

RESOLUTION 08-R- 535

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA; ESTABLISHING THE FIRE RESCUE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD; PROVIDING FOR MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS; PROVIDING FOR MEETINGS OF THE ADVISORY BOARD; PROVIDING FOR VACANCIES; PROVIDING FOR THE QUALIFICATION OF BOARD MEMBERS; PROVIDING FOR OFFICERS; PROVIDING FOR DUTIES OF THE BOARD; PROVIDING FOR STAFF ASSISTANCE; PROVIDING FOR THE DISSOLUTION OF THE MARION COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY BOARD; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, in 2001, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) merged the Silver Springs Shores and Marion Oaks Municipal Service Taxing Units for Fire Protection with the Marion County Municipal Services Benefit Unit for Fire Protection and Rescue Services; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, the Board adopted a ten-year master plan to improve fire and rescue services throughout the unincorporated areas of Marion County and including certain municipalities choosing to obtain these services from Marion County; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, the Board, by Resolution No. 01-R-279, created the Marion County Fire Advisory Board to provide it with recommendations relating to level of service and other issues surrounding the master plan for fire and rescue services; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, partners in the Emergency Medical Services Alliance, Inc. (EMSA), the countywide provider of emergency and non-emergency ambulance service, determined that they would not extend the partnership beyond the original expiration date of September 30, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Board, through the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN) process, is statutorily responsible for ensuring that ambulance service is provided to all residents of Marion County; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, after reviewing the extensive findings of a Board-appointed citizen task force, the Board determined that it was in the best interests of all citizens of Marion County that the Board provide countywide emergency and non-emergency ambulance service effective October 1, 2008 through its fire rescue department, Marion County Fire Rescue (MCFR); and

WHEREAS, the citizen task force recommended that the Board utilize an advisory board to counsel it on issues surrounding the emergency medical services mission and, after discussion between the ambulance service transition team, staff, commissioners and members of the Marion

County Fire Advisory Board it was determined that the most efficient course of action would be to expand the mission of current fire advisory board rather than create two separate advisory boards for one county operating department; and

WHEREAS, the Board now desires to dissolve the existing Marion County Fire Advisory Board and create the Fire Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board (FREMSAB);

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Marion County, Florida:

SECTION 1. Creation of the Fire Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board.

- A. There is hereby created a Fire Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board (FREMSAB) that shall consist of seven (7) members appointed by the Board of County Commissioners and the Marion County Fire Rescue department medical director who shall serve as an ex officio member of the advisory board without vote. All members shall reside within the boundaries of Marion County, Florida.
- B. One (1) member shall be a representative selected by majority vote of the Board of County Commissioners from one of the full service hospitals within Marion County and shall serve a four-year term.
- C. One (1) member shall be a representative selected by majority vote of the Board of County Commissioners from one of the five municipalities located in Marion County and shall serve a four-year term.
- D. Five (5) members of the board shall be individually appointed by respective commissioners. The Board of County Commissioners shall confirm and appoint the recommended advisory board members. Each appointed advisory board member shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing Commissioner and individual advisory board member terms shall run concurrently with that of the appointing Commissioner.
- E. All advisory board members shall serve without compensation; however, members may be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses as recommended by the Fire Rescue Department (Department) Director and subsequently authorized by the County Administrator and approved by the Board.

SECTION 2. Duties and Responsibilities of the Fire Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board.

The advisory board shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- A. The advisory board shall primarily be advisory to the Board of County Commissioners and shall also report all approved recommendations to the Board and the County Administrator.
- B. The advisory board shall study and make recommendations concerning issues surrounding level of service to all areas of Marion County, whether rural, suburban or urban. Aspects of level of service will include response time benchmarks and zones within which those benchmarks will apply; career and volunteer staffing levels; deployment models (including both static or station-based and dynamic models); and any other related items as requested by the Department.
- C. The advisory board shall participate in the development of, and annual review of a Department long-range master plan and such capital improvement plans and budgets as may be necessary to execute the approved master plan.
- D. The advisory board, in concert with the Department, may review, make recommendations and provide comments thereon, including but not limited to, both long and short-term Department budgetary planning and operational programs.

SECTION 3. By-Laws of the Advisory Board.

The following by-laws of the Advisory Board are hereby adopted, which shall be a rule and guide to the conduct of Advisory Board meetings and business:

- A. **Officers.** The Advisory Board shall select from its members a chairman and vice-chairman. The officers shall serve one-year terms. There is no prohibition against an officer serving one or more successive terms. The chairman or, in his absence, the vice-chairman shall preside at all Advisory Board meetings. Minutes shall be kept and shall become part of the official public record of Marion County. The five (5) non-officer members shall constitute a standing sub-committee whose primary purpose shall be to review special projects, budget issues or Department Director requested items.
- B. **Meetings.** The Advisory Board shall hold regular meetings, preferably monthly or as necessary, at times and places and on such intervals as a majority of the Advisory Board members may choose or the Board of County Commissioners may direct or the Department Director may request. Notice of all regular meetings shall be reported to the County Public Affairs Office for public

notification and posted in a conspicuous public place at least seven (7) days before the date of the meeting. No business shall be conducted without a quorum, which shall consist of a majority of the members of the Advisory Board. Special meetings may be called, upon reasonable notice, by the chairman or at the direction of the Board of County Commissioners or Department Director. All meetings shall be open to the public. Proposed agenda items shall be submitted in advance of scheduled meetings. Any item not submitted in time to be placed on the agenda for a meeting shall automatically be placed on the agenda for the following meeting or, by majority vote of the members present, may be discussed without being placed on the agenda.

- C. Vacancies. All members serve at the pleasure of the Board of County Commissioners and may be removed at any time, with or without cause by the respective Board member who appointed them and/or, in the case of the hospital and municipality representatives on the Advisory Board, by a majority of the Board of County Commissioners. The name of any member, who fails to attend three consecutive regular meetings or a total of six (6) regular meetings during any calendar year without just cause, shall be reported to the Board of County Commissioners, which may forthwith remove the member and appoint a new member to fill the unexpired term according to 1(B-D) above, as appropriate. Likewise, the Board of County Commissioners shall also immediately fill any vacancy arising due to other causes.
- E. Staff. The Advisory Board staff shall consist of such legal, clerical, and technical assistance as may be requested by the Advisory Board or Department Director or as directed from time to time by the Board of County Commissioners.

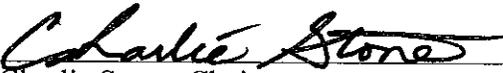
SECTION 4. Miscellaneous.

- A. Wherever the masculine gender is used herein, it is to include the feminine gender as well.
- B. The invalidity of any part of the resolution shall not render invalid the remaining portions.
- C. The provisions of this resolution will control over the provisions in Resolution 01-R-279 or any other Resolution or prior Board action with respect to fire rescue and emergency medical services advisory boards in the event of any conflict.

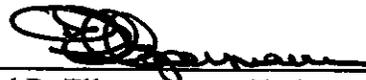
SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption by the Board of County Commissioners.

DULY ADOPTED this 21st day of October, 2008.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA**


Charlie Stone, Chairman

ATTEST:


David R. Ellspermann, Clerk