

PERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEMBERS PRESENT

MAY 2, 2022
OTHERS PRESENT

Gordon Powell
C. Derrick Sims
Kyle W. Puryear
Charlie Palmer
Patricia Gentry

Heidi York, County Manager
Brenda B. Reaves, Clerk to the Board
S. Ellis Hankins, County Attorney

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Person, North Carolina, met in regular session on Monday, May 2, 2022 at 7:00pm in the commissioners' boardroom in the Person County Office Building.

Chairman Powell called the meeting to order. Vice Chairman Sims offered an invocation and Commissioner Gentry led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT/APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

A **motion** was made by Vice Chairman Sims and **carried 5-0** to approve the agenda.

PUBLIC HEARING:

REQUEST TO ADD FAST ROCK ROAD TO THE DATABASE OF ROADWAY NAMES USED FOR E-911 DISPATCHING:

A **motion** was made by Vice Chairman Sims and **carried 5-0** to open the duly advertised public hearing for a request to add Fast Rock Road to the database of roadway names used for E-911 dispatching.

GIS Manager Sallie Vaughn stated Tax Map/Parcel A97 7, which is accessed via shared private easement, was recently purchased with plans for a home. Ms. Vaughn noted there are two residences currently and the addition of a new residence necessitates the naming of the driveway. In accordance with Article IV, Section 402 H of the "Ordinance Regulating Addresses and Road Naming in Person County," any driveway serving three or more addressable structures must be named. Naming this road now will prevent future residents from having to change their addresses as more lots are developed.

Ms. Vaughn stated all seven adjacent property owners were contacted in person and via certified mail. Of those seven, only three residents will be affected with address changes. The required two-thirds majority was reached and Fast Rock Road was provided as their roadway name of choice, which was compliant with all naming regulations in the Ordinance.

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North Carolina General Statute 153A-239.1(A) requires a public hearing be held on the matter and public notice be provided at least ten days prior in the newspaper. The required public notice was published in the April 22, 2022 edition of the Roxboro Courier-Times. A sign advertising the public hearing was placed at the proposed roadway location on the same date.

Ms. Vaughn requested the Board to approve the recommended roadway name, Fast Rock Road, to be added to the database of roadway names used for E-911 dispatching.

Commissioner Gentry asked Ms. Vaughn who was responsible for the private easement maintenance to which Ms. Vaughn stated it was dependent upon how it was written in the deeds. Ms. Vaughn noted she had reviewed the deeds some time ago however could not remember how it was written for maintenance.

There were no individuals appearing before the Board to speak in favor of nor in opposition to the request to add Fast Rock Road to the database of roadway names used for E-911 dispatching.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Puryear and **carried 5-0** to close the public hearing for a request to add Fast Rock Road to the database of roadway names used for E-911 dispatching.

CONSIDERATION TO GRANT OR DENY REQUEST TO ADD FAST ROCK ROAD TO THE DATABASE OF ROADWAY NAMES USED FOR E-911 DISPATCHING:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Gentry and **carried 5-0** to grant the request to add Fast Rock Road to the database of roadway names used for E-911 dispatching.

INFORMAL COMMENTS:

Chairman Powell said the law requires boards of commissioners to provide a public comment period every month at a regular scheduled meeting about county issues and matters of public concern. Chairman Powell said it was important for the commissioners to hear the comments of interested citizens, in fact, the Board thinks it is so important, that the Board has a public comment period at both of its regular scheduled meetings each month. He reiterated that the purpose of the public comment period was for citizens to address county issues and matters of public concern, not a question/answer back and forth, although the county manager or a commissioner can follow up after the meeting. Chairman Powell said one of his responsibilities as Chairman was to maintain order and decorum. He asked everyone, including citizens and commissioners to keep comments focused on county issues and relating to a matter of public concern. If there are comments about people's personal lives or anything other than county government matters, Chairman Powell said he would rule out of order.

The following individuals appeared before the Board to make informal comments:

Mr. John Seepe of 277 Barefoot Landing Lane, Semora addressed the Board on his previous public comments and questions related to the status of the shell building and to Peg Carlson's visit noting he received answers to his questions however, the public was not informed nor should citizens have to threaten the Board with a public records request to get answers. Mr. Seepe commented on an unapproved, non-permitted, not inspected nor zoned RV park containing seven pads for trailers, electrical hook-ups and connected sewage to a tank that was set up as a LLC by two sheriff deputies, Jason and Jimmie Wilborn, and by association the County Economic Development Director. He said he spoke with zoning, planning and environmental health, and as of this date, everything was restored to compliance noting electric and trailers were removed from the property. Mr. Seepe said the Berryhills have been working over eight months to properly build out and properly zone, permit, and have inspected a place for RV's in the county. Mr. Seepe stated taxpayers are missing out on funds by this infraction. He asked Chairman Powell if permits are applied for, that the permitting would be done without any shortcuts and that the county employees are kept to county standards.

Mr. Jimmie Whitfield of 699 Charlie Reade Road, Timberlake yielded his time allotment to Mr. Seepe.

Ms. Cynthia Lynch of 395 Union Grove Church Road, Hurdle Mills spoke about the proposed fire district tax request and questioned the statistics included in the packet related to the oddity that the age spans were different illustrating 4 years, 12 years, 15 years, and one spanning 22 years. By her comparison, the age group 19-45 years was 50% of the group represented. Ms. Lynch said when you start paying people for doing what volunteers do, the volunteers will start to drop off.

Ms. Kathy Lawrence of 1034 Terry Road, Hurdle Mills, yielded her time allotment to Mr. Seepe.

Mr. Kenneth Lawrence of 1034 Terry Road, Hurdle Mills forfeited his time allotment with no comments.

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT/APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Gentry and **carried 5-0** to approve the Consent Agenda with the following item:

- A. NC Education Lottery Application for South Elementary School contracted painting for \$95,000

Commissioner Gentry asked to pull item B, Budget Amendment #18, for further clarification. County Manager, Heidi York stated she would bring it back to the Board once she received more information.

NEW BUSINESS:

GREAT GRANT PARTNERSHIPS – ZITEL AND CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS:

Assistant County Manager, Katherine Cathey reminded the Board of the Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) Grant, which is a competitive grant program that provides funding to private sector broadband providers to deploy last-mile broadband infrastructure to unserved areas of North Carolina. The current 2021-2022 funding round may award up to \$350M in federal ARP funding, up to \$4M per application. Ms. Cathey stated following the Board's meeting and action on March 21, 2022, the state extended the GREAT Grant application deadline to May 4, 2022.

Ms. Cathey said the Board, at its March 21, 2022 meeting, approved an MOU with Brightspeed in support of its GREAT Grant application for \$4M. If Brightspeed is awarded the project by the state, Person County has committed \$1.25 million of the county's \$7.67 million American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding to partner with Brightspeed on deploying fiber-to-the-home service to approximately 2,600 locations through installation of just over 118 miles of fiber with a project value of \$8.37M. She added that the Board provided letters of support for Brightspeed's GREAT Grant application as well as Charter's application. Charter proposes to serve 500 locations with 97 miles of fiber. The Board did not commit financial support for Charter's application in March but voted to reserve an additional \$250,000 of the county's ARP funding for future broadband expansion.

Ms. Cathey told the Board that the presentation on this date will summarize another broadband infrastructure expansion proposal received from Zitel and revisits possible financial support for Charter's proposal noting county support helps each private sector broadband provider score higher with the state scoring criteria. Ms. Cathey introduced Mr. Rodney Gray, COO, with Zitel, and Mr. Justin DeLancey, Senior Manager, Government Affairs, with Charter to share the information with the Board through the following presentation.

May 2, 2022

GREAT Grant Partnerships – ZiTEL and Charter

MAY 2, 2022

Background

- Person County has \$7,670,470 in ARP funds.
- On March 21, the Board of Commissioners:
 - Approved an MOU with Brightspeed in support of its GREAT Grant application and committed \$1.25 million of the county's ARP funds to the proposed project.
 - Provided a letter of support but did not commit financial support for Charter's application.
 - Voted to reserve an additional \$250,000 of the county's ARP funding for future broadband expansion.

Background

- GREAT Grant application deadline was extended to May 4.
- Person County received a third proposal from ZITEL.
 - ZITEL proposes to exchange and/or lease some county-owned fiber to lower the total project cost.
- A single grant award shall not exceed \$4 million. No combination of grant awards involving any single county may exceed \$8 million in a fiscal year.
- An applicant may receive additional points for a proposed partnership where the county's financial match is comprised entirely from federal ARP funds intended for broadband infrastructure.

Charter Communications

(SPECTRUM)

Charter

- The Board of Commissioners supports Charter's proposal to build 97 miles of fiber and reach approximately 500 unserved locations.
- The project will position Charter within easier reach of an additional 734 underserved locations.
- Request from Charter to reconsider a county commitment of \$250,000 in ARP funds to help improve the score of the GREAT grant application.
- Making a financial contribution will ensure that Person County has the strongest representation possible in this round of GREAT Grant funding.

Charter	Option 1
Premises Reached	500
Fiber (miles)	97.0
Total Project Cost	\$4.7M
GREAT Grant Request	\$2.6M
Requested from County	\$250,000

ZiTEL



The slide features a blue background with a circuit-like pattern on the left. At the top center, there are two logos: the Person County Government seal on the left and the ZiTEL logo on the right. The ZiTEL logo includes a Wi-Fi symbol above the text 'ZiTEL' and the tagline 'WHERE COUNTRY ROADS AND FIBER MEET' below it. Below the logos, the title 'ZiTEL PARTNERSHIPS' is displayed in white. Underneath the title, there are two paragraphs of text in white, describing the company's focus on rural broadband and its partnerships with counties.


 

ZiTEL PARTNERSHIPS

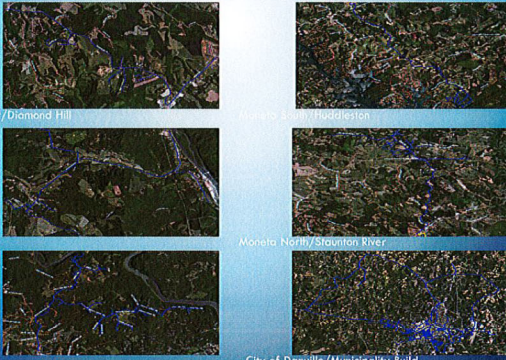
WE PRIDE OURSELVES ON BEING A REGIONAL COMPANY IN THE COMMONWEALTH WHOSE FOCUS IS ON RURAL BROADBAND AND GREATLY LOOK FORWARD TO EXPANDING INTO THE GREAT STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA. AS A LOCALLY OWNED PROVIDER WE ARE ABLE TO WORK WITH COUNTIES AS A FULL PARTNER. WE CAN DO THINGS OUR COMPETITORS CAN NOT, LIKE OFFERING DARK FIBER USAGE FOR FREE, UTILIZING VOLUNTEER F.D. AND EMS FACILITIES AS POP (POINT OF PRECISE) IN EXCHANGE FOR A LIFETIME OF FREE INTERNET SERVICE.

WE FOCUS ON BRINGING SERVICE TO RURAL AREAS, BASICALLY WE BUILD FIBER WHERE OTHER COMPANIES WON'T.

ZITEL'S KEYS TO SUCCESS



- We keep our overhead low
 - We are not top heavy in management, like larger corporations and legacy Telephone Companies.
 - We own our own outside plant construction company.
- We do things differently than our competitors
 - We design our processes and customer relations on the way we would want to be treated by our own providers.
 - We can be flexible to our customers and to our local government partners.
- We have over 20 years of IT and Network Security experience



Moneta East/Diamond Hill

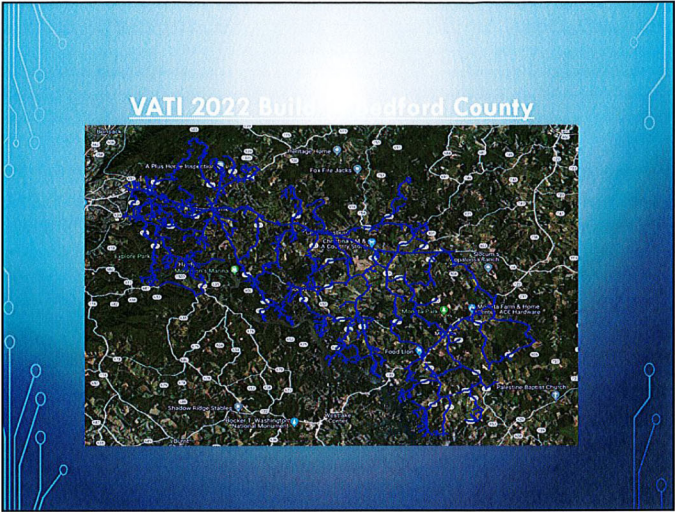
Moneta South/Poodareston

Big Island

Moneta North/Staunton River

Boonsboro

City of Danville/Municipality Build



Current Pricing and Service Structure	
Residential Essentials 100 49.99 / Month Up To 100 Mbs Download Up To 20 Mbs Upload	Business Essentials 100 89.99 / Month Up To 100 Mbs Download Up To 20 Mbs Upload
Residential Deluxe 300 \$64.99/ Month Up To 300Mbs Download Up To 60Mbs Upload	Business Ultimate 500 \$159.99/ Month Up To 500Mbs Download Up To 100Mbs Upload
Residential Extreme 1000 \$89.99 / Month Up To 1Gbs Download Up To 200Mbs Upload	Business Extreme 1000 \$279.99 / Month Up To 1Gbs Download Up To 400Mbs Upload
• Enterprise Rates Vary based on Construction, but approximately fall at \$1.00 per Meg-a-bit	
Free Basic Installation Free ONT (modem) usage \$10.99 per month Equipment Fee – Wi-Fi Router \$12.99 per month Equipment Fee – Wi-Fi Extender \$149.99 – Enhanced Installation	


Future Pricing and Service Structure	
Residential Essentials 100 54.99 / Month Up To 100 Mbs Download Up To <u>100 Mbs Upload</u>	Business Essentials 100 98.99 / Month Up To 100 Mbs Download Up To <u>100 Mbs Upload</u>
Residential Deluxe 300 \$69.99/ Month Up To 300Mbs Download Up To <u>300Mbs Upload</u>	Business Ultimate 500 \$169.99/ Month Up To 500Mbs Download Up To <u>500Mbs Upload</u>
Residential Extreme 1000 \$98.99 / Month Up To 1Gbs Download Up To <u>1Gbs Upload</u>	Business Extreme 1000 \$299.99 / Month Up To 1Gbs Download Up To <u>1Gbs Upload</u>
• Enterprise Rates Vary based on Construction, but approximately fall at \$1.00 per Meg-a-bit	
Free Basic Installation Free ONT (modem) usage \$10.99 per month Equipment Fee – Wi-Fi Router \$12.99 per month Equipment Fee – Wi-Fi Extender \$149.99 – Enhanced Installation	

New Offer Coming Soon

Residential Basic 50
29.99 / Month
Up To 50 Mbs Download
Up To 10 Mbs Upload

Double the FCC Definition of Broadband

This Plan is only available to those that qualify for the ACP (affordable Connectivity Program) for low income families and will be a completely free internet package.

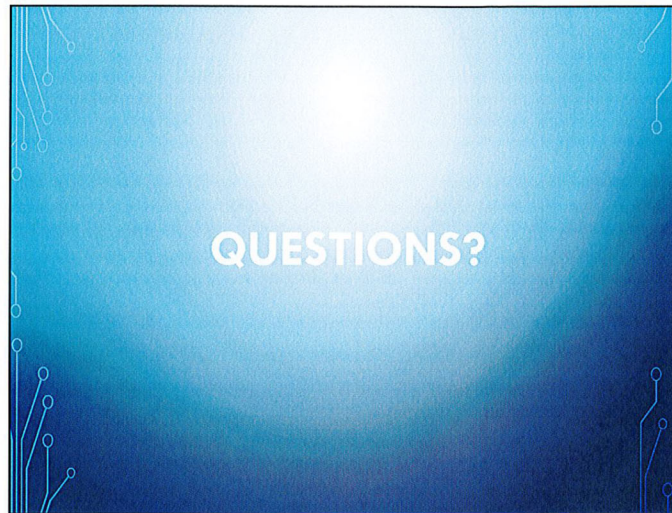


WHERE COUNTRY ROADS AND FIBER MEET

ZiTEL

We understand the issues of building in the rural areas of Virginia and North Carolina.

- 1000' drop included for free.
- \$1 per foot cost above the 1000' mark.
- Flexibility on that cost to work with our customers.
 - Enter into a contract term - receive a 25% discount on the drop cost
 - Will divide that cost monthly over the length of the term with NOTHING due at the time of install



Proposed Projects			
Details	Brightspeed	Charter	ZiTEL (Option 1)
Unserved Locations Reached	2,602	500	2,831
Fiber (miles)	118.8	97.0	105.5
Person County ARP Funding	\$1,250,000	\$250,000	\$1,250,000
Cost per Location (Person County)	\$480	\$500	\$442
GREAT Grant Funding	\$4,000,000	\$2,600,000	\$2,714,580
Total Project Cost	\$8,370,000	\$4,700,000	\$5,429,161

Future Projects

- The **Completing Access to Broadband (CAB) Grant** program will provide an opportunity for counties to partner with NCDIT to fund broadband deployment projects in unserved areas.
- Brightspeed, Charter and Zitel have expressed an interest in continuing to partner with Person County to expand broadband infrastructure through this program.
- The Board of Commissioners may want to designate additional ARP funds to hold in reserve for future broadband infrastructure projects.

Decision Points

1. Determine level of support for Zitel's application.
2. Reevaluate financial support for Charter's application.
3. Designate additional ARP funds for broadband expansion.
4. Approve the attached resolution.

Mr. Gray summarized ZiTTEL's proposal to reach up to 5,598 homes and businesses by installing 105.5 miles of fiber. Mr. Gray proposed an application of \$2.7M with up to a \$1.25M commitment from the county for a project total of \$5.4M offering quicker, lower cost access to broadband. Mr. Gray stated ZiTTEL's business model is to do business differently than other providers using better customer service and affordability. In addition, ZiTTEL desires to partner with Person County and is negotiating to utilize some of the county-owned dark fiber as well.

Ms. Cathey noted all three providers, Brightspeed, Charter and ZiTTEL have expressed interest in continuing to work with Person County to expand broadband infrastructure along with the NC Department of Information Technology (NCDIT) through the new Completing Access to Broadband (CAB) Grant program. This new program will be available later this year after the GREAT Grant application period closes and provides an opportunity for counties to partner to fund broadband deployment project in unserved areas of each county.

Ms. Cathey said it would be to the county's benefit to support all three applications. She noted a \$2.75M commitment of the county's ARP funding for this purpose covers all proposals by the private sector broadband providers. She added the Board will have flexibility with any funding that is not committed in this first round of the GREAT Grant program; any unused funds of the \$2.75M would then be considered for the CAB Grant program and/or other county proposed projects as deemed appropriate by the Board.

Commissioner Gentry stated the need for broadband access will be a continual need and the risk of committing the ARP funding for this purpose is minimal for the return on investment.

A **motion** was made by Vice Chairman Sims and **carried 5-0** to support Brightspeed, Charter Communications (Spectrum), and ZiTTEL and to designate \$2.75M in ARP funds for broadband expansion and approve the resolution as presented.



RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PARTNERSHIPS WITH PRIVATE SECTOR BROADBAND PROVIDERS IN THE NORTH CAROLINA GROWING RURAL ECONOMIES WITH ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY ("GREAT") GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Person County has been made aware of the opportunity to partner with private sector broadband providers in the North Carolina Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology ("GREAT") Grant program; and

WHEREAS, the GREAT Grant is a competitive grant program that provides funding to providers to deploy last-mile broadband infrastructure to unserved areas of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, funding is available for up to \$4 million for a single grant award and up to \$8 million in a fiscal year for any single county; and

WHEREAS, an applicant may receive additional points for a proposed partnership where the county's financial match is comprised entirely from federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds intended for broadband infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the following private sector broadband providers desire to partner with Person County:

- Brightspeed,
- Charter Communications (Spectrum), and
- Zitel; and

WHEREAS, the providers listed above request a financial match from Person County should the grant application be successful; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Person County Board of Commissioners that:

1. The board chairman is authorized to sign a letter of support for the GREAT Grant applications of the providers identified in this resolution.
2. Person County will provide NC GREAT Grant matching funds in an amount not to exceed \$2.75 million from the county's ARP funds for the provider(s) selected by the State of North Carolina for the grant award.

RESOLVED this 2nd day of May, 2022.




Gordon Powell, Chairman

ATTEST:

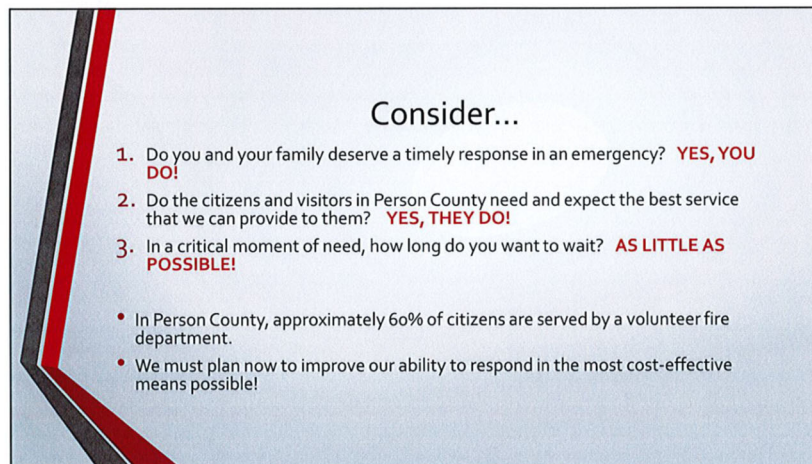
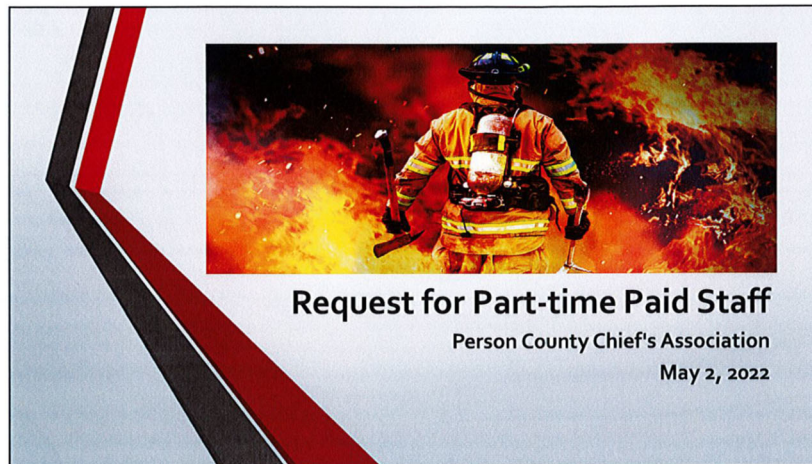

Brenda B. Reaves, Clerk to the Board

May 2, 2022

FY23 FIRE DISTRICT TAX REQUEST:

Fire Marshal, Adam Morris presented a proposal to increase the fire district tax to fund paid part-time firefighters during the day at seven volunteer fire departments and the Person County Rescue Squad. Mr. Morris shared the following presentation to support raising the fire district tax from the current rate of \$.0275 to \$.05 (an increase of \$.0225) to fund the addition of a pool of paid part-time staff.

5/2/2022



1

May 2, 2022

What's Required of a Volunteer?

NC requires that a volunteer firefighter/rescue squad member obtain 36 hours of training per year. That is all! But, in order to obtain a firefighter certification, Emergency Medical Technician certification, or Rescue certification the following hours are required:

- Firefighter – 514 hours (Includes Firefighter, Haz-Mat Awareness, TIMS)
- Basic EMT – 228 hours
- Technical Rescue (all disciplines) – 520 hours

Once certified, you have to maintain continuing education hours every year (number listed below are the minimums):

- Firefighter – 36 hours
- Basic EMT – 24 hours
- Technical Rescue – 36 hours

Objective

- Identify the problem
- Propose a solution
- Explain implementation



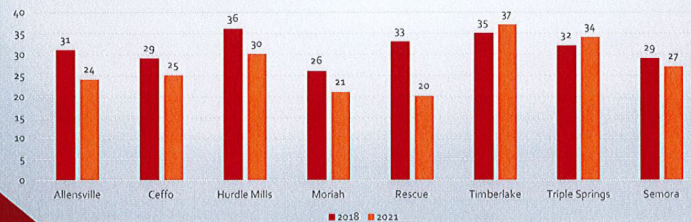
Problem

- The number of emergency calls continues to increase for the volunteer fire departments.
- They are no longer just "fire calls":
 - Medical calls (cardiac/respiratory arrest, diabetic, stroke, overdoses, etc.)
 - Automatic fire alarms/false alarms
 - Citizen complaints/concerns (illegal burning, smoke complaints, malfunction of fire alarms systems, smoke detectors beeping, smell of gas/odor, etc.)
 - Motor vehicle accidents
 - Downed trees in the roadway (high winds, thunderstorms, hurricanes, ice storms)
 - Hazardous materials incidents

Problem (continued)

- An overall decline in volunteer membership in departments + increased training requirements + increased family priorities = fewer people available to respond to emergencies in Person County

Department Members (2018 and 2021)



Current Ages of Volunteers

- As of April 2022, there are a total of 214 volunteers serving Person County. The aging volunteer base is a concern.
- Breakdown of age groups:
 - 15-18 = 15 = 7%
 - 19-30 = 51 = 24%
 - 31-45 = 55 = 26%
 - 46-67 = 75 = 35%
 - 68+ over = 18 = 8%

Age (continued)

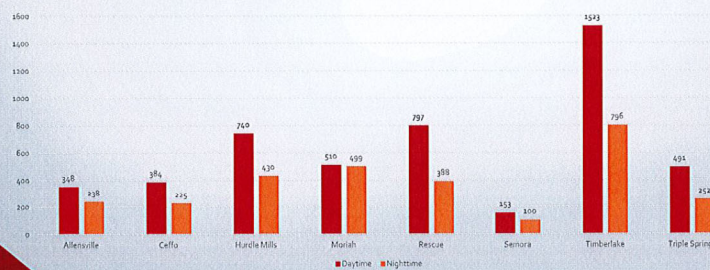
- There are 7 volunteer fire departments and 1 rescue squad in Person County. One of the 7 fire departments, Semora, covers district in Person and Caswell County. Person County Rescue Squad assists with all motor vehicle accidents and rescue calls and responds to structure fires for rehab all across the county.
- Most volunteers are in the age group of 46-67 years old. 15-18 years old is one of the lowest-represented age groups. This is concerning for the future.
- The age groups of 19-30, 31-45, and 46-67 are working class volunteers who make up approximately 80% of the volunteers in this study. Most of them are working typical 8am-5pm, Monday-Friday jobs and are unable to respond to emergency calls during the day.
- The age group of 68+ will have the potential of retiring/dropping out in the next 5 years or less.
- If a member has been with the department in good standing and they have paid into the state's Firefighters' and Rescue Squad Workers' Pension Fund for 20 years, and they are the age of 55, that individual can retire and start drawing their pension each month. We could see more of this happening in the near future, leading to more potential loss of members.
- Adding part-time paid members would increase each department's total number of members. They will be added to the NC State Fireman's Association roster (helping with the 15 and 19 minimum rule). ISO counts 1 paid staff member as equaling 3 volunteers, so this will help with the next ISO inspections.

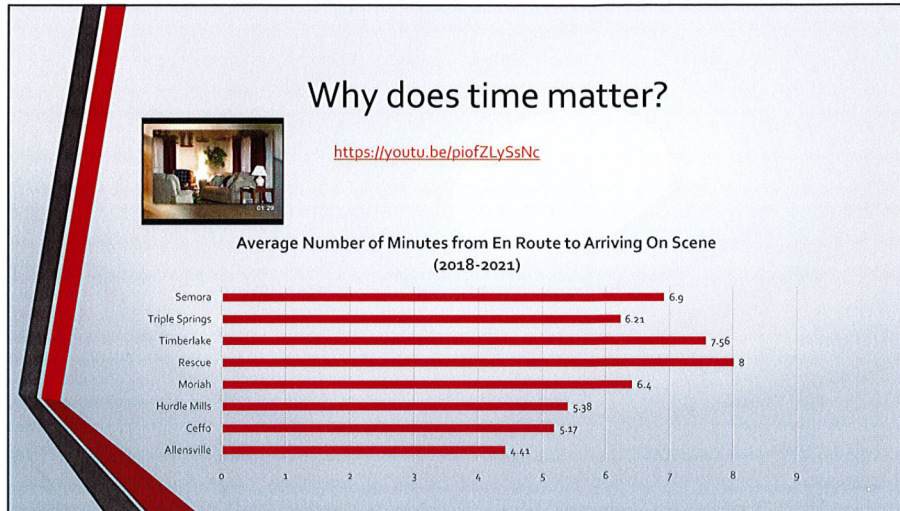
Why Is This Important?

- NC OSFM requires that a single-station department have 15 members on their roster. If that department has a second station, then the department must have 19 members on the roster.
- In the last 3 years, there has been a slow decline in memberships within the departments in Person County. (Exceptions: Triple Springs acquired some Woodsdale volunteers and Timberlake added part-time paid staff.)
- NC OSFM also requires that a department respond with a minimum of 4 members (1 out of the 4 must be an officer of the department) and 1 fire engine to all structure fires calls. If a department does not, then the department goes on probation. If this happens a second time, then the department loses their certification, the ISO grade goes to a 10 and the homeowners within the district have no fire protection coverage (Reference: previous Woodsdale VFD situation).

Time of Day Response Chart

Data collected from 2018-2021
Daytime (7AM-7PM)
Nighttime (7PM-7AM)





Solution

❖ Add 2 paid, part-time personnel to each volunteer department, working a 12-hour daytime shift Monday thru Friday.

How will this help?

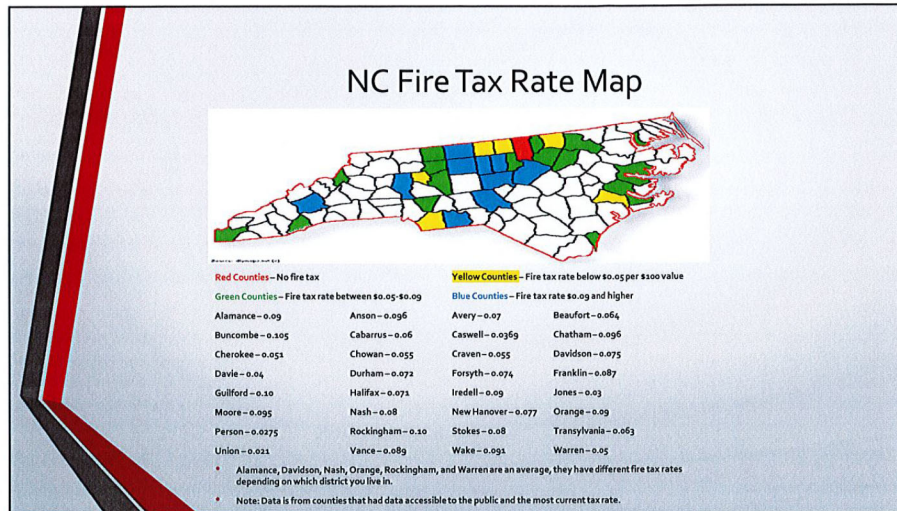
- Guaranteed response
- Better response times
- Mutual aid for neighboring departments
- Equipment clean, serviced, and ready for use
- Station upkeep
- Community service

Implementation

- Raise the current fire tax rate of \$.0275 cents to \$.0500 cents to fund this new proposal.
- With the additional funding, add 2 paid part-time personnel at each main station, working 12-hour shifts, Monday-Friday at \$15 an hour (plus social security, taxes, and worker's compensation insurance).
- Each department would be responsible for hiring, terminating, job requirements, day to day duties, timekeeping, supplies, etc. These expectations would be standardized across the county for all of the departments. Person County Government would be responsible only for funding.

Implementation (continued)

Department	# of Part-time Positions	Pay Per Hour	Taxes	Worker's Comp	Total Cost
Allensville	2	\$15	\$9,396	\$1,875	\$105,231
Ceffo	2	\$15	\$9,396	\$1,875	\$105,231
Hurdle Mills	2	\$15	\$9,396	\$1,875	\$105,231
Moriah	2	\$15	\$9,396	\$1,875	\$105,231
Semora	1	\$15	\$4,698	\$1,875	\$53,553
Timberlake	2	\$15	\$9,396	\$1,875	\$105,231
Triple Springs	2	\$15	\$9,396	\$1,875	\$105,231
Person County Rescue	2	\$15	\$9,396	\$1,875	\$105,231
			\$70,470	\$15,000	\$790,170



Conclusion

- Person County needs to provide its residents with the best possible emergency response. Our current method is "getting us by" for now but is quickly being overstretched with the decline of volunteers coupled with an increased number of emergency responses.
- Therefore, providing each volunteer station with paid personnel will ensure a timely response, resulting in better survival rates in medical calls and lower property loss in fires.
- All departments have already or are currently working towards lowering their ISO grade to help the homeowners in their districts. This is ensuring the best quality of fire protection, effective and adequate training, above standard equipment, preplans for businesses, and adequate water supply to the community.

Ask yourself these two questions...

1. If you had an emergency, how long do you or a family member want to wait for help to arrive?
2. If you were a potential new home owner, business, or industry looking to move to Person County, would you not want a quick response and the best possible ISO rating for that area?
 - Businesses and industries are looking at these numbers, and we continue to improve them, they may have an impact on generating new tax growth for Person County.

Questions?

Vice Chairman Sims stated it was tough to recruit volunteers to attain the required training, put on the gear and run into a fire. He told Mr. Morris it was a great presentation.

Commissioner Gentry asked Mr. Morris what was the property loss impact from fire in Person County to which Mr. Morris said he would send along that data. Commissioner Gentry asked Mr. Morris to briefly explain the ISO fire ratings to which he noted the scale was 1-10, 1 being a career fire station, 3 being a district with available hydrants, and a 10 without fire district coverage.

PERSON COUNTY STATE OF EMERGENCY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORDINANCES:

Commissioner Gentry stated she had a hard time finding ordinances on the county's website and in particular would like to see some changes within the ordinances for a declaration of an emergency to be reviewed every 30 days by the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Gentry asked the Emergency Manager and Director of Emergency Services, Thomas Schwalenberg to provide an overview of the Person County State of Emergency Ordinance and the Emergency Management Ordinance. Mr. Schwalenberg provided the following presentation:

5/2/2022

PERSON COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORDINANCES

Thomas E. Schwalenberg, BM, EMT-P
Emergency Manager / Director of Emergency Services

STATE OF EMERGENCY ORDINANCE



- Adopted 12/02/2013
- North Carolina Emergency Management Act
 - *The governing body of each county is responsible for emergency management activities within the geographical limits of such county. These activities include prevention of, preparation for, response to and recovery from natural or manmade emergencies or hostile military or paramilitary action.*
- Ability to declare a state of emergency by the Chairman of the Person County Board of Commissioners makes a finding and declaration that an Emergency exists.

1

STATE OF EMERGENCY ORDINANCE



- Emergency defined
 - *An occurrence or imminent threat of a widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from any natural or man-made accidental, military, para-military, weather related, or riot related cause.*
- Authorization
 - The Chairman of the Person County Board of Commissioners is authorized and empowered under General Statutes 166A-19.22 and 166A-19.31 to make a finding of an Emergency and to issue a public Declaration declaring to all persons the existence of a State of Emergency, and in order to more effectively protect the lives and property of people within the County, to place in effect any or all restrictions as authorized

STATE OF EMERGENCY ORDINANCE



- Specific Authorizations
 - All or part of the County
 - Specific hours of the day or night (full or partial)
 - Exemption of restriction for part or all, while acting in a line of duty within the scope of their respective duties
 - As may be essential to the preservation of public order and immediately necessary to serve the safety, health, and welfare needs of the people within the County
 - Must be broadly communicated through mass communications

STATE OF EMERGENCY ORDINANCE




- Prohibitions and Restrictions
 - Evacuation
 - Curfew
 - Restrictions on Possession, Consumption, or Transfer of Alcoholic Beverages
 - Restriction on Possession, Transportation, and Transfer of Dangerous Weapons and Substances
 - *Notwithstanding anything in this ordinance to the contrary, "dangerous weapon or substance" shall not be deemed to include "lawfully possessed firearms or ammunition"*

STATE OF EMERGENCY ORDINANCE



- Prohibitions or Restrictions (continued)
 - Restriction on Access to Areas
 - Other prohibitions or restrictions
 - Movement of people in public spaces
 - Operations of businesses, offices, and other places people may travel or congregate
 - Other activities reasonably necessary to maintain order and protect lives

STATE OF EMERGENCY ORDINANCE



- Removal of Prohibitions and Restriction
- Superseding or Amendatory Declaration
- Termination of Declaration
- Penalty for Violation
- Territorial Applicability

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE



- Adopted 12/01/2014
- The governing body of each county is responsible for:
 1. Reduce vulnerability of people and property to damage, injury and loss of life and property.
 2. Prepare for prompt and efficient rescue, care, and treatment of threatened or affected persons.
 3. Provide for the rapid and orderly rehabilitation of persons and restoration of property.
 4. Provide for cooperation and coordination of activities relating to emergency mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery among agencies, officials of such county and with similar agencies and officials of other local, state and federal governments, and with other private and quasi-official organizations.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE




- Establishment of an Emergency Management Agency
 - Person County Office of Emergency Management
- Responsible for being the coordination agency through which the Person County Board of Commissioners exercises their authority and discharges their responsibilities during emergencies
- Emergency Management – measure taken by a populace and government of Person County to minimize the adverse effect of any type of emergency, which include the never ending preparedness cycle of prevention, mitigation, warning, movement, shelter, emergency assistance and recovery.
 - Shall include the basic government functions of maintaining the public peace, health and safety during an emergency

Mr. Schwalenberg stated Emergency Management Plans are filed in the Office of the Emergency Manager and distributed to key stakeholders and confidential when deemed an element of safety sensitive information.

5/2/2022

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE




- Organization and Appointments
 - Emergency Manager / Director of Emergency Services
- Daily Roles and Responsibilities
 - Coordination, Collaboration, Planning, Education, Representation
- Emergency Management Plans and Execution
 - Comprehensive Plan
 - Continuity of Operations Plan
 - Specific Hazard Plans
- Hazardous Materials

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

6

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS



- Provide feedback and direction to staff on potential revisions to the Person County State of Emergency and Emergency Management Ordinance

Mr. Schwalenberg stated the two subject ordinances, in his opinion, meet the needs and comparable to what other counties have adopted noting as both ordinances were almost ten years old, a review may be warranted.

Commissioner Gentry advocated for easily accessible documents on the county's website and urged the Board to have the full board involved in a declaration of an emergency not usurping the Chairman's authority.

County Attorney, Ellis Hankins stated General Assembly last made significant changes to these laws in 2013, which reflect the time the current ordinances were adopted in Person County. Mr. Hankins noted there are specific state statutes that provide authority for the Chairman of the Board for counties and for the Mayor for municipalities to issue a declaration of an emergency without the full board being present. He indicated that any clarifications or enhancements could certainly be made by amending the ordinance should the Board desire to do so.

Chairman Powell concurred that the Board could revisit the ordinance for any amendments desired by the Board. It was the consensus of the Board to ask the County Manager and staff to bring back any suggested changes for consideration. County Manager, Heidi York stated she would provide a red-line draft to the Board of proposed revisions for consideration.

Mr. Hankins stated a public hearing was not required for amendments to the subject ordinances.

BUDGET AMENDMENT #18:

County Manager, Heidi York stated she had received budget adjustment detail for Budget Amendment #18 and provided the detail as shown below. Ms. York suggested that the Budget Adjustment Detail will be included with future budget amendments for an easier understanding of the detail showing the budget line items.

BUDGET AMENDMENT #18

5/2/2022

<u>Dept./Acct No.</u>	<u>Department Name</u>	<u>Amount</u> Incr / (Decr)
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	
	General Government	219,157
	Public Safety	18,000
	Human Services	3,932
	Culture & Recreation	1,500
<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	
	Other Revenues	1,500
	Intergovernmental Revenues	40,162
	Fund Balance Appropriation	200,927

Explanation:

To recognize additional grant funds approved by the NC Department of Public Safety for the Roots & Wings Program (\$18,000); reducing fund balance appropriation (-\$18,230) for receipt of Emergency Management Performance Grant revenue (\$18,230) for already budgeted expenditures in the Emergency Management Department; received additional grant revenue for Veterans Services (\$1,609); received donation to Sportsplex (\$1,500); appropriating fund balance in the Information Technology Systems Fund (\$219,157) for the backup and security software purchase contract that the BOC approved execution for in their meeting on 4/18/22; and receipt of Energy Neighbor program revenues at DSS (\$2,323).

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT DETAIL

Account Number	Account Description	\$Revenues		\$Expenditures	
		incr. (decr.)		incr. (decr.)	
		(cr.)	dr.	dr.	(cr.)
10025-358360	NCDPS/JCPC Funding		18,000		
1004302-427061	Roots & Wings			18,000	
10025-335250	EMPG-S Grant		18,230		
10090-399991	Fund Balance Appropriation	(18,230)			
10050-358320	Veterans Services Grant		1,609		
1005820-430000	Veterans Contract Services			1,609	
10055-361842	Donations to Sportsplex		1,500		
1006123-420000	Sportsplex Supplies			1,500	
11090-399991	Fund Balance Appropriation		219,157		
1104121-452000	Cap Out IT Equip \$5000+			219,157	
19050-378490	Energy Neighbor (Share the Light)		2,323		
1905380-508000	Energy Neighbor (Share the Light)			2,323	
Totals		242,589		242,589	

BA-18

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Gentry and **carried 5-0** to approve Budget Amendment #18, as presented by the County Manager.

May 2, 2022

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman Powell reported this week was designated as National Small Business Week and urged citizens to show appreciation to businesses for all they do, and also the Week of Prayer noting a couple events scheduled this week at 12:00 noon on May 5, 2022 and at 12:15 on May 6, 2022.

Chairman Powell concurred with Commissioner Gentry's concerns related to the finance movement of funds and requested any funding changes that are not budgeted become an agenda item for open discussion.

Chairman Powell asked the County Manager to bring information for a Public Information Officer position to the Board for further discussion.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

County Manager, Heidi York clarified the Board has discussed the job description for a Public Information Officer position to which she has included in her Recommended Budget noting following the public hearing, the Board may want to discuss this full time position at one of its budget work sessions.

Ms. York clarified that department heads know they cannot expend funds for items not budgeted and that they must request any new funding from the Board of Commissioners; after Board approval for new funding, a budget amendment will be presented to the Board including that item for approval.

Ms. York announced the Board would recess its meeting until 8:15am on May 3, 2022 at which time, the Board will, in open session, via Zoom, interview two firms responding to the RFP for an executive search firm for recruitment of the new County Manager.

COMMISSIONER REPORT/COMMENTS:

Vice Chairman Sims stated his disappointment when accusations are made during public comments noting the Board must just sit and listen.

Commissioner Palmer reported Special Olympics was scheduled for this week at Person High School; he urged everyone to go and support this event.

Commissioner Gentry commented that it was disturbing to her when leadership in the county are acting inappropriately and shedding a bad light on the profession within the county when they all knew better. She stated there should be an investigation and the unethical actions addressed.

Commissioner Puryear commended the Elections staff on conducting the primary in a smooth running fashion; he wanted to extend his appreciation.

RECESS:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Puryear and **carried 5-0** to recess the meeting at 9:26pm until 8:15am on May 3, 2022.

Brenda B. Reaves
Clerk to the Board

Gordon Powell
Chairman