

*Washington County, Maryland
Emergency Services Advisory Council*



REGULAR MEETING

Date: Thursday, July 11, 2013

Attending: Kevin Lewis, Director, Emergency Services, Ex-Officio
Jack Latimer, Chairman
David Kline, Citizen-at-Large
Dwayne Lunsford, Citizen-at-Large
Paul Miller, Citizen-at-Large
Rev. Alan Weatherholt, Citizen-at-Large
Dave Hays, WCVFRA
Mike Reid, WCVFRA
Bonnie Keltner, Administrative Assistant

Guest: County Commissioner, Ruth Anne Callaham

Absent: Dale Hill, WCVFRA, Ex-Officio
Larry Hines, Citizen-at-Large
Brent Taylor, Citizen-at-Large

CALL TO ORDER:

Director Kevin Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

This is the first time for the ESAC to meet since 2011. Introductions were made.

Jack Latimer accepted the position of Chairperson.

Kevin read over the by-laws and, along with input from the members, changes were made. The revised copy of the by-laws is attached. Please review, submit changes, and send back to me by July 29.

Paul Miller would like to know more about what DES covers. Kevin said he will make a presentation at the next meeting to cover the Div. of Emergency Services and also for the Washington County Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association (WCVFRA) to make a presentation. This will help our new members become more informed about DES and WCVRFA.

We will scan a copy of the Buracker study and send to committee members.

Kevin spoke briefly about the ESAC history, past projects, issues into the future, etc. A discussion followed.

**Washington County, Maryland
Emergency Services Advisory Council Meeting
Thursday, July 11, 2013**

Kevin passed out the following documents for review and discussion as currently existing documents:

- Code of the Public Local Laws of Washington County; Section 10-401 Unauthorized fire, rescue, or ambulance service unlawful, penalty
- 10-402 Authorized fire, rescue, and ambulance service, regulations, appropriations, loans
- Also included was a copy of an ordinance that was adopted in 2003 - Designation of Authority Having Jurisdiction for Washington County

Kevin also provided a drafted proposal to the current Code of Public Local Laws similar to the existing documents as outlined above. It is a revised document to clarify our current code of public local laws.

Jack suggested that the committee should prioritize the discussions and take time at one of the meetings to talk about the make-up of fire & EMS in the county. To talk about the financial structures – how each corporation operates and where the sources of funds are and how much the general public does not provide to companies. Based upon further discussion, Jack would like to see funding set aside and take a look at what the committee thinks is best and then try to apply some funding model to it. He would also like to take the first 15 to 20 minutes of each meeting and discuss a subject, i.e. history of fire & EMS service, present day funding, WCVFRA and what role they play.

Commissioner Callahan suggested that certain questions that the public might have could be funneled thru this committee and then brought before the Board of County Commissioners. A decision would be made about whether the person submitting the question is either correct or not correct and then decide on the recommended action. Also, Commissioner Callahan will take back to the commissioners' two thoughts about the meeting, "think tank concept" and "to revalidate" the importance of this council. She stated that the commissioners want to know the opinion of this committee.

Dave Hays wants to make sure that we do not become a competing agency while at the same time be able to deal with controversial subjects. Dave also commented that he hopes the commissioners do not get the strong political influence from the Association that may not parallel with the consensus of this group. This group should be cautious and not become a competing entity with other committees that are already working on problems like the fire plan, etc. We should find out where they are in their discussion and that can become an educational component for the ESAC.

Jack confirmed that some of the council members should meet with the WCVFRA leadership. The by-laws state that any company can come directly to this group, so we have to handle that very carefully. We've got to make sure that people don't misunderstand that we are going to immediately pick up the "red phone" and call the commissioners. We're here to do, not only what the commissioners ask, but we may go out looking for information. We also don't mind if other people bring us information.

**Washington County, Maryland
Emergency Services Advisory Council Meeting
Thursday, July 11, 2013**

The contact list will be updated and sent to the council members.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Next Meeting:

The next three meetings are:

- Tuesday, August 6, 2013, 7:00 pm, at Elliott Parkway, lower level training room.
- Tuesday, September 10, 2013, 7:00 pm, at Elliott Parkway, lower level training room.
- Tuesday, October 8, 2013, 5:00 pm, at Elliott Parkway, lower level training room (**notice the time change**).

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Keltner, Administrative Assistant
Washington County Div. of Emergency Services