

Meeting of the Talbot County Emergency Services Advisory Board (TCESAB)  
3 April 2024

Attendees:

Steve Mroczek - Chairperson

Members:

Shirley Bucci

Tim Cannon

Steve Elliot

Jeanne Kuperberg

Brian LeCates

Terry Satchell

Ruth Sullivan

Steve Mroczek opened the meeting at 6 PM 3 April 2024 at Talbot Center.

The Minutes of the meeting of 7 February 2024 were approved.

Director Brian LeCates began the meeting by providing the Council with an update on his Department of Emergency Services (DES) operations over the last month.

Brian began with an update on the Mary's Court Public Safety Complex. Construction is moving forward. A change has been made in the design that replaces the existing in ceiling AC units. It was determined that the cost of replacing them at some time in the future after new walls and office structure were built around them would be prohibitive. This change will delay move in for the Sheriff until the end of August. The additional cost of this change will be \$1.4M.

The Budget was submitted to Council on 7 March. Brian said that early indications are the third ambulance replacement will not be approved. The 10% pay increase requested may also be trimmed.

The Communications Division has made several recent hires and if additional ones now in process are successfully completed, they will have no openings. Two new paramedics are in the hiring process. Both were identified because of the recent Job Fair. EMS Division has 6 openings after they are aboard.

The Lease for the land to build the North County Station is on hold pending the completion of an environmental review.

Captain Steve Elliot gave the Board an update on the Sheriff's Office. Like Brian he said they are in a wait and see mode on the budget. They requested a 3% pay increase along with a step increase for all staff. They also requested a salary differential for officers on-call. Board members discussed this idea and alternatives at length.

Seven new patrol vehicles were requested. New patrol cars are costing about \$100k. Since they lease cars rather than purchase, the impact on the budget is spread out over five

years. Like ambulances the lead time on new patrol cars has lengthened. The five ordered last July have only recently arrived.

The Sheriff requested one additional officer, a School Resource Officer. The addition of this officer would the creation of a supervisor position. Steve told the Board that there are currently 6 vacant positions in the Sheriff's Office. Currently deputies in the academy will fill three of those positions and candidates have been identified for two more. That leaves a single Patrol vacancy with no identified fill.

Steve Mroczek Discussed the Talbot County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association (TCVFRA) budget submission to County Council. As discussed last month the Association requested a 10% increase in Operating Budget as well as an increase and eligibility changes for the Volunteer Incentive Program. The Council seemed receptive to the submission, but the Association has not received official feedback.

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for 1 May 2024 at 6PM at Talbot Center.