

Meeting of the Talbot County Emergency Services Advisory Board (TCESAB)  
January 25, 2016

Attendees:

Wayne Dyott - Chairman

Debbie Timms	Bryan LeCates
Lois MacDonald	Diana Mautz
Scott Mergenthaler	Steve Mroczek
Richard Smith	Clay Stamp
Ruth Sullivan – By Phone	Matt Watkins

Wayne Dyott called the January meeting of the TCESAB to order at 6 pm.

He welcomed Diana Mautz back to the board as our newest member representing the St Michaels area.

Bryan LeCates reminded the committee of the revised training program for EMS employees he discussed last month. He introduced newly promoted Lieutenant Matt Watkins who will be overseeing the revised training effort for the EMS Division. Matt gave an overview of the training planned for the coming year. Some of the training will be at the quarterly staff meetings; the rest will be on a rotational basis at the Airport Station or by their supervisor at their station. All will be during normal duty hours. Debbie Timms asked how the Hospital might identify specific needs and Brian said the best way would be to contact him directly. She also asked if this training would open to volunteers. Brian said that initially they were trying to address areas where they had fallen behind and that most would be one on one or staff meetings. He suggested that the volunteers might be included in the next wave.

There was some discussion among the group about the Monthly Shock Trauma continuing education broadcasts. They had been a training opportunity for both career and volunteers but the hospital has stopped hosting the lecture. Brian said he was looking into hosting at the new 911 Center. Debbie and Wayne said they would investigate at the Hospital and together with Brian try to solve the problem.

Clay Stamp said the date for meeting with the Council is still to be determined. He was working with them to insure that it took place prior to decisions being made.

Clay said that near term the biggest challenge the department is facing is the move into the recently renovated 911 Center. Next Monday, all of the dispatchers will be moving from the Easton Police Department to the new center, they will be switching to the new telephone switch and the new radio system. The cut over to the new CAD system should occur within a month.

The EMS system has been very busy. He concerned about the number of times they are saturated, that 4 or more units dispatched. Part of the problem is the Hospital is being swamped and is out of beds due to the flu and other reasons.

Cordova and Queen Anne have expressed the need for a career unit up county. Clay said that meetings are being scheduled and data researched. He said that probably not in the next budget year but very likely in the following one they will need to put an ambulance somewhere up county. Whether it is part time or full time remains to be seen. A number of options will be looked at in preparing the FY 19 budget.

Clay said that Jim Bass in Emergency Planning was completing the Hazard Mitigation / Community Resiliency Plan looking at natural disasters. It is being looked at as a model for other communities in the State of Maryland and will be presented at the National Governors Conference.

Clay discussed the opening for the Chief of the 911 Center. He said that they had 13 applications including three 911-center chiefs. A two-part interview process involving both an external review board and Talbot County reviewers was conducted. As a result, they selected our current 911 Captain Holly Guschke, as the new Chief.

Wayne asked about the pilot Integrated Mobile Health program currently being conducted in Queen Anne's County. Clay said that he and Brian would be meeting shortly with Shore Health to discuss how and when we might begin to roll it out here.

Steve Mroczek discussed a number of efforts on the Talbot County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association (TCVFRA) on the Recruiting and Retention (R&R) front. These include the recent Awards Dinner recognizing members' training efforts and grants to individual companies to by recognition items for their members. Additionally the R&R Trailer has been completed. It will act as a billboard and a storage device for event supplies and a tent for events like the Talbot County Fair.

The Volunteer Companies working with the TCVFRA is preparing their budget submission to the Council. A final work session is scheduled for 2 February. They are attempting to come forward with a flat budget. As noted elsewhere, costs are not flat so the challenge is to find offsets.

Richard Smith discussed House Bill 107, a low interest home loan program, for low and moderate-income families. The last page of the bill had language about possible effects Building and Fire Codes on the cost of those homes. The Fire Service had concern about the bill's language. After discussions with the bills sponsor the language dealing with Fire and Building codes was eliminated.

Wayne asked the members possible board projects that they could work in addition to the annual budget process. Debbie suggested that the EMS system impacts of adding an addition career unit to support Cordova and Queen Anne Hillsboro Fire Departments might be such a project. We could represent to the perspective of the citizens of that area.

Clay said an additional project maybe to address the county revenue cap. The County Council recognizes that it is impacting their ability to fund Public Safety programs. He and Wayne agreed that County Board will-be looking for this board's input. Wayne said that any change to the County Property Taxes will require a significant education effort and the whole community will need to be engaged for it to be successful. This change will not be a one-time thing but the new normal.

Wayne opened a discussion of the annual presentation to the County Council. Debbie said that in the past we felt that the Power Point presentation was too much. Last year's approach with no slides was too little. She suggested that some form of presentation that guided the discussion might be better. There was general agreement.

Debbie discussed the Role of the EMS Base Station Coordinator. Currently our Coordinator is also Emergency Room (ER) Manager for the Queen Anne and Chestertown ERs. Debbie committed to discuss this issue with Mary Alice Vanhoy and determine if she would like us to address the issue with the Council.

Wayne asked if the last Wednesday of the month was still agreeable. There was a consensus that it was ok. He said that the date for our presentation would drive how we proceed this month. He would reach out to members when he gets a date.