

*Washington County, Maryland
Emergency Services Advisory Council*



REGULAR MEETING

Date: Tuesday, August 6, 2013

Attending: Kevin Lewis, Director, Emergency Services, Ex-Officio
Dale Hill, WCVFRA, Ex-Officio
Jack Latimer, Chairman
Dwayne Lunsford, Citizen-at-Large
Paul Miller, Citizen-at-Large
Dave Hays, WCVFRA
Mike Reid, WCVFRA
Bonnie Keltner, Administrative Assistant

Guest: County Commissioner, Terry Baker

Absent: David Kline, Citizen-at-Large
Rev. Alan Weatherholt, Citizen-at-Large
Larry Hines, Citizen-at-Large
Brent Taylor, Citizen-at-Large

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Jack Latimer called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Minutes:

On a motion made by Dave Hays and seconded by Paul Miller, the ESAC voted to accept the minutes of July 11, 2013, as presented. MOTION CARRIED

Old Business:

Final Review / Acceptance of the ESAC By-Laws

There were no more changes or additions to the by-laws. On a motion made by Mike Reid and seconded by Dave Hays, the ESAC voted to accept the by-laws as presented. MOTION CARRIED

Old Business:

Senator Amoss Distribution Review / Discussion - Kevin Lewis

The State of Maryland distributes four equal quarterly payments to each county for support of local fire and rescue operations. Each fire & EMS company turns their financial report in to the Div. of Emergency Services and the county files a financial report with the state annually. The Senator William H. Amoss Fire, Rescue, and Ambulance Fund is authorized within the Public Safety Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Maryland Emergency Management Agency is responsible for the program.

Brief Presentation on the Fire Plan - Kevin Lewis & Dale Hill

Kevin commented that the plan was taken before the Board of County Commissioners to tell who the members are on this committee, which is DES, WCVFRA, and each of the fire companies. An update was also given to the commissioners on where the committee is at this time. Dale said that whatever decisions the committee makes, they have to go back to the Association for approval. Because of the limited funding that may be available, the committee decided that the best approach is to do it through a phased effort. Kevin handed out a copy of what was given to the commissioners and explained to the ESAC more about the plan. The committee wants to complete the phase I aspects since in November budget discussions will take place for the fire plan. A discussion followed.

Paul suggested having articles published in the newspaper making citizens aware of what it costs to maintain a fire department.

Jack suggested the ESAC should follow the discussions on the fire plan to make sure we are kept up-to-date.

Washington County Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association Introduction / Overview - Dale Hill

The WCVFRA was formed in 1935. The Association, before the development of the Div. of Emergency Services, was the authority within the county and made recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners. The WCVFRA manages the following:

- We represent 14 county and 6 city fire companies and 7 EMS companies.
- Air Unit Co. 25, Special Operations Co. 20 (both of these are managed under Director Kevin Lewis and DES), and Rehab Unit 255 are associate members.
- We manage the Rehab Unit, which is a very large mobile vehicle that has a built in kitchen and restroom facility. The Rehab Unit will respond to an incident to provide food and drinks to those at the scene. It has a large canopy where an EMS officer will set up to take vital statistics on firefighters. This unit is housed at the Air Unit Station on York Road.
- The Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP) is a retirement program adopted through state statute and county code. It credits volunteers with a certain amount of points for doing certain activities. This program is found in almost every county in the state.
- We co-administrate the high school academy program, which is the Career Technology Education program.
- The Fire Police is funded by the Association.
- We have two incident safety officer vehicles on the road.
- The Photo Team, which will go to an incident and document different scenes.
- Fire safety trailer, which is used for children to go through.
- Fire prevention program thru public service advertisements on the local TV station.
- The Personal Accountability Tags (PAT) are distributed to firefighters.
- Physical fitness testing for all firefighters, fire police, and administrative. The Board of County Commissioners has appropriated funds for this program this year and last year.

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Comments

Kevin Lewis spoke about “Remembrance in the Park” which will be held at Hagerstown City Park on September 10, at 6:30pm in the parking lot near the museum. There will also be “Preparedness in the Park” on that same day from 11am to 2pm in the ball field area. Please see the attached flyers.

Dave Hays asked Kevin to put together some financial information. Kevin will talk with Rick Hemphill about the financial data for the fire plan.

Jack Latimer wanted to make sure that Dale Hill understood about the relationship this council has with the County Commissioners and the potential relationship we have with the individual companies, both fire & EMS. We are here to be a “think tank” for the commissioners and we can play that same role for individual companies. We are not trying to cut the Association out.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Next Meeting:

The next two meetings are:

- Thursday, September 12, 2013, 7:00 pm, at Elliott Parkway, lower level training room (**notice the date change**).
- 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