



**Marion County  
Fire Rescue Emergency Services Advisory  
Board Meeting  
July 14, 2009**

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – 4:02 by Chairman Pat Gabriel. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

II. **Members Present:**

- Patricia Gabriel, Chairperson
- Paul Clark, COO Munroe Regional Medical Center
- H. Rex Etheredge, CEO Ocala Regional Medical Center
- Thomas Lorio
- Chief Dan Gentry – City of Ocala Fire Chief
- Dr. Frank Fraunfelder, Medical Director, MCFR EMS

**Members Absent:**

- Dr. Karen Gold
- Attendance taken by Anna Carpenter

**Others in Attendance:**

- |                         |                            |                        |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Jimmy Massey            | Commissioner Barbara Fitos | Chief Stuart McElhaney |
| Dep. Chief Dan Azzariti | John Schaeffer             | Jamie Banta            |
| Chief Shari Hall        | Lucienne Gauffilette       | Julie Sieg             |

II. **MINUTES - OPENING STATEMENT**

Minutes from the June 9th and June 30th meeting were approved. Motion made to approve Minutes by Chief Gentry, seconded by Tom Lorio.

Chief McElhaney read a brief opening statement comprised of excerpts from his “Master Plan Start” document (**Attachment A**). The statement gave an overview of the current status of MCFR eight years into the 10-Year Master Plan and after the integration of ambulance service for the County, as well as future direction for the County proposed by County Administrator, Lee Niblock.

III. **GROWTH MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR, JIMMY MASSEY**

The Planning Department handles all planning for Marion County. Mr. Massey addressed several areas related to long range planning. His Department is currently in the middle of updating the Comprehensive Plan which encompasses transportation, housing and land use. "There are certain elements of Planning which are required to have level of service standards."

Mr. Massey said the County's current plan has a 10 year timeframe. "Our goal in this update is to expand that horizon to 25 years." He explained that the Capital Improvement Schedule shows the funding mechanism and timeframes. "Planning staff takes a portion of the TIP and adapt that into the Comprehensive Plan; shows when a road is going to be widened, what year. Transportation, Solid Waste, water and sewer, Fire Rescue - all have to have level of service standards. You have to realize that it must come with that Capital Improvement Schedule."

Mr. Massey distributed a copy of his PowerPoint presentation, "Urban or Rural?" to the Board (**Attachment B**). This presentation included graphs depicting:

- Marion County Total Population Growth
- Defining Urban and Rural Areas
- Population Density by Census Block Groups, 2000 Census
- Planning Districts
- Planning District Population
- Population by Planning District, 2000 - 2006
- Population by Planning District, 2006 - 2030
- Proposed Urban Service Boundary
- Parcels Inside Proposed USB, Existing FLU, October, 2008

The population chart is updated each year in August. Chief Azzariti asked that this report be emailed to him when it's received by Planning.

The Census Bureau defines "Urban" as 1,000 residents per square mile. Everything outside that is "Rural." That does not dictate what type of service each area receives. The Fitch Report divides areas into three categories: Urban, Suburban, and Rural.

"It's very difficult to compile data on a county-wide basis, so we had to define a procedure. We developed Planning districts based on the census tract line so that when the next census report comes out, that information will be consistent. We have defined 28 planning districts in the County. Based on the Planning District map, we determine how much population is located inside each district. Then, based on historical building permits issues, we assign a person-per-household number. Average is down to 2.32 from 2.5 just a couple years ago."

"Proposed Urban Service boundary: We are proposing that the density be elevated from more than one dwelling unit per acre to at least three units per acre."

Board discussed level of service as it relates to the various area categories. For example, inside an urban area, theoretically the residents would expect denser traffic. At the same time, rural residents would not expect traffic jams. Level of service for Fire Rescue would naturally be higher in urban areas, etc.

Not only land category and population density, but demographics must also be considered when evaluating projected level of service. Impact to Fire service rendered within an area is also affected by whether there is an industrial area or commerce park.

Chief Gentry: "Fire Service is going to have to be population-driven. If The Villages or Weirsdale grow, they are not going to be expecting a suburban level of service. I believe that 484 in twenty years is going to be like 436 around Orlando." Chief McElhaney: "It may be that what we define as suburban today will be defined as urban in twenty years."

Mr. Massey stated that his Department is looking at joint planning agreements with the City of Ocala. Pat Gabriel asked if that correlates with the Corridor Studies that were done -- for the most part, yes.

Discussion was held on possibility of using Planning Departments Comprehensive Plan to help determine level of service areas; would predict where future growth is going to be. Timeline does not appear to be conducive for use for Fire's purposes. However, Fire may decide that the municipal boundaries used by Planning would help define level of service areas. Fire Rescue's revised Master Plan is tentatively planned to be brought to the Commission in February, 2010.

Mr. Massey: "There is an opportunity for us to meet again, perhaps a couple of times, before December to discuss boundary lines; may be useful to incorporate into your work." The Comprehensive Plan will be used as a research document; make the best estimates possible on growth. Chief McElhaney will look at the 3-tiered approach and bring back recommendations to the Board at the next meeting.

#### **IV. CLOSING COMMENTS:**

- 1) Medicaid number received. For billing purposes, Fire will be allowed to go back to last November. Chief McElhaney: "I am pretty comfortable that we are going to be on or above our projected revenues.
- 2) Planning to put a couple ambulances stationed in the old Intergovernmental Risk Management building downtown. It was the original Munroe Hospital ambulance location.
- 3) Paul Clark asked that a definite time be set for concluding these meetings. It was originally set at 1 1/2 hours. Was decided that future meetings should conclude at 5:30.

**Pat Gabriel adjourned the meeting at 5:54. Next meeting will be held August 11, 2009 at 4 PM in Fire Headquarters.07/31/2009**

Minutes submitted by Anna Carpenter.

Approved:

---

Pat Gabriel, Chairman

---

Date