

FRUITLAND PARK FIRE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
January 17, 2017

A meeting of the Fruitland Park Fire Services Advisory Committee was held at 506 W. Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: James P. Logan, representing District (Group) 5, Chair
Sydney “Dale” Arrowsmith, representing District (Group) 3
Edgar J. “Jerry” Elton, representing District (Group) 4
William “Bill” K. Galbreath, business owner representative, and
Gary Towne, representing District (Group) 1, and

Members Absent: Messrs. Edward R. Cihoski, Sr., representing District (Group) 2, Vice Chair
Steven “Steve” Whitaker, fire chief representative

Also Present: Mayor Chris Cheshire, Commissioners Chris Bell, Ray Lewis, Rick Ranize;
City Manager Gary La Venia, City Treasurer Jeannine Michaud-Racine;
Interim Fire Chief Don Gilpin; Deputy Fire Chief Tim Yoder, Firefighters
Chris Lewis, Madison Leary, Andrew Hall, and Sean Parker, Fire
Department, and City Clerk Esther B. Coulson.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Logan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2. ROLL CALL

Ms. Coulson called the roll and a quorum was declared present.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After discussion and **on motion of Mr. Elton, seconded by Mr. Galbreath and unanimously carried, the committee approved the January 11, 2017 minutes as corrected.**

4. PRESENTATION

At Chair Logan’s request, Mr. La Venia introduced Mr. Jerry Smith, Lake Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Inc., highlighted his extensive background and experience, and gave a power-point presentation on Lake EMS’ administrative overview for the City of Fruitland Park; a copy of which is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

Mr. Smith mentioned the issues regarding the consultant who was not retained to study the merger of Lake EMS and of Lake County Fire Rescue which could be added and noted the purpose to evaluate Lake EMS’ system and what could be implemented in the rural area. He explained that Lake EMS is considering what the consultant would be recommending for countywide full implementation on the priority of dispatching which will require work

on Lake EMS automatic aid agreements. Mr. Smith referred to a previous study conducted with local governments on the number of conflicting documents in providing dispatch services which Lake EMS is working on as well as the purchase of equipment, its crews and additional staffing, the need for system-wide emergency patient care writing report, and the replacement of the computer aided dispatch system.

5. COMMITTEE MEMBER QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Later in the meeting, and on behalf of the committee, Chair Logan thanked Mr. Smith for his presentation.

6. STAFF COMMENTS

In response to a question posed by Mr. La Venia on funding for the new 800 MHz radio system for law enforcement and fire, Mr. Smith relayed his conversation with the county's budget division on the issue with the approximate amount of \$9 million from infrastructure sales tax to the county sheriff's office and the public safety department and conveyed his plan with the countywide radio program explaining why he intends to wait until 2020 to purchase same.

After Mr. La Venia responded that it would behoove the city if it waits until 2020 and that he would anticipate the county taking the municipalities into account if it takes the lead to reduce costs, Mr. Smith addressed his preference to be involved in such discussion.

Mr. Smith confirmed in the affirmative to Mr. La Venia's inquiries that Lake EMS' union were decertified and that the city's EMS service would not be impacted if it does not execute the interlocal service boundary agreement.

With reference to Lake EMS' (Operational Analysis of Emergency Medical and Fire Services Deployment and Response System) study; Mr. Smith gave reasons why he recommended postponing the consultant appearing before Lake EMS Board until a later date and confirmed that the study's scope has not changed.

After Mr. La Venia addressed the possible concerns on the outcome having a negative impact to the city and believed said study ought to be reviewed as impartial with services rendered to all communities in Lake County, Mr. Smith reviewed said study.

On behalf of the committee, Mr. La Venia expressed appreciation to Mr. Smith for his work and for appearing at this evening's meeting and assured him that space will be available for Lake EMS when the city designs its public safety building.

In response, Mr. Smith outlined Lake EMS' favorable relationship with the city and the preferred consistency with the level of service provided from dispatch across the municipalities.

In answering a question posed by Mr. La Venia, Mr. Smith dispelled rumors of the county placing a cost on the service the city is currently receiving to supplement dispatch services. Mr. Smith outlined the costs levied by EMS, fire and police; addressed the county's

ownership and Lake EMS' control, and noted the study highlighting the cost value of dispatch and what they are implementing.

7. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business before the committee at this time.

8. FUTURE MEETING DATES

Mr. La Venia indicated that the county will be giving a presentation at the January 24, 2017 meeting and anticipated that committee decisions would be made at subsequent meetings.

After discussion and **on motion of Mr. Elton, seconded by Mr. Arrowsmith and unanimously carried, the committee approved Mr. Steve Whitaker's request to excuse his absence as he will not be attending the meeting on January 17, 2017.**

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

10. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to come before the committee.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the city commission at this time, on motion made, second and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

The minutes were approved at the January 24, 2017 meeting.

Signed 

Esther B. Coulson, City Clerk

Signed 

James P Logan, Chair