

Meeting of the Talbot County Emergency Services Advisory Board (TCESAB)  
April 7 , 2021

Attendees:

Wayne Dyott - Chairperson

Members

Brian LeCates  
Richard Smith

Lois McDonald  
Ruth Sullivan

Steve Mroczek

Tonight's meeting is virtual due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Minutes from the December 2 ,2020 meeting were accepted as submitted.

Jack Harrald has left the Board. Since he moved to Londonderry he was no longer able to represent the Bay Hundred area. We will need to find a new representative for that area.

Brian LeCates provided the following update on the Budget being considered by Council for the coming Fiscal Year.

- A 10 % salary increase for all employees. This is needed as our salaries are among the lowest in the region.

- Hiring four new staff members. Currently the Surge unit is being staffed with employees working on over time. Some days there is not sufficient staff to cover the unit. These new staff will allow the Surge unit to be expand to 12 hours a day, seven days a week.

- \$600k for two new ambulances, one is the normal replacement and the second is for the Surge unit

- \$ 7,500 LEOPS study for Emergency Services Staff

- \$15,000 for repairs to several station.

- Land acquisition to create a new station to service North County and build the station.

The year over year call volume still appears to be increasing. The first three months of 2021 is up 1300 calls when compared to the first three months of 2020. Out of county calls do not appear to have increased. This increase appears to be independent of COVID impacts.

The EOC is reducing its weekly meetings to bi weekly. Emergency management will be continuing all its work supporting EOC operations. They will also be supporting a FEMA vaccination site that is planned to operate at the Elks Club. FEMA will also have a Mobile Unit. Together they will be able to administer 350 vaccination per day.

Several new software systems are being rolled out across the department. Operative IQ, an inventory system to support vehicle checks and First Watch, a data integration program to provide an emergency management dashboard.

The new 911 telephone replacement system has been awarded and installation is under way. It is a Vesta system. Training terminals are also being installed the 911 Center so training can be conducted on the new system in May.

One position has been opened for a 911 dispatcher to replace one who has left.

Scott Mergenthaler is on vacation so there is no update from the Sheriffs Office.

Debbie Timms is working in the ER and has not been able to join for a hospital update.

Steve Mroczek reported they the Talbot County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association had submitted a budget requesting both an increase in Operation Funds and the Retirement accounts. Like DES they are waiting the Council's final action.

Richard Smith discussed the Maryland Legislature's session that is ending. Like so much, COVID has negatively impacted much of the normal activity.

Old Business:

Wayne discussed the Letter of Support we spoke about sending to County Council at our last meeting. On reflection after the meeting Wayne said it seemed too late to impact the issues we cared about so he decided not to send it. Wayne said it could still be sent if the Board feels it is necessary. After discussion the Board agreed it was not needed.

New Business:

Wayne said he would like to step back from the Chairmanship of the Board. He said that he had spoken to Steve Mroczek about assuming the role of Chairmanship and he agreed he would like to be considered. There will be an election at our next meeting.

Next Meeting will be on June 2 at 6PM. It will be an in person meeting at Talbot Center. It will also be available for call in.