



Fire Services Committee Meeting Minutes 3/8/2016



CALL TO ORDER

The March 8, 2016 meeting of the Allegany County Fire Services Committee was called to order by Chairman Tim Dayton at 6:00 P.M.

IN ATTENDANCE

The following companies/departments were represented and in attendance:

Dick DeVore	Emergency Services	John Clingerman	Orleans
Susan Lee	Emergency Management	Derek Crippen	Bedford Road
John Herath	EMS Division	Bobby Ritchie	Good Will
Roger Bennett	911 Center	Sam Wilson	Baltimore Pike
Phillip Via	911 Center	Ron Dugan	Frostburg
John Reginaldi	MEMA	Greg Boyd	District 16
Tim Dayton	Potomac/Luke	Chris Cage	Cresaptown
Scott Yates	Shaft	Kevin Rounds	Barton
Tim Growden	Special Ops/CFD	Seth Miller	Bedford Road
Ken Wolford	Oldtown	Steve Shipley	911 Center
Donald Dunn	Cumberland	Mark McDonald	LaVale Fire

COMMITTEES

1. PUMPS TESTS

Nothing to Report.

2. KNOX BOX

Roger Bennett reported Knox sent out a newsletter about updating the software. This has been completed.

3. BOX ALARMS

Roger Bennett reported that companies have responded well turning in their box alarms. Data sheets need turned in showing your updated officers with their phone number so it can be entered into the CAD system.

4. STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Scott Yates reported that the committee is meeting directly following tonight's Fire Services Committee meeting.

5. FIT TESTING

Cheri Llewellyn reported that one machine has been checked out and one is still available.

6. MEMA WESTERN MARYLAND LIAISON

John Reginaldi discussed several training opportunities that will be coming available for volunteers. If interested in these classes, let him know. He will forward the training announcements to Roger to forward to the departments.

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

6. COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

Communications Center

Roger Bennett reported that our backup center has been disassembled and the new furniture has been installed. We have three weeks to install all of the equipment, then testing is scheduled for a period of two weeks. We'll then move operations to the backup center the first or second week of April. At which time, the primary center will be renovated and equipment reinstalled. The radio consoles will be new and have the capacity to put the 700 system on them when it comes online. We're still looking at the summer of 2017 to transition over to the 700 system.

Tower Sites

- Dan's – A telephone pole will be removed within the next two weeks, then clearing timber is scheduled.
- Barton – Budgeted for - still working that MOU.
- Cacapon – Will be moved to Morgan County in one week. It'll still say Cacapon on the radio if you live in the area of 51 North to 68 . It'll be down for one day.
- Warrior – Project moving forward with the road and is the only hold-up at present.
- Big Savage – The hold has been lifted and work resumes on March 15, 2016.

7. EMS DIVISION

John Herath reported that the fail rate for the county was up over 7% with six companies with double-digit fail rates. He also reported that there is going to be a major change in eMEDS for the county. Instead of every company having its own individual database, there will now only be one for the entire county. This will allow anyone from the county to get on any company's ambulance and have the ability to do eMEDS reporting. Miltenberger is this weekend, March 11th at the hospital and Saturday, March 12th at Rocky Gap.

8. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Snow Storm Disaster Declaration

Susan Lee reported we did receive our declaration for the snow storm for January 22nd and 23rd. Unfortunately, we've only received paperwork from five volunteer fire companies. She's sent another notice requesting companies with any snow removal costs by this Friday.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Budget

Dick DeVore reported on Thursday, March 10th, the Committee will be making a presentation to the Commissioners for our requested budget. This budget is just the basic budget, outlining the necessities that we need the funding to provide.

On Thursday, March 24th will be the public work session to hear a report from our committee. This presentation will last approximately 30 minutes and any of your members are welcome to attend. This will include the items the Commissioners have asked us to provide, which includes a comparison between Allegany County with the Garrett, Mineral, Washington, Calvert, and Worcester Counties. The news media will be present. . Next, we'll speak of our own finances within the volunteer fire service. Out of the 5.5 million dollars we required to operate, the departments were responsible for raising approximately 65% of that money. We'll detail out specific budget items within our own operations so that they get a better understanding of what our costs actually are. Then ultimately, we'll come to a recommendation to present. The group will meet again to complete the recommendation. A recommendation for the issue related to the fire tax, the issue related to our county appropriations being equitably distributed, and finally, the request from the Fire Association to extend out the local tax credit for the sprinkles past the sunset date of June 30, 2016.

2. Fire Tax

Dick DeVore reported that the workgroup had been asked by the Commissioners to look at the idea of putting the fire tax in November. The groups explored a number of different options. It was felt this is not the year to be asking for a new tax given the estimated voting turn out.

3. LOSAP Data

Dick DeVore reported that the LOSAP Committee will be meeting soon.

4. MFRI/MIEMSS National Registry Prep

Tim Dayton reported that for the EMRs in limbo (in which we have a high number) there will be the possibility of a prep class to assist those individuals. The numbers are coming up with the 13th Edition utilizing "MyBradyLab."

NEW BUSINESS

1. Sprinkler Initiative

Tim Dayton suggested that everyone encourage our Senator and Delegates to keep the tax incentive for citizens who install sprinkler systems.

2. April Allocations

Tim Dayton reported that April Allocations are coming up and we'd like to have every companies' submitted paperwork turned in on time. Any questions, check with Dick or Cheri. Fire reports must be up-to-date through February.

3. Solar Power Farms/Devices Training

Dick DeVore reported that MFRI is running a Solar Power Farms/Devices training class in April. It's only a four-hour session is extremely worthwhile to attend.

4. "I Am Responding" Improvements

Tim Dayton reported that "I Am Responding" put out a newsletter citing the improvements to the system. Roger added that we're still waiting on the implementation of NFIRS into the system. He stated that LOSAP has now been added to the "I Am Responding" system. There are currently duplicates of hydrants now in the system and we're trying to get them to pull those duplicate entries out.

5. Line of Duty Memorial

Tim Dayton reported that the Allegany-Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association is attempting to have put in place a "Line of Duty" memorial - with the names engraved who have lost lives in the line of duty. One will be placed in each county. Dick DeVore has a list from the Maryland Fallen Firefighters of those individuals.

6. Hydrants

Tim Dayton reported that Public Works has asked if we'd want new installed hydrants to be a steamer fitting or stortz fittings. Roger added that we are currently asking fire chiefs in the area their preference when a new hydrant is being installed.

7. Association Award Nominees

Tim Dayton reported that the Bi-County Association has asked the EMS Committee and our Fire Services Committee to submit three names for this year's award. Three people volunteered to submit names for each region of our area.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Fire Services Committee will be held on May 10, 2016 at 6pm at the Emergency Services Headquarters in Mexico Farms.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Tim Dayton at 7:00 P.M.

TD:c/l