

WASHINGTON COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE AND
RESCUE ASSOCIATION

The regular meeting of the Washington County Fire and Rescue Association was held on January 15, 2009, at the Clear Spring Fire Company Special Events Building.

The meeting was called to order by President Glenn Fishack. Chaplain Leonard Horst gave the invocation and lead in the pledge to the flag.

ROLL CALL - All member companies were present. All officers were present except the Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer.

GUEST: Roger Bennett, Western Regional Administrator MEMA, reported the following: A. The report is in the folder. B. An Assistance to Firefighter Grant seminar will be held on February 25, at the Western Maryland

Training Center, there will also be a seminar on February 23 at the Mount Airy Fire Company. C. MEMA is in charge of the 508 Funds and the Low Interest Loan Fund. The Department of the Military is auditing these items. If there, are any problems with this item's contact Roger or Kevin for help.

Jennifer Barciz, Fire Prevention Queen, reported: A. She is the Western Maryland Coordinator for te Jr. Miss Fire Prevention Queens contest which will be held on February 21, at the Leitersburg Fire Company Special Events building. Please come out to support the contestants. The current Fire Preventions Queens of the Maryland jurisdictions will be holding a plunge into the Chesapeake Bay at Annapolis on January 24 to benefit the Special Olympics. Jennifer would like sponsors for this event.

Kingsley Poole, MFRI, reported: A. Hazardous Material Ops at Co. 27 starting on February 17, and First Responder Refresher at Co. 12 starting on February 21, need additional students.

People needing First Responder Refresher can also take the EMT Refresher. B. The Staff and Command School in March still has openings. The Association will sponsor 2 or 3 people to this class. There is currently one application from Washington County.

Brigitte Heller, DFES, reported: A. See the report. There is a questionnaire to be completed. All vehicles should copies of the Selective Insurance Card in them. There are guidelines included concerning Infectious Exposures. B. If you want EMS training contact Brigitte. C. Be certain to get all new members EPINS numbers. Contact the Association Office for these numbers.

Kevin Lewis, DFES, reported: A. Kevin needs budget information by Friday. Include information concerning Ladder, SCBA and other testing needed. B. Approximately 30 applications were received for the Assistant Director position. The interviews have been completed and the position will be filled soon. C. All Companies should get Hazmat and Fit Test completed as soon as possible. D. Commuter traffic will increase during the Inauguration. Be prepared for this. E. An Emergency Planner will be hired next week. The person is young and well trained. F. Kevin thanked Jay Grimes for his service on the ESAC. G. Phase 1 personnel hiring is progressing. One unit should be in service in the next couple of weeks. H. The Communication Consolidation is progressing well. The prototype installs will begin at two Companies on January 22. Keep Tryst tower is going well. This tower will not go in with the others. Company 9 is receiving a grant for purchase of radio equipment.

Col. Randy Wilkinson, Sheriff Department, reported: A. He discussed the Special Events Ordinance to be discussed by the BOCC on January 20, at 0930. The intent of the ordinance is to not penalize the Fire Company's.

MINUTES: On a motion by Dan Grove seconded by Harry Gossard the minute of the December, 2008, meeting were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer reported: A. The utility reports are due now. B. The checking account balance is \$10697.40. C. Reliant Energy is becoming Hess Corporation. Electric bills will come from Hess Corp. On a motion by Glenn Reynolds seconded by Harry Gossard the Treasurer's Report was accepted.

OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget: The Budget Committee will meet on January 26 at the Association Office. Get all budget requests to the office before this date.

EMS: John Snyder is chairman of this committee. The 1ST VP will be the Executive Committee representative.

Legislative: There will be a reception in Annapolis on February 9.

LOSAP: A. The committee met at Company 2 on Tuesday and distributed the Tax Subtraction Modification papers. B. There was an increase of 30-40 persons receiving 50 or more points over last year's numbers.

Safety Trailer: The trailer is stored indoors thanks to the Sheriff and Kevin.

Loan: Dan Grove reported that the interest rate is still 5%.

Sprinkler: Jay Grimes, Rick Blair, Jeff Ringer and Doug DeHaven have been appointed to this committee.

Standards: Randolph Smith became Co-Chairman of this committee.

Fire Police: A. The minutes of the November meeting are on the table. B. The President reported that the vests

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issued to the Fire police are being returned to the manufacturer for corrections. The Fire Police may need to borrow vests from their Companies until the vests are returned. All Fire Police vests should be returned to the Association office by next Friday.

OLD BUSINESS: No old business was presented.

NEW BUSINESS: A. Charles Shindle asked the age for receiving LOSAP benefits and was told 62. Charlie, on behalf of Company 13, made a motion to ask the BOCC to lower the age to 55. The motion was seconded by Blaine Snyder. After much discussion the motion failed on a voice vote. The President reported that the LOSAP committee was going to propose lowering the age to 60, the same as the county. B. The President submitted Dale Fishack's name to replace Jay on the ESAC. C. Skip explained that State Law says LOSAP can be available after 25 years of service during which at least 50 points are received in two of seven categories. D. Cecil Bittinger is having medical problems and would like to receive cards. Cecil is Chief of the Air Unit and President of Engine 5. His address is: 322 W. Wilson Blvd., Hagerstown, MD 21740. E. The Standards Committee needs the new officers' qualifications as soon as possible. F. On a motion by Joe Ralls seconded by Steve Heefner it was approved to sponsor Jennifer in the Bay Plunge for \$100. The money will go to Special Olympics.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION: A. The Association and its members need to support the current Med-Evac System. The Legislature will be reviewing the system and some would like to go to a commercial system. B. A question was asked about the meeting between the President and City Companies after last meeting. The President reported that he requested the City Companies to help support the replacement of the Rehab Unit. C. Doug Snow reported that the City Fire Police have offered the use of their trailed with additional cones and lights to the County if needed. D. Thanks to Company 4 for a fine meal.

NEXT MEETING: THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE AT COMPANY 19 ON FEBRUARY 19, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 2032.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Murray
Secretary