

Chester County Rural Fire Commission

598 Saluda Street

Chester, SC 29706

February 23, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman Bobby Jones and opened in prayer by Bobby Jones.

Commission Members Present: Martin, Jones, Beard, Weir

Departments Present: Rossville, Chester, Hazmat

Special Guests: Brian Beer, Don Wood, Roy Clement

Weir motioned to approve the agenda, Mayhugh seconded; motion passes

Weir motioned to approve the January meeting minutes, Mayhugh seconded, passes.

Beth Hunter gave the Fire Coordinators Report.

Old Business

No Old Business

New Business

- Hazmat Team – Beth advised the Commission on the current situation with the Hazmat Team. Roy Clement advised Commission that when the County was accepting applications for projects for the 1 cent sales tax, Hazmat submitted an application for a new building. The application was denied, Roy said Carlisle took out Hazmat's application because Hazmat was not a County agency. Hazmat has spent \$39,000 for dirt and site preparation on land that is leased to Chester County for their new building. They have \$30,000 in funds available for the building project and are hoping to get funds from the 1 cent sales tax to complete the project. Hazmat was supposed to be placed under Rural Fire's budget but was never made official by County Council according to Roy. Roy told Commission that the Hazmat team responds to all hazardous material call in the County and inside the City of Chester. The team was formed because County couldn't afford to buy each department the necessary equipment needed and

decided to form a single team. There was open discussion among the Commission after Roy spoke. Don Wood spoke on behalf of the Hazmat Team and the City of Chester Fire Department because the City depends on the Team for hazardous materials response in their district. Don explained that Hazmat was separate when initially formed but was brought under Rural Fire for workman's compensation, training and liability insurance that they did not have under Emergency Management. Don recommended that if Rural Fire supports the Hazmat team, a presentation needs to be developed and presented to the County Council showing the need and benefits of having the Hazmat Team in the County. Don also recommended that Roy not to go to Council at the March 3rd meeting but instead wait until a presentation can be developed and go before Council as Commission as a group. **Martin motions that Rural Fire support the Hazmat Team being placed under Rural Fire and supported by the County, Weir seconds; motion passes.**

Weir motions that Beth contact Carolyn and request to be on the agenda for the March 6th Council meeting to discuss the Rural Fire and Hazmat Team's concerns and postpone Roy's March 3rd request, Mayhugh seconds; motion passes.

Weir motioned to adjourn meeting, Mayhugh seconds; motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 6:41 pm.