

Meeting Minutes

Sept. 23, 2004

This meeting was held at the Salem Civic Center in Parlor D. The following 20 people were present:

Sgt. Mike Green, Salem PD

Lindsey Nair, The Roanoke Times

Lt. Ray Clark, Salem PD

Lt. Chuck Mason, Roanoke County PD

Sgt. Jeff Herrick, Roanoke County PD

Mike Stater, PIO, Virginia Department of Health

Walter Viohl, State Police

Grady DeVilbiss, Virginia Department of Health

Chris Thomsen, Virginia Department of Forestry

Sheriff Gerald Holt, Roanoke County Sheriff's Office

Joe McKean, WDBJ-TV

Chief Jim Grigsby, Roanoke Fire-EMS

Jennifer Faulkner, Roanoke Fire-EMS

Erin Barnhart, PIO, Roanoke Sheriff's Office

Teresa Hall, PIO, Roanoke County

Jennifer Conley-Sexton, Roanoke County Fire and Rescue

Dutchie Mirelli, WVTF Public Radio

Laird Manlove, Crime Line

Denise Eck, WSLS-TV

Emily Ditmore, WSLS-TV

This was a business meeting with the main purpose of electing a co-chair to replace former Roanoke Police Department PIO Shelly Alley, who has resigned

to take a position with the Angels of Assisi. The three candidates for her position were Erin Barnhart of the Roanoke Sheriff's Office, Teresa Hall of Roanoke County and Sgt. Mike Green of the Salem Police Department.

A paper vote was taken and the hat was passed. Vote totals were taken at the end of the meeting, and Sgt. Mike Green had obtained the most vote. He will take over as co-chair with Lindsey Nair.

Items of Business/ Discussion:

-- Dutchie Mirelli commented that the Virginia Department of Transportation has a road conditions map on their website that is very helpful. She said it was a very handy feature that others should check out.

-- Someone commented that it would have been nice to receive updates about a propane leak in Lynchburg that made the news the previous day. The health department should maybe consider sending out pages in instances like that.

--The National Park Service is showing more interest in attending co-op meetings and using the paging system. Ranger Tammy Kellar has been replaced by John Murphy, who has been given instructions for how to use the paging system.

-- Public safety reps said they appreciated the media's attempt to get Public Service Announcements out lately. Some PSAs included high water, fire season prevention things, etc.

-- Some discussion took place about a story the previous day that was covered by several of the media outlets. The topic was fraudulent telephone fund-raising. Some folks said they'd gotten calls from the National Police Association. Some suspect telemarketing firms that are hired to do fund raising for public safety groups have questionable practices. Some said complaints about these telemarketers happen yearly.

-- Dutchie Mirelli renewed a request to have representatives from local school systems present for a panel discussion and Q&A about school/media relations. We'd like to ask them about their protocol when a newsworthy incident such as bus accident or other school safety-related event takes place. And they would be free to question the media, as well. Lindsey Nair and Mike Green said they'd start working on putting that discussion together for the next meeting, which will be Nov. 18. Location to be announced.