

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

5 August

Attendees:

Steve Mroczek - Chairperson

Members

Shirley Bucci

Brian LeCates

Richard Smith

Wayne Dyott

Lois McDonald

Ruth Sullivan

Jeanne Kuperberg

Scott Mergenthaler

Guests

Clay Stamp

Mike McAdams

Steve Mroczek opened the meeting at 7PM 4 August . The minutes of the 2 June meeting were approved as prepared.

Clay Stamp introduced Mike McAdams. Mr McAdams had just been hired, as of August 3, to be the new Director of Emergency Services for Talbot County. Several days subsequent to this meeting, on August 10, Mr. McAdams resigned.

Reports

Brian LeCates began his update on the Department of Emergency Services by discussing the uptick in the activities in the Emergency Management Division. The recent surge in cases due to the Delta Variant has caused them to reinstitute Senior Leadership calls to coordinate responses to the evolving challenge. Efforts have begun on the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan with the outside consultant conducting meetings with various stakeholders. They just completed the execution of the Special Event plan for the annual Balloon Festival. The next planned special event will be the St Michaels Running Festival in mid August.

The Emergency Medical Services Division continues to roll out the Operative IQ Inventory system for their ambulances. Station supply inventory is also being implemented. As those complete, the system will also be used to track equipment maintenance. The acquisition of Portable Ultrasound has begun. The Paramedic Foundation is assisting this project with funding. Brian said he was looking forward to some assistance in training from Jeanne Kuperberg and Medtronic. The hiring process is underway for four new clinicians who were approved in the budget to staff the surge unit. Testing of candidates will begin next week. The County Council will be asked on August 10th for approval to purchase the two new ambulances contained in this year's budget. They will cost approximately \$ 600K.

The Communications Division was just approved by the State 911 Board for two projects at a cost of \$993K. The first is for Next Generation Core Services that will provides Emergency Services Internet Protocol Network (ESinet) capabilities. This upgrade will allow the seamless integration of the 911 to communications service providers. The second project provides full funding for a Cyber Security contract that will expand the current security effort to encompass this new system. These projects were part of a larger program to create redundant Next Generation 911 services across the 9 counties of the Eastern Shore. Next week the Communications Division will also be testing applicants for two vacancies.

Scott Mergenthaler discussed the Sheriff's Office activities related to the Balloon Festival and their plans for the Running Festival. He also described the August 31 kick off of Talbot Goes Purple in Idlewild Park. Recruiting efforts for vacancies are underway. The approval of the LEOPS Retirement program has really helped this effort. Applications keep coming in. Supply chain issues are impacting Sheriff department Vehicle, weapons and ammo acquisition. Scott noted it points up the need to get orders placed as early as possible.

There was no update from Shore Health as Debbie Timms was absent.

Steve Mroczek discussed the Talbot County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association's plans for a ceremony marking the 20th Anniversary of 9/11. It will be held in conjunction with Talbot County at Dogwood Harbor. More details will be published shortly.

Richard Smith discussed the new Officers of the Maryland State Firemen's Association. Joel McCrea is the new President, Ben Kurtz, the First Vice President and Eric Smothers the second Vice President. They will be meeting with the Legislative Committee to plan for the new legislative year. High on their agenda will be to increase the Income Tax Subtraction. Bobby Phillips from the Rescue Fire Company in Cambridge is the new Chairmen of the Legislative Committee.

Old Business:

There was discussion of the Annual Board offsite. The restaurant we have used for several years has gone out of business and so a new location needs to be identified. Wayne Dyott said he would help identifying a location.

Van Thompson has told Clay that American Tower has sold the Cordova cell tower location back to the company Van worked for before he retired. Clay said he had a point of contact he would provide to the Cordova Firemens Association so this process might be moved forward.

Three Bridge Branch Road and RT309 is the a better location for the North County Station than the previously discussed Klondike Rd location. Brian has opened discussions with the owner of the property.

New Business:

The County is looking to acquire 15 acres of the land know as the Popular Hill property to develop a Public Safety complex. This would accommodate the Sheriff who needs to move out of the old Black and Decker Building. That building needs to come down in the Spring of 2024.

Clay said that the Governor will be holding a press conference on the COVID situation. Clay said he didn't know what he would say but Talbot County has followed the State's lead. Wayne said that the Hospital was going back to to earlier COVID precautions with double masking and visitor restrictions.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be our Off Site. A specific date and location will be announced.