



BOARD

21502

ALLEGANY COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

11400 P.P.G. ROAD, S.E. CUMBERLAND, MD



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KEN MAY,

February 14, 2017 Emergency Services Board Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

The February 14, 2017 meeting was called to order by Chairman Dick DeVore at 6:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

The following board members were in attendance:

Dick DeVore	Ken May	Allen Ruby	Jason Mowbray
Donald Dunn	Michael McGowan	Tim Dayton	Bobby Pattison

IN ATTENDANCE

Roger Bennett	911 Center	Doug Hanson	Frostburg Fire
Phil Via	911 Center	Chris Cage	Cresaptown
Susan Lee	ACDES	Gary Carpenter	Baltimore Pike
Scott Yates	Shaft	Shannon Adams	Bowling Green
Justin Hetrick	Oldtown	Greg Boyd	District 16
Wayne Rounds	Barton	Dwayne Kitis	MIEMSS
Joe Hoffman	Frostburg Fire		

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the December meeting were approved as written.

MEMBERSHIP

The Citizen-at-Large position is still open on the Board. Any suggestions to fill this position should be addressed to Dick DeVore.

ELECTIONS

The Board held their yearly elections with the following results:

Chairman: Dick DeVore
Vice-Chair: Tim Dayton
Secretary: Ken May

PRESENTATIONS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

1. COMMUNICATIONS/911

Roger Bennett reported that all of the radios are in and installation will begin this week on mobiles and repeaters. Worksheets will be made available to have the radios installed as companies wish. Motorola is still tidying up a few things before pager installation can begin. There is an open slot for a dispatcher position, and it will be filled soon.

Dick DeVore added that a temporary mutual aid agreement has been agreed upon with Morgan County for the lower portion of Rt. 51 for second-due coverage and critical care coverage on hot calls in that area for ALS. Again, this is a temporary agreement pending a long-term solution with no exchange of funds.

2. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Susan Lee reported that the rail car incident response training has been rescheduled for March 31st or April 1st as a one-day class. Registration closes March 22nd.

3. EMS DIVISION

Bobby Pattison reported that with John Herath's retirement, he'll be performing his duties now. We are now staffing LaVale with ALS and one driver at night as a temporary fix. The fail rates for 2016 increased, though call volume decreased slightly. We're moving forward to change our staffing plan to meet the needs of the County.

4. SPECIAL OPERATIONS

Nothing to Report.

5. EMS COMMITTEE

Bobby Pattison reported that the EMS Committee reviewed and voted down the "Officer Standards" policy. They also held their yearly elections with the following results:

Chairman: Bobby Pattison
Vice-Chair: Luke Merkel
Secretary: Jennifer Mason
Member-at-Large for EMS: Allen Ruby

6. FIRE SERVICES

Mickey McGowan reported that Fire Services Committee met and voted to pass the Officer Standards policy. The Committee would appreciate getting some responses to many questions on the policy (addressed under *Old Business*).

7. MEMA

Nothing to Report.

8. MIEMSS

Dwayne Kitis reported that after 18 years, Dr. May is leaving as our Regional Medical Director to go to Georgia at the end of March. A replacement is being sought. However, we do have a Region I Pediatric Medical Director now – Dr. Stephanie

Sisler from Garrett County. He also reported that the Miltenberger Seminar is coming up on March 10 & 11th. People need to sign up as classes are filling up quickly. Finally, he reported that ambulance inspections have been scheduled for Wednesday, October 4, 2017.

9. LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Nothing to Report.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Budget

Dick DeVore reported that as part of the budget process, we are asking for the money to finish out the second portion of the phase-in for the allocations, and also asking the Commissioners to fund the narcotic knock boxes as a part of this process. The Commissioners gave their approval to submit for a SAFER grant. A private consultant was utilized to submit for that grant for the hiring of Firefighter-Paramedics.

2. April Appropriations

Ken May encouraged companies to get their paperwork submitted on time in order to receive their April appropriations.

Motion was made by Michael McGowan, seconded by Bobby Pattison, to release April allocations to all companies who have submitted their paperwork on time, and to release the remaining monies to the companies as their paperwork requirements are met.
Motion passed.

Dwayne Kitis added that companies want to also make certain they get their *personal property tax* forms filed. Any company who does not file will be delinquent and that affects your ability to apply for/receive any grants from the State. Check your status on the State Department of Assessments and Taxation website and see if you're in good standing. Dick DeVore added that companies should also make sure their *Articles of Incorporation* are updated. Roger Bennett stated that companies need to also make certain the County Tax Office has their current mailing address on file.

3. Personal Property Tax / Articles of Incorporation

Dwayne Kitis reported that companies want to also make certain they get their *personal property tax* forms filed. Any company who does not file will be delinquent and that affects your ability to apply for/receive any grants from the State. Check your status on the State Department of Assessments and Taxation website and see if you're in good standing. Dick DeVore added that companies should also make sure their *Articles of Incorporation* are updated. Roger Bennett stated that companies need to make sure the County Tax Office has their current mailing address on file.

3. LOSAP / Income Tax Incentive

LOSAP is closed out and all companies have turned in their income tax incentive lists.

1. Chief Officer Standards

Dick DeVore discussed the Chief Officer Standards policy that was generated six months ago. It is scheduled for a vote tonight. Several questions were brought to the attention of the Board:

Will appropriations be held if companies do not meet the standards?

The Board has never used appropriations as a means to attain compliance with policies. The basic gist of this policy is recognizing that we've gone through two critical incidents which have resulted in closure of departments and then we've had other departments who have dealt with significant legal issues. So the purpose of the policy is a step forward to elevate the future generation of leadership coming forward. The young junior member who one day aspires to be chief, this lays out a blueprint for him of the training that would be required for them to rise to the rank of chief within the department.

Would departments need to modify their leadership structure?

It was never the intention of this policy to force companies to modify their leadership structure. This policy would be implemented by the Board and the Board would be empowered to grant exceptions on a case-by-case basis based on different scenarios that would play out. And in those cases, the department would bring those issues to the Board to be addressed.

Define the grandfathering/phase-in aspect?

If this policy is approved tonight, a 3-year "phase-in" period could be implemented, recognizing that existing officers, existing positions – would be grandfathered. The purpose of the policy is not to push people out of leadership positions. It is to set the stage to raise the bar for those future leaders. For example, if you're currently grandfathered as a *deputy chief* in your department, that would allow you for the following year, if you'd wish to drop back to an assistant chief, you'd still be grandfathered because you came from a higher rank that was grandfathered back. It would not allow you to advance from a deputy chief to a chief. The grandfather clause only addresses the current level that you're currently at. The policy does not address prior chief officers.

What of senior members that have training from previous years, but the training's terminology does not meet today's terminology?

These would be addressed on a case-by-case basis with MFRI's comparison and input.

Are all the departments within the County actually going to follow the policy and other policies adopted by Board?

We are one-service route in Allegany County.

How will it be addressed for people who have a difficult time attending the training due to shift work, scheduling problems, etc.?

If the board moves forward with this, we'd work with MFRI to get the best options for people who have a difficult time attending the training due to shift work, scheduling problems, etc.

*Why doesn't the policy address Junior Officers?
This is just a starting point for the policy - at this time.*

After considerable discussion, the following motion was made:

Mickey McGowan made the motion, seconded by Tim Dayton, to adopt the Chief Officer Standards policy with the amendment of a three-year phase-in period. Five voted in favor of the policy, with two voting against the policy.

2. Chief Officer Standards for Ambulance Alert and Response Policy

Bobby Pattison reported that the EMS Committee felt this was a live and breathing document but a start nonetheless with the likelihood that the document will evolve. After considerable discussion, the following motion was made:

Mickey McGowan made the motion, seconded by Ken May, to adopt the pilot program for Ambulance Alert and Response Policy. Motion passed with one vote opposed by Chief Donald Dunn, Cumberland Fire Department.

3. QA/QI Program Personnel

Recommendations were received for appointment to the QA/QI Program. Upon review, the following motion was made:

Tim Dayton made the motion, seconded by Jason Mowbray, to accept the recommendations for the QA/QI Program personnel. Motion Passed.

4. Social Media Issues

Members received a copy of the letter from the Maryland State Police addressing the social media issues. The Board is asked to review the letter and bring back some recommendations.

COMMENTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

None.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Bobby Pattison reported to the Board that there have been issues with "pronouncement of death" on calls. A committee has been formed and a meeting is planned for the 20th. Any companies who run a call where there were issues relating to pronouncement of death, transport of body issues, etc., should be forwarded to Bobby.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Dick DeVore at 7:30 P.M.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Allegany County Emergency Services Board will be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2017 at 6:00 P.M. at the Emergency Services Headquarters in Mexico Farms. --- The April and June 2017 meetings were cancelled. The next meeting will be on August 8, 2017.

RLD:cll