

Minutes (Draft)
Harris County Council of Fire Chiefs
Meeting held June 4, 2020
(held in Hamilton fire station)

In Attendance

Fire Departments

Antioch – Richard McKinney
Cataula – Bill Czukur
Ellerslie – Skip Wyatt
Hamilton – Ben Hood
Hopewell – Roger Duke
Northwest Harris – Curt Pechloff

Pine Mountain – Andy Kober
Pine Mountain Valley – Jack McClung
Shiloh – none
Waverly Hall – Alex Lawski
West Point – Mitt Smith

Visitors

Kelly Pechloff – NWH FD
Heidi Pechloff – NWH FD
Thomas Scott – Pine Mountain FD

Bobby Hood – Antioch FD
Adrian Schubert – Ellerslie FD

Called to order at 1933 hours

- 3) Minutes - Minutes from May 2020 meeting unanimously approved. Duke motion, Pechloff second.
- 4) Treasurer's Report – Duke reported on deposit made of about \$2,000 plus bill that needs to be paid. Reported on continuing problems with Wells Fargo Bank. McClung to go by bank with minutes recording Duke as Treasurer of organization. Recommendation still on table to switch account to First Peoples once account made accessible. Recorded balance of \$18,199.91 at beginning of June.
- 5) A) Training
Scott reported representative of MES to service SCBA system next week.
Schubert reported on scheduling extrication class with school bus soon.
McKinney reported on scheduling Instructor II class at Antioch FD.
C. Pechloff reported on continuing Support Firefighter class being conducted at Northwest Harris FD. Looking forward to volunteer fire suppression class.
McClung reported EMTB class to resume June 16.
- B) Training Center – no report
- C) Communications
Czukur to order radio to replace unit used by Tango Tango. Advised departments with additions to add to Tango Tango to send to him via email with individual's name, department, and phone number.

D) WFO II

Czukor said on schedule for last Saturday in September. Same route and same start time.

E) Fire Service Plan

McClung not notified about county budget workshops

6) McClung requested expenditure of county equipment funds for PMV FD totaling \$7,895.48 for miscellaneous equipment. Unanimous approval with understanding that PMV FD refunds any overage to county. Motion by Lawski, second by Kober.

7) McKinney expressed concern with 911 Center over delays in dispatching. Noted recent incident that involved delay of 34 minutes on structure fire. Wyatt reported on similar issues. Czukor reported on incident with over an hour delay.

McKinney noted recent fire on Plantation Creek Road that was grease fire in kitchen. Said Antioch was not dispatched based on deputy investigating.

McKinney cited alarm call at old Mountain Hill school building and Antioch was not dispatched. Deputy said false alarm without entering building.

After discussion on these issues, including who will absorb liability when deputies cancel dispatch of fire departments, Kober recommended obtaining CAD reports from 911, then have meeting with Monty Davis and Mike Cardwell of 911 along with commissioners in worksession. McClung to follow up on this.

McKinney questioned current contract between county and not-for-profit corporations that operate fire departments in the unincorporated areas of the county. The last he was able to locate was dated 1998. McClung said there has been at least one since he became Chair of Council of Fire Chiefs.

Kober reported on idea conceived by Czukor to develop and email questionnaire to departments in effort to develop list of apparatus and equipment most likely to be needed for mutual aid at fire scenes and other emergencies. Information to be collated then distributed to fire departments, 911 Center and elsewhere as needed. Idea approved by consensus.

Round Robin

Antioch – Ladder truck failed inspection and out of service. Repairs underway.

Cataula – Noted involvement of multiple departments in pump service and testing.

Ellerslie – Reported on possibly obtaining used and out-of-service hose coupling machine from Columbus Fire Department. Advised there could be liability insurance concerns.

Hamilton – Reported on issue with radio.

Hopewell – no report

Northwest Harris – Engine 802 failed pump test due to pressure relief valve. Repairs have been made.

Pine Mountain – Noted recent cooperative training with firefighters from Pine Mountain Valley FD.

Pine Mountain Valley – Status of Fire Up the Valley BBQ unknown.

Waverly Hall – no report