

# Rappahannock News

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## Company 4 votes, still awaits new fire chief

### Some members vote against new volunteers

BY JULIA SHANAHAN  
Rappahannock News staff

The Flint Hill Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company approved a dozen new members on Tuesday but will continue operating without a fire chief until the Board of Supervisors appoints a leader.

The former county-appointed chief of Company 4, David Jarrell, resigned earlier this month after leading the troubled company for about six months. The supervisors appointed Jarrell in a 3-2 vote in January after Chair and Wakefield Supervisor Debbie Donehey introduced a resolution to replace the former leadership.

The company members were not able to nominate or vote on a chief because of the January resolution, according to Donehey and the company's board of directors. The supervisors will consider nominees at their next regular meeting in September, Donehey said.

Jarrell did not give a reason for his departure, and company president Dave Bailey said he didn't want to "get

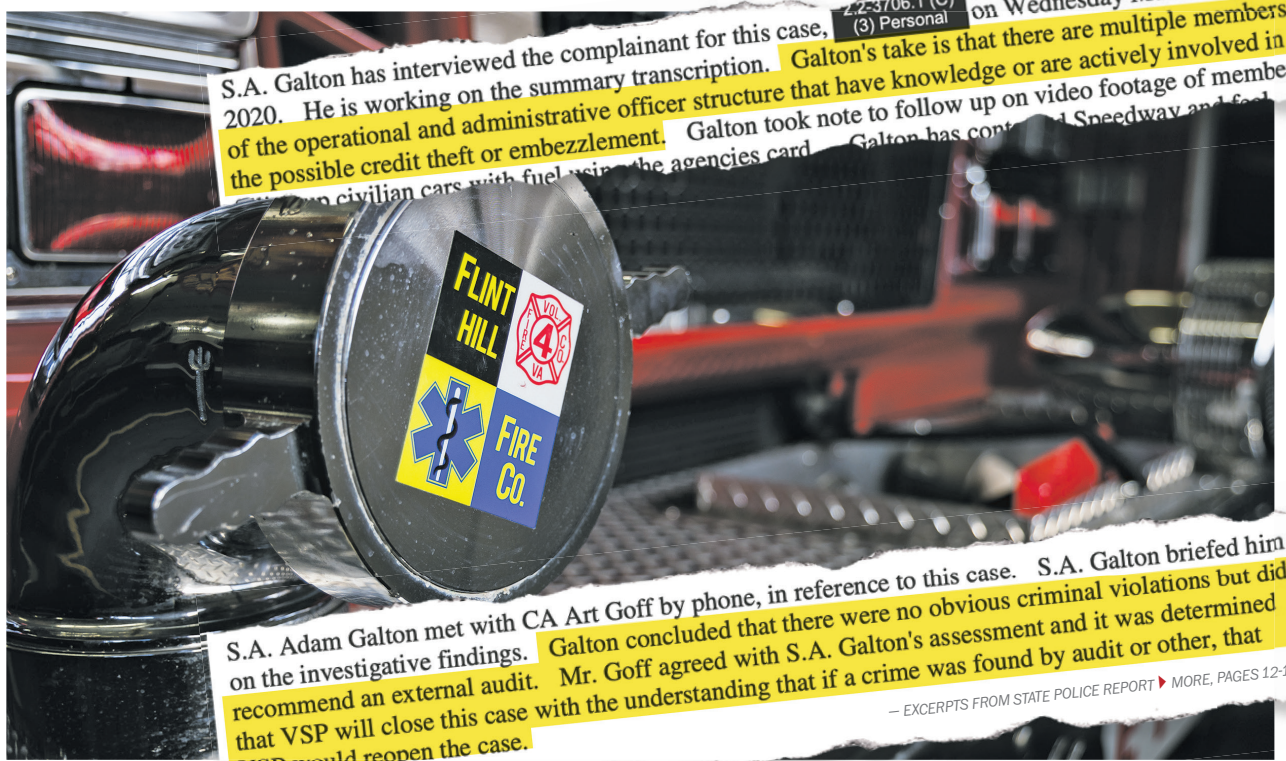
See **FLINT HILL**, Page 10

## Consulting firm outlines fire and rescue challenges

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## STATE POLICE PROBE OF FLINT HILL FIRE FINDS: Possible embezzlement, fraud, forgery

### INVESTIGATOR, PROSECUTOR CONCLUDE: 'No obvious criminal violations' but suggest audit



— EXCERPTS FROM STATE POLICE REPORT ▶ MORE, PAGES 12-13

FILE PHOTO BY LUKE CHRISTOPHER

BY JULIA SHANAHAN  
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A Virginia State Police investigator found evidence of possible embezzlement, credit card theft, tax fraud and forgery at the Flint Hill Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company, according to a report recently obtained by the Rappahannock News through a public records request.

For three years, the Virginia State Police investigated Company 4 for allegations of financial misconduct that go back as far as 2017. Yet, after the police finished its investigation in April, the findings sat for months on the desk of Commonwealth's Attorney Art Goff without key

county officials knowing it was there.

It was only when Piedmont Supervisor Christine Smith asked Goff at the August Board of Supervisors' meeting about the status of the investigation that Goff, also the county attorney, said, "The investigation found gross financial mismanagement."

He added, "Apparently the problem was remedied by some procedures put in place by the prior set of officers," including the implementation of an electronic accounting system. Goff has not publicly expanded on that statement and has declined to answer questions on the record from

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## RAPP'S SENATORS HEAD TO CHAMPIONSHIP GAME ▶ Page 18



## Judge orders sanctions for soil and erosion violations ▶ Page 6

## DOERS PROFILE Ann and Pete Stenner

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