WASHINGTON COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION MEETING

FEBRUARY 19TH 2015

THE WASHINGTON COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION MEETING WAS HELD FEBRUARY 19TH AT THE CLEAR SPRING SPECIAL EVENTS BUILDING. CLEAR SPRING AMBULANCE HOSTED THE MEETING.

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY VICE PRESIDENT BOB MONCRIEF. ALL COMPANIES EXCEPT COMMUNITY RESCUE AND HANCOCK AMBULANCE WERE PRESENT. ALL OFFICERS EXCEPT THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY WERE IN ATTENDANCE.

CHAPLAIN LEONARD HORST LED THE PRAYER AND THE PLEDGE TO THE FLAG.

GUESTS-

1. DAVID KELLER- PRESIDENT OF MSFA. DAVE BROUGHT US UP TO DATE REGARDING THE BESSIE MARSHALL FUND RAISER. HE NOW HAS $690 OUT OF THE $900 HE IS HOPEFUL OF RAISING. THE SECOND MAILING OF THE CONVENTION PACKET IS FORTHCOMING. HE STATED THAT THE COST TO JOIN THE NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL IS $7.50 PER YEAR. HE REMINDED US THAT HIS MISSION IS TO KEEP ALL LINES OF COMMUNICATION OPEN. THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE IS MEETING DAILY IN ANNAPOLIS. HE IS FIGHTING TO KEEP “SPRINKLERS”. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH HE WILL BE TESTIFYING IN ANNAPOLIS REGARDING PUBLIC ATTACKS ON RESPONDERS. RICK BLAIR WILL BE SENDING LETTERS TO COUNTY COMMITTEES REGARDING THE SPRINKLER ISSUE.

2. DONALD LEHMAN- STATE POLICE REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT TO THANK US FOR OUR SUPPORT GIVEN TO HELP IN THE ACQUISITION OF THE HELICOPTERS.

3. CHARLIE SUMMERS- NO REPORT

4. TIM GAMLEY- INFORMED AND REMINDED US ABOUT THE AVAILIBILITY OF GRANTS AND LOANS. IN THE LAST 1 ½ YEARS, $1,000,000 WAS AWARDED IN EITHER GRANTS OR LOANS.

5. DAVID BRUBAKER- DAVID WAS PRESENT TO TALK ABOUT THE ARMED FORCES BENEFITS ASSOCIATION. THIS ASSOCIATION CAME TO BE AS A RESULT OF BENEFITS BEING DENIED TO SERVICE MEMBERS RELATED TO 9-11. NOW, MILITARY BENEFITS ARE EXTENDED TO ALL FIRST RESPONDERS REGARDLESS OF YOUR MILITARY SERVICE. ALSO TOLD US THAT ALL 16-60 YEAR OLD RESPONDERS CAN GET A FREE LIFE INSURANCE POLICY. ADDITIONAL INSURANCE CAN BE PURCHASED, IF NEEDED, AT A LOW COST.

6. CHARLIE ABRECHT- PRESIDENT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. HE EXPRESSED THE NEED FOR ALL REPORTS TO BE SENT. HE STATED THAT THESE REPORTS NEED TO BE LOOKED AT CAREFULLY BEFORE BEING SUBMITTED AS MISTAKES ARE SHOWING UP. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SERVING ON JOHN ROTH’S COMMITTEES, PLEASE SIGN UP. ALSO NAMES FOR MEMORIAL AND STATE AWARDS NEED TO BE SUBMITTED ASAP.

THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY MEETING WERE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

TREASURER’S REPORT- IN THE PACKET
Chaplain’s Report—Leonard Horst reported that he attended the celebration of life for James Blevens on January 18th. He has sent get well cards and made hospital visits. Miss Kitty is having another back surgery.

Career Tech—Kingsley Poole stated that there are 7 students currently in the program but prospects of 25-30 are for next year.

Losap—Skip reported that company contact list should have been sent in. Please fill out on the website and submit. Contact Rick Hemphill if you need additional help.

Standards—Brian Lohman stated that MEIMSSS standard is law, no exceptions. Standardized dispatch was to have been brought up at this meeting but because of found problems, will be discussed at next month’s meeting.

Constitution and By-Laws—See page 4 in the packet. A by-law change regarding the number of terms the President can serve was introduced and put into a motion. This will be voted on at the next meeting. The motion requires a 2/3 majority vote to pass.

Old Business—The question concerning what to do with Fairplay’s funding was resolved. The funding must be saved for a period of time and then distributed evenly to the companies. The original motion was void.

New Business—

Computer—Rick Hemphill will be coming to companies to upgrade firehouse and to get them up on the Colud.

Recruitment and Retention—Nichole shared that the meeting at Funkstown went well and that things are moving along. April 11 is state wide recruitment day. Company surveys should be back to her by the 27th. If your company has any new recruits, let her know.

Good of the Company—

Dale Martin thanked the association for supporting the sprinkler system and suggested that perhaps some thought should be given to an alarm system also.

Bob Moncrief reminded everyone to pick up their insurance papers and cards and place them in the proper vehicles.

Next meeting at station 59. There will be food.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Lynn Hunsberger    Assistant Secretary