/spring 2017. The academy typically runs for approximately 6 months beginning in January. The discussions related to this decision actually go back under former Chief Gary Yew. Following the adoption of the FY 2017 budget which included additional funding cuts to the department's overtime allocation we looked at areas where overtime could be reduced without adversely impacting service delivery. The FFI and FFII academy relies heavily on instruction performed by career staff which in turn results in overtime pay; therefore, this year we opted to forgo the academy. Attached is a correspondence from Richard Hockman, President of the Shenandoah County Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association, requesting the funds be restored to conduct the FF I and FF II academy in 2017.

RECEIVED DEC 2 7 2016

SHENANDOAH COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE ASSOCIATION

DATE: December 23rd, 2016

TO: County Administrator Mary Beth Price
Board of Supervisor (Co-Chairman) Conrad Helsley
Board of Supervisor (Co-Chairman) Rich Walker
Board of Supervisor Dick Neese
Board of Supervisor Steve Baker
Board of Supervisor Cindy Bailey
Board of Supervisor Marsha Shruntz
Fire Chief Tim Williams

FROM: Shenandoah County Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association

SUBJECT: Restoring Firefighter I & II Funds

The Shenandoah County Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association held its' monthly meeting on December 19th, 2016. One major topic for discussion was training. Training is one of the major elements utilized by fire departments to prepare its members to become firefighters. Training is also the essential element to saving lives, both firefighters as well as citizens. It is imperative for Recruitment and Retention. It draws the recruits in and retains them for years to come. It gives the members a sense of accomplishment, goals of moving up in the ranks, and a pride for a job well done. Everything mentioned revolves around the basics which is Firefighter I & II.

The need for Firefighter I & II classes is priceless. Every successful organization is built on a strong foundation. Training is our "foundation".

The Association membership presented a motion to send a letter to you requesting you consider restoring the funds as soon as possible so we can conduct the Firefighter I & II courses in 2017. The motion was seconded and passed. The vote was eight (8) to zero (0) in favor of support.

We, the Association, understand the struggles that county administration has in dealing with the annual budget. We also understand the best and only way to provide a quality product to the citizens of Shenandoah County is to provide properly trained certified personnel to do the job.

We, the Association have already begun to map out a strategic plan for 2018 and beyond regarding Firefighter I & II and all other training needs revolving around Fire & Rescue personnel. We are working on the basic idea of making Shenandoah County Fire & Rescue and all organizations involved self sufficient with minimal support from County Administration.

We thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Richard Hockman
President
S.C.V.F.R.A.