

# EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD MINUTES

## August 22, 2013

### MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Lou Battistella, Chairman – General Public  
Ed McLellan – General Public  
Richard Carlson – Chief Committee  
John Frank, Director, Public Safety & Emergency Management  
Sonny Vincent – General Public  
Johnny Mayne – Southern Garrett Rescue Squad  
Alex Mellot, Fire & Rescue Association

### GUESTS:

Brad Frantz, County LOSAP Coordinator  
Shania Saturday, GC Public Safety Day  
Wayne Tiemersma, Emergency Medical Services Coordinator  
James Koon, Program Director, Garrett College  
Douglas Beitzel, Program Dir. Garrett College  
Carol Riley-Alexander, Secretary

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### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Battistella who welcomed everyone.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 23, 2013 meeting were distributed via e-mail prior to the meeting for review and comment. Edward McLellan made a motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Sonny Vincent and the motion carried unanimously.

### REPORTS

1. **LOSAP:** Brad Frantz distributed a handout and provided an update on meetings he attended with the Fireman's Association since the last Emergency Services Board meeting on May 23 concerning the LOSAP Agreement and their final recommendations.

The actions at the last Fireman's Association meeting on August 8, 2013 was unanimous and well represented, all but Bloomington was in attendance. Mr. Frantz, on the behalf of the Fireman's Association, is requesting the following:

- a. Change the LOSAP Agreement to reflect the same criteria as the Maryland State Tax Incentive including the point threshold of 50 points per year. Points must be attained in two separate categories.
- b. Break In Service – the LOSAP Agreement isn't specific about what constitutes a break in service and has been interpreted by some to mean a provider would start over from zero after a break in service. The GCFRA is requesting that the document state that a break in service only limits benefits for the years included in the break in service.
- c. ADD - Eligibility of receiving LOSAP – Recommendation that individuals who do not reside in Garrett County but are active members of a Garrett County company, be eligible for LOSAP.

Mr. Frantz explained why these changes were needed. Volunteers are not able to obtain their points by only running calls, while other volunteers are not able to go out on calls but are able to help with fundraisers and administrative work.

Mr. Frantz requested that the Agreement be revised and reviewed by the Emergency Services Board at their next meeting on November 21, 2013. At that time the Emergency Services Board can consider making a motion to accept the changes. Lou Battistella requested that Mr. Frantz forward the changes needed to Carol Riley-Alexander to edit the agreement to reflect the changes discussed.

2. **Tichnell Scholarship:** The Tichnell family may possibly add additional scholarships and/or increase the amount of funding for the existing scholarships. Ed McLellan asked if anyone has publicly acknowledged the Tichnell Family in any way. Brad Frantz stated they are very generous but very private people and are not comfortable with a lot of recognition. Mr. McLellan stated that should be respected.

3. **Emergency Services Club:** Brad Frantz updated the Board on the Emergency Services Club and his involvement. Several of last year's students are enrolled in the upcoming EMT class and some are hoping for a career in public safety. Approximately 20 students are now active in the Fire and EMS service.

Mr. Frantz will be meeting with Beth from MEIMMS to start a program with a grant so that students can get service learning hours by getting involved learning CPR and helping man the Safety Trailer at different special events. This trailer features hazards to teach individuals how to handle emergency situations.

4. **Garrett County Public Safety Day:** Shania Saturday spoke on the Garrett County Public Safety Day event she is coordinating. This public information event will be held at the Garrett County Fairgrounds on Saturday, October 19, 2013 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and will highlight Fire & Rescue Squad Volunteer services. There was much discussion on activities, funding, advertising, and give-a-ways. This is a free event and there will be no cost to the public to attend.

At this time the Saturday's are paying for the rental of the building (\$1,500.00) out of their own pocket and have solicited 360 local businesses for donations to defray the costs. Alex Mellot stated that the Fire & Rescue Association has donated \$500.00 to help with expenses and would like for the County Commissioners to either donate funds for the fee or request that the Garrett County Fairboard either reduce or waive the fee since it is for the Fire & Rescue Squads. The Fairboard uses their services for free at many events many times during the year.

**Motion:** Alex Mellot made a motion that the Emergency Services Board recommend that the Board of County Commissioners look into helping reduce the rental costs or provide funding for the rental fees. The Motion was seconded by Richard Carlson and the motion carried unanimously. Lou Battistella will send a letter to the Board of County Commissioners requesting their assistance.

Mr. Battistella stated that the public needs to be educated on the importance of the services that are provided by volunteers and if they go away, taxes will skyrocket. Sonny Vincent stressed the importance of advertising and getting information out on this event to the public.

5. **Paramedic Program:** James Koon, Program Director and Douglas Beitzel, Program Coordinator of the Paramedic Program at Garrett College gave an update on the program currently offered. A handout was distributed that detailed information on the number of students attending and the decision to move the program from the Frostburg Area to the Garrett College Career & Technology Training Center in Accident. Due to the increase in space all classes will be able to be held at one location.
6. **9-1-1 Center Report & Response Time Activity:** Wayne Tiemersma distributed information packets detailing data on EMS calls. There was discussion on entering data into the CAD system for increased accurate information.

Mr. Tiemersma was not able to breakdown the calls as Sonny Vincent requested at the last meeting due to the system they use; it does not give them the option to break out services or stations. However, he is able to break out units to give a better understanding of calls being ran. Mr. Vincent would still like to see more detailed information with a breakdown on each company.

7. **County Paid Emergency Services Personnel – Funding:** Mr. Tiemersma discussed how county paid EMS personnel is scheduled between the stations and the calls they have ran this year – 556 calls from January 1 to present date or 25% of all calls. A report on ALS, BLS, and billable calls per station was reviewed.

Johnny Mayne has a concern that Southern Garrett Rescue Squad (SGRS) does not use the county paid EMS staff as often as Northern Garrett Rescue Squad (NGRS) but they are paying the same amount for their services. The County pays for half of the program while SGRS and NGRS each pay a fourth – \$75,000 a year. This year 242 shifts have been covered by county EMS staff at SGRS while NGRS had 421

shifts covered. Mr. Mayne is not asking for more coverage just asking for a fair price for services used. There was discussion on whether to charge per shift or call. Alex Mellot said there is a prescribed amount that has to be paid by each squad and they could go off the amount of shifts quarterly and divide this accordingly. He feels there should be some reward/incentive for the squads to motivate the members to cover the shifts.

Mr. Tiemersma stated that right now county EMS staff is being placed where they are needed to cover shifts and even though NGRS had more shifts covered, the county EMS staff actually have more calls with the SGRS. Mr. Tiemersma expressed what an excellent job Mr. Mayne has done in filling the slots on the shifts at SGRS.

John Frank requested to set up a meeting with him, Mr. Tiemersma, and the Chairmen and Chiefs of the rescue squads to try to come up with a payment formula and then come back to the Emergency Services Board with a recommendation on revisions to the Memorandum of Understanding. There may need to be a special Emergency Services Board meeting scheduled before their next meeting in November concerning this issue.

8. **EMS – Medical Review Board**: Brief discussion on a disciplinary action taken against an EMS provider (no names were given) and a call review where areas for improvement were identified and will be dispatched to the providers for better services in the future.

Mr. Tiemersma discussed quality assurance for procedures on a jurisdictional level. He will be doing performance assessments with the providers and reviewing on an annual basis where they are with their skills, their calls, etc. And on a two (2) year cycle with their certification, they will be reviewed on their competences. All ALS providers will go through this process.

9. **EMS Drivers**: Mr. Tiemersma stated the issue is much better than before, but may need to be reviewed in the future.
10. **Emergency Operations Center Report**: John Frank reviewed issues with the 911 Center including Web Dispatching issues, training and cross-training of dispatch employees, improvements at the EOC center, including information on the new generator, messaging boards, command trailer upgrades, and a new Ham radio station. The radios will also be located at the Health Department and all the nursing homes for back up communications.

Other areas of discussion:

- a. Garrett County has received a \$53,000 grant for patient scanning equipment. This has the capability to scan and track of individuals in case nursing homes would need to be evacuated.
- b. Garrett County received a \$186,000 grant from MEMA. This was used to purchase mobile and portable radios for 32 Sheriff Department vehicles. All Garrett County Agencies will now be on the same frequency.
- c. Mr. Frank discussed tower locations, frequency issues with the FCC, future warning systems, and emergency shelters.
- d. The HazMat Training scheduled for August was cancelled due to lack of participants.
- e. Contacting departments of potential emergency incidents and gathering contact information on essential personnel.

## II. **MIEMSS Report** – No Report

12. Old Business: – No Report

13. New Business: – No Report

NEXT MEETING:

Date: November 21, 2013

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Location: County Commissioners Conference Room

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m. on a motion by Alex Mellot which was seconded by Sonny Vincent and carried unanimously.

MINUTES APPROVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lou Battistella

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

REMAINING 2013 MEETING DATES:

Thursday, November 21, 2013 4:00 p.m. County Commissioners Conference Room