

Meeting of the Talbot County Emergency Services Advisory Board (TCESAB)  
August 26, 2020

Attendees:

Wayne Dyott - Chairperson

Members:

Jack Harrald

Steve Mroczek

Clay Stamp

Brian LeCates

Lois McDonald

Debbie Timms

Scott Mergenthaler

Ruth Sullivan

Guests:

Jackie Reiff

Ronnie Foster

Rachael Cox

Richie Bobitka

Wayne Dyott opened the meeting by welcoming our guests this all of whom are Paramedics working for Talbot County EMS. He said guests are always welcome to our public meetings.

Wayne asked Debbie Timms if there was any report from Shore Health. Debbie said that there was no report. She added that after a slow period, the ER was crazy busy with all types of patients.

Steve Mroczek reported that the Talbot County Volunteer Fire and Rescue had not met in August.

Scott Mergenthaler discussed the number of protests, all peaceful, that had occurred over the summer.

Jack Harrald said he had no report.

Clay Stamp began by reminding the Board that today was the 167th day since the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated in response to the Pandemic. Clay said that it continues to be a team effort and has been used to coordinate responses to emergencies in addition to COVID-19.

Clay discussed the FY 21 Budget. He noted it had been passed as we had discussed in July but spending on parts had been embargoed pending a better understanding of FY21 Tax Receipts. Significant deferred items included Step Increases delayed until November/December. A new ambulance was approved and they are moving forward on ordering it. A major disappointment in the budget was the failure of the Council to approve Bonus pay for Public Safety personnel. He told the group that he planned on revisiting that subject with the Council.

Clay discussed the existing Five Strategic Plan for TCDES. It covers the years 2016 - 2021. It was a major effort to create consisting of five sections with 54 individual items. He reviewed some of the items in the plan with the Board. Clay said that it was time to revisit both this plan and the Department's vision for the future and create a new Five Year Plan for 2021 - 2026.

Clay discussed how the Department's support of the County Combined SWAT team had evolved with that team being restructured to be the Crisis Response Team. He also discussed the effort by the Cordova Volunteer Firemens Association to engage with a private firm to build a Cell Tower on their property. Clay said that there is concern about the emotional impacts that COVID 19 pandemic has had on staff. As a first step to address this, Lisa Lee from For All Seasons will be participating in Shift Meetings.

The County has undertaken a study of the cost to move to the Law Enforcement Officers Pension Program (LEOPS). This program is widely used on the Shore. Additionally a new competitive analysis of salaries in the area will be done again this year.

Brian LeCates discussed the new online learning platform that the department was rolling out. It will combine on line and live training.

The Tax Cap Referendum and its implications for the Sheriff, DES and the seven volunteer companies was discussed. Wayne noted that the Council had mentioned that they might be asking the Board for support in providing public information but as of now no request has been made. Clay said he would remind them of the Board's interest.

Wayne asked the guests if they had any questions or comments. Ronnie Foster said that he understood that the LEOPS Study would cover the Sheriff's Office and Corrections but not EMS. After some discussion Clay said he would send a memo to Council this week asking for their inclusion in the study.

Ronnie also asked how to get information on future meetings. Brian said it would be on DES's website.

The next meeting will be in October.