

Meeting of the Talbot County Emergency Services Advisory Board (TCESAB)
4 May 2022

Attendees:

Steve Mroczek - Chairperson

Members:

Shirley Bucci
Debbie Timms

Jeanne Kuperberg
Ruth Sullivan

Scott Mergenthaler
Mat Watkins

Steve Mroczek opened the meeting at 6PM 2 March at Talbot Center

The minutes of the 2 March meeting were approved as prepared with a correction noted by Debbie Timms. Steve told the Board that Lois Mac Donald had declined to be reappointed. A new representative is therefore needed from the Cordova area. If members know some one who might be interested, please let Steve or Susan Moran know.

Matt Watkins the new Chief of Emergency Medical Services Division was present representing Bryan LeCates who is out today.

Matt provided a copy of the briefing that Brian used at our last meeting that had been marked up to show the results of the discussions with County Council.

Council head approved and funded the LEOPS program. The disappointment here was that it was only funded for paramedics. This was due to the language in the legislation. They are hoping that the language can be changed by legislation in the next Session to allow the inclusion of EMTs. If done, the earliest they can be added to LEOPS will be in the next budget.

Capital funding capital requests from the EMS division were approved for one new ambulance and one replacement heart monitor. Brian is hopeful that the second heart monitor requested can be acquired through a State 50/50 grant and assistance from the Paramedic Foundation. The replacement of the oldest EMS response vehicle has also been deferred until next year.

The \$70,000 for refurbishment of EMS stations was approved as was \$4000 for employee recognition programs.

The expansion of the EMS system to the North County station was approved in to include the staffing necessary for 7 x 24 operation. This approval included the technology necessary for the station. Interviews are underway to identify the staff necessary. Staff will be brought on board about 1 July when the budget goes into effect. Soil testing at the current proposed North County station location has been unsuccessful and a new location is being sought.

Emergency Management Division had their budget request for computer replacements, uninterruptible power supplies and portable emergency radios approved. 10 new emergency radios were included in this request. The new admin position requested was deferred until next year. The budget for a consultant to assist in the CAD replacement procurement for next year was also approved. They will assist in selecting a new CAD

system that satisfactorily support both EMS/Fire and Law Enforcement needs. The budget for the new backup 911 Center to be established in the new North County station was also approved.

Mat told the Board that the ultrasound training scheduled for last month has been delayed due to other priorities and he expected it to take place in June. In response to a question that said that among the uses of ultrasound near term would be to assist in vein acquisition.

Scott Mergenthaler told the Board that the Sheriffs Office is still in negotiations with the County Council. Meetings tomorrow and early next week will try to sort out the open issues. The 10 new computers needed to replace existing ones were acquired through the use of existing funds reducing the budget request for next year.

He also said that the VFW had assisted the sheriffs department and together with assistance from DES the Sheriff has acquired AEDs for every Patrol car.

A grant from a Talbot County citizen has enable the Sheriff to replace all of their 15 year old pistols. They had all been rebuilt at least once.

Work continues to identify a location to move the Sheriffs Department to when they need to move out of the Black and Decker Building. The Marys Court location currently occupied by the Avon Dixon Insurance Agency is being studied. An issue with this location is whether a 150' radio antenna could be built on the site.

Three new deputies were also approved one will be for the Criminal Investigations and two for Patrol. Hiring to fill these three positions is complicated by the Base Salary differences among Talbot and the adjacent Counties. The negotiations mentioned earlier are focused on addressing this pay parity issue and finding off-sets.

Debbie Timms provided an update on Shore Health. Not much changed since her last report, the ER is still crowded with patients on hold waiting admission or transfer to other hospitals. This impacts the wait time for EMS and walk in patients. While the acuity of the patients being seen in the hospital has lessened in the last six months the volume of patients is up. The hospital as a whole and the ER in particular still depend on Travelers to fill vacant positions.

Steve Mroczek discussed the Talbot County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association budget actions. Pending final approval by Council, the County Appropriation for six of the County's Fire Companies has been set at approximately \$267K and the State 508 Proceeds at approximately \$47K. The seventh company, Queen Anne Hillsboro, will receive an appropriation is approximately \$89K and their 508 Proceeds will be approximately \$15K. Their appropriations are lower as they receive funding from all three counties they serve.

The next scheduled meeting of the Board will be on 6 July at 6PM at Talbot Center