

Meeting of the Talbot County Emergency Services Advisory Board (TCESAB)
January 30, 2019

Attendees:

Wayne Dyott – Chairman

Jack Harrald

Kristen Jones

Brian LeCates

Scott Mergenthaler

Steve Mroczek

Clay Stamp

Debbie Timms

Wayne Dyott opened the meeting by welcoming Director Clay Stamp back from his extended assignment supporting Governor Hogan.

Clay reminded the group that February is National Heart Month. On February 12, at 6PM, the County Council will celebrate it by focusing on the recent save at the Amish Market. The Board is invited to attend.

Clay said his highest priority is to review and update the Department of Emergency Services Strategic Plan and update it. He said he would forward copies of the existing plan to the Board. As he prepares the new budget he has about a dozen objects he is working on.

- Implement EMS vehicle tracking. Current being used by the Sherriff it needs to be extended.
- Preparing for Next Generation 911. While waiting for the Legislature to appropriate money, we need to be prepared to implement.
- Update the Paging System for dual frequencies to solve the dead spot issues.
- Update the Departments web presence.
- Complete the backup of the 911 Center at the EPD.
- Replace another ambulance.
- Acquire and install power lift systems for stretchers in the ambulances that do not have them.
- Bring the Ambo Bus back into service. Updates are close to being complete to this regional resource.
- Begin moving forward with the Health Department on Mobile Integrated Health. They will be hiring a special program Paramedic to take the lead on this as well as the Community AED Program.
- Re-address the budget for land acquisition in the Whitman, Almshouse Road and North County area so EMS units can be better located.

Several members of the Board brought up the issue of retirement and it's impact on career staff R&R. The cost of transitioning from 30-year to a 25-year retirement was discussed. The question was posed what percentage of TCEMS retirements was for disability. The risk of injury increases as the years of service increases. Previously the Board had recommended the Council conduct an actuarial study to understand the impact of this change but the Council backed away from it. The study costs about \$6,000 and need to be done by the State. Retirement is also an issue in the Sherriff's Department. Brian LeCates said he would research the number of retirements and if they were disability and also what the years of service profile of his Division looked like.

The subject of the 401A matching program was raised as an off set to the retirement. The consensus was it was appreciated by some employees but was not a real substitute. In the Sherriff's Department it was recently noted that only 25 of 40 employees participated. A push to explain the benefits increased participation by 6 more.

Wayne said that the Board should support the Volunteer Fire Service R&R program. The current budget \$30,000. New leadership of the program was pushing ahead to make it visible and it continues to generate results. Other ideas for incentives needed to be brought forward by the Association.

Steve Mroczek and Clay discussed the Chief's Committee desire to roll out an active-911 system across the county. Clay raised concerns about data protections. He suggested if those concerns can be solved the system could be administered by the 911 Center. He suggested the County could buy the Software but did not believe they should be buying hardware for the Companies.

Budget submissions are due to the Council February 8th. The Hearing on the budget is planned for March 7th.

Next Meetings:

February 27th

May 1st

July 24th

September 25th