

Meeting of the Talbot County Emergency Services Advisory Board (TCESAB)
November 30, 2016

Attendees:

Michael Brophy	Wayne Dyott
Jack Harrald	Bryan LeCates
Lois MacDonald	Scott Mergenthaler
Steve Mroczek	Richard Smith
Clay Stamp	Ruth Sullivan

The November meeting of the TCESAB was called to order at 7pm by Wayne Dyott.

He welcomed Lois MacDonald to the board as our newest member representing the Cordova area. Each member of the board introduced themselves to Lois.

Wayne discussed the continuing vacancy for an St Michaels area representative. He said that the County Council continues to ask if we have found a member for that area. Several names were raised as possible candidates and Wayne agreed to reach out to them.

Wayne thanked Clay Stamp and the County Council for hosting last months Dinner meeting. He then asked each of the members to report back on actives and actions in their areas of representation.

Steve Mroczek reported that the Talbot County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association submitted Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) request to obtain Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) cleaning and drying equipment for each company in the county. He also said that they hoped to work with the County Government to submit a grant to bring aboard an employee to do Recruiting and Retention (R&R). Clay Stamp said that they would be willing to work with us on that request.

Michael Brophy asked if there was a grant writer we had access to. Clay suggested that if we were successful bringing aboard a full time R&R person, grant writing could be part of their duties.

Jack Harrald discussed the evolution of the Village Board and the recent meetings between the Bay Hundred representatives and the Department of Emergency Services (DES). Clay emphasized that he needed to communicate that the choice of living in an exposed area like the Bay Hundred placed some of the responsibility for resident's safety on them. There was some discussion of the possible role of the TCESAB in reaching to area as an information source but Clay felt that DES was providing that information. Wayne said that when the committee needs to recommend station placement in the Bay Hundred, there would be community support from that area.

Scott Mergenthaler said that they are very appreciative of the support the TCESB has given the Sheriffs Department. Like all the other departments, personnel are a major challenge. The geography of Talbot County and the demands on the Deputies time make response to calls for service a problem. Wayne reminded the board that previous discussions of Stations has involved making them “utility” stations with both DES and Sheriff Department sharing them.

Lois MacDonald discussed the Cell coverage problems in the Cordova area. Clay said that he had no update of that area but that the Tilghman tower was now operational. But it is only 4G. Older phones will not work because the phones companies are not installing old technology on new towers.

Richard Smith warned the committee that the sprinkler issue is not over. He hoped that they could keep this session from being a repeat of last year’s when there was an attempt to repeal the sprinkler mandate. He also reported that there would be a push to increase the income tax subtraction for both volunteer and career firefighters.

Ruth Sullivan said there was a growing awareness of the needs of the elderly in our county. After last year’s success, the Department of Social Services will be hosting a second Senior Summit at the Talbot County Community Center on June 8th. She also said this may become a focus of the board.

Clay Stamp said that Jennifer Williams is now the President of the Council and Cory Pack is the Vice President. He discussed the progress of the 911 Center. He expects that the dispatchers will move in on the 13th of December and cut over to the new phone and radio systems will happen then. At the County Council meeting that evening there will be a proclamation recognizing the 50th anniversary of the establishment of a Central Alarm Center in Talbot County. The Division Chief for the 911 Center is vacant. The application period ends today and interviews will happen shortly. Two employees to buy a home in our county have used the \$5,000 closing cost assistance for public safety employees. Dispatchers are now getting a night differential and that has assisted in creating some staff stability.

Bryan LeCates discussed the revised training program for EMS employees. He said that this Board had helped get the training budget restored and felt that they needed to share with us how EMS was using that budget. As part of that he gave a brief update of the training being provided to EMS staff on self-defense. This training is part of a larger strategy to protect EMS staff when they respond to emergencies.

Wayne said there would be no meeting in December. The next meeting will be on January 25th 2017 at the 911 Center. By that time he hopes he will have a date for this year’s presentation to the County Council and we can begin to develop our presentation. If there is a need before that time, Wayne we can convene a special meeting.