

WASHINGTON COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE AND
RESCUE ASSOCIATION

The regular meeting of the Washington County Fire and Rescue Association was held on March 19, 2009 at Engine 4 hosted by Engine 2.

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 Secretary Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer.

GUEST: Doug Mullendore, Sheriff, reported the following: A. The Sheriff presented a check for \$250.00 to the Rehab Unit and thanked Chief Terry Smith for the support given the Sheriff's Department. Jennifer Barciz, Fire Prevention Queen, reported: A. The Little Miss Fire Prevention Contest was held last month and Rebecca Coffin was chosen Junior Miss Washington County Fire Queen and Christina Diffenderfer was chosen Junior Miss Western Maryland Fire Queen. Both of these persons will attend the Convention with our Fire Queen. If any Companies are holding events, please invite these queens to attend.

Dale Fishack, MSFA Executive Committee, reported: A. Last months meeting was held at Smithsburg. The items discussed included: 1) How to defeat the bills pending concerning the State Police helicopters. 2) How to maintain our current funding. 3) The Director of MEMA was questioned concerning the ESF 9, which relates to Technical Rescue, being headed by MSP. It was agreed that MSFA will be given a seat at the table to discuss this item. 4) A question was asked as to why MSFA was supporting HB167. This bill concerns Establishing a Task Force to Study Charitable and Commercial Gaming Activities in Maryland. Dale is to check why MSFA is supporting this bill.

Kevin Lewis, Director DFES, reported the following: A. He just returned from the Staff and Command School. B. Kevin introduced Charles Summers as the new Deputy Director of DFES. C. Discussions with Company 12 are going well. D. The County has adopted a Basic Emergency Operation Plan. This will be put on the County website. E. We are in the middle of the Budget process. The date for presenting the WCVFRA budget has not been set. The BOCC will present the budget to the public on May 5.

Roger Bennett, MEMA West, reported the following: A. ESF 9 - After the weekend discussion MEMA will have the lead on this item at the state level. The County level does not have to change. B. The Maryland Military Department which audits state funds to Fire Companies will keep Roger informed of any problems in the western area and he can assist to settle problems. C. The AFG. grant period will open soon. D. A PIO class will be held at Company 26 on June 9 - 11. Contact DFES to register. E. Operation Ranger grant has closed and winners should be announced in mid April.

Bart Kennedy, Senator Mikulski's office, reported the following: A. Get your AFG. grant completed soon. The Senator will write a letter to support your request. If they are notified in time, the letter can be an attachment to your grant request. There is \$565 M available this year. B. Th Safer grants are included as a part of the Stimulus bill. There will not be a need for matching funds this year. This will have \$210M. Also, included in the Stimulus bill is \$210M for fire station construction. These must be "shovel ready" projects because the money must be committed by year end. This allows up to \$15M / Company. C. There will be a briefing concerning "COPS" funding next week. D. There are handouts concerning past grants on the table. If more are needed, they can be emailed.

MINUTES: On a motion by Dan Grove seconded by Harry Gossard the minutes for February were approved as sent.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The P&L statement for the period of 2/20-3/19 is in the packets. The checking account balance is \$9313.64. The beginning balance on 2/1 was \$7514.76 and the ending balance 2/28 was \$31622.80. On a motion by Glenn Reynolds seconded by Kitty Dorsey the report was approved.

COMMUNICATIONS: The President read from Commissioner Aleshire which includes a questionnaire that he would like to have returned by the end of the next month.

OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

President: Glenn reported the following: A. He has been to Annapolis three times to discuss bills. There was a delegation present to testify about the helicopter bill, but because of the number of people present they only submitted their comments in letter form. B. February 15 was Nancy's last day at the office. Rick Blair has been hired and will be attending BOCC meetings in addition to the things Nancy was doing. He will not be working on Treasurer's business during his work hours. Pay checks are distributed from a CPA in Boonsboro. C. As soon as the budget hearing is known, an email will be sent and support will be needed. D. Company 12 is working to come into compliance. E. The Chaplains have been issued identifications and tags for their cars. Please respect the Chaplains.

Chief's Committee: Greg reported the following: A. The first meeting of the year was held on February 25 and minutes will be emailed to Chief's soon. The next meeting will be held April 29 at Company 4. B. There will be a brainstorming session on a Saturday in April to establish a mission for the Fire Service. One representative from each Company should be in attendance.

Computer: Skip reported the following: A. There is a need to get Training information into Fire House. There was a training session held for the Chief and Fire House administrators for each Company. It was agreed that the Training information will be available by September 1. B. There was a problem updating the Fire House software. That should be corrected now. C. There has been a problem with the scanner frequencies on line. This has been caused by the system going down.

Fire Police: Doug reported: A. At the last meeting it was decided that members of the City and county Fire Police would meet together. B. Both groups cannot be combined because of the make up of the groups. C. Sheriff Mullendore explained that an MOU has been signed by the Hagerstown Police Chief and the sheriff allowing each group to act in the others jurisdiction as long as there is a piece of Fire Apparatus from their jurisdiction on the scene. D. The Sheriff also said the Chief's suggest Fire Police and the Sheriff's Department runs a check and appoints the person.

Safety Trailer: Tom Altman reported the following: A. The trailer should return soon. It has been completely rehabbed and is in like new shape. B. People desiring to use the trailer should get their requests to the office as soon as possible. C. A letter concerning the use and reporting of problems will be sent soon.

Standards: Dale reported that the next meeting is March 31.

Sprinklers: Jay reported that the committee met with the MSFA Sprinkler Committee and found out how to get started. It is not as expensive as people thought. We need to try to get this started on all new residences as soon as possible. On a motion by Harry Gossard seconded by Rick Blair the Association gave their support for this to happen.

Training: Jay reported the following: A. Is there money available to help people pay for the Staff and Command school? There are at least 7 people interested. The Treasurer reported that there is about \$4000 available. This could be split among those interested. B. There will be an FFI class at Company 10 starting on May 5. More people are needed to get this class going. Call MFRI to enroll. C. Kevin and Jay met with representatives of HCC at Mack Trucks to discuss EVOC training. They have a course at Mack Trucks to teach semi driving. This course could be used for EVOC training. They also have a simulator for semi driving. There are simulator programs available for Fire Truck and Ambulance driving. Kevin and Jay are going to look into the Fire and Ambo simulators.

Sargent at Arms: Jimmy reminded all Companies that they need to update their delegate lists. If the person wanting to sign in is not on the delegate list the Company will not be allowed to vote and will be considered absent.

Picnic: Dan Grove reported that the picnic will be held on July 18 at 1230 at the Redmen's Club. Each Company was given 10 tickets which cost \$10.00 each. This money will be refunded if the ticket is used. If more than 10 tickets are needed, they will cost \$10.00 each and this money will not be refunded. Unsold tickets must be returned at the June meeting. If tickets or the moneys are not returned, the Company will be billed for them.

Training Facility: Jay reported the following: A. The committee has found about 9 acres of ground that would serve as a training site. It is located near Rts 63/68 off of Speilman Road. The land is in an Industrial Park and is owned by 'Chief'. B. Most MFRI sites are 8 acres. C. Blaine Snider made a motion seconded by Jason Baer to purchase the land if it meets all zoning requirements for a training

site. D. This land has water available, but is not on a sewer line. To add a sewer a pumping station must be constructed. E. After much discussion Blaine made a motion to table this until a Special Meeting on Tuesday, March 24. The motion was seconded by Jason Baer and passed on a roll call vote. The Executive Committee will meet immediately after this meeting to discuss the purchase.

OLD BUSINESS: No old business was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business was discussed.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION: A. The next meeting will be hosted by Company 69 at Company 11. B. Company 7 has Bonanza tickets available. C. Someone will send the State President directions to Company 11. D. Company 4 will have a money bonanza on April 10. E. The 50/50 drawing was won by Joe Kroboth.

NEXT MEETING: THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD AT HAGERSTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN ROOM 210-214 OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION & STUDENT AFFAIRS BUILDING.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Murray
Secretary