



# EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD MINUTES

## August 13, 2015

### MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Lou Battistella, Chairman – General Public  
Paul Harman, Northern Garrett Rescue Squad  
Alex Mellott, Fire & Rescue Association  
John Frank, Director, PS& EM  
Sonny Vincent, General Public  
Johnny Mayne, Southern Garrett Rescue Squad  
Wayne Tiemersma, Emergency Medical Service  
Richard Carlson, Chief's Committee

### GUESTS:

Shelia Mahaffey, Secretary  
Dick Bolt, Citizen  
Barry Beal, Chief NGRS  
Dwayne Kitis, MIEMMS

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### CALL TO ORDER

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

On Thursday August 13, 2015, the Emergency Services Board convened for a regular quarterly meeting. This meeting was originally scheduled for August 20, 2015, but at the insistence of John Frank, Garrett County's Director of Emergency Management, the meeting was moved one week ahead due to a critical need to review County Emergency Medical Services response issue that potentially could impact the citizens of Garrett County.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 21, 2015 meeting were distributed for review and comment via e-mail prior to the meeting. Alex Mellott made a motion to accept the minutes. Richard Carlson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

### NEW BUSINESS: RESCUE SQUAD STAFFING and EMERGENCY RESPONSE TIME

- A. **Development of Special Advisory Work Group:** The Garrett County Commissioners approved a work group consisting of a representative from each of the following County offices; Human Resources, Finance, Risk Management and Emergency Management to develop a plan at the County level then brief the ESB for their input and advise the County Administrator.
- B. It is becoming increasingly difficult for the Volunteer Services to recruit and retain personnel for their organizations. This issue has created a situation which directly affects the services to which they provide, as shown in the brief synopsis below and attached response history presented by EMS Chief Wayne Tiemersma.

STATION	LOCATION	CALLS	%FAILED (#CALLS)	% DELAYED (#CALLS)
1	Grantsville (NGCRS)	442	5% (24)	18% (79)
2	McHenry (NGCRS)	603	14% (85)	20% (119)
3	Friendsville (NGCRS)	291	5% (16)	41% (119)
9	Oakland (SGCRS)	1,031	5% (47)	9% (94)

- C. Barry Beal, Chief of the Northern Rescue Squad informed the Committee that Northern Rescue Squad cannot have a membership meeting because they cannot meet their quorum.
- D. Emergency Management Director, John Frank and EMS Chief, Wayne Tiemersma met with the line officers of NGCRS this past winter to discuss the issue of failed responses and it was noted that only a handful of volunteers remain at this station. Mr. Frank and Mr. Tiemersma requested that the squad urgently work toward a resolution to this matter.

- E. In an effort to support the squads in this matter the previous Board of Garrett County Commissioners approved the employment of several part-time County employees to fill gaps within the volunteer schedule as well as addressing the mounting overtime being accrued by the full-time County staff. The increase in shifts by County staff is due to the continued demise of manpower at NGCRS.
- F. The NGCRS line officers and Board of Directors are aware of this issue there has been no resolution to date. Chief Tiemersma recently discussed the manpower issues at the last NGCRS membership meeting, it was noted by the membership there is an evident issue but no plan or resolution was identified.
- G. As a result the Emergency Management Director and EMS Chief have developed a County staffing solution based on needs identified with the line officers.
  - 1. Garrett County EMS Personnel to staff first due area in McHenry 24/7
  - 2. Garrett County EMS Personnel will man one ALS provider at Station 1 – Grantsville and Station 9 – Oakland 24/7. This would be equal time for both stations providing 14 shifts per week each. This would realign the shifts back to the original RFP of a 50/50 split between NGCRS and SGCRS. Crews would work on a 24/72 rotation.

This will require a total of 16 full-time providers; 12 ALS and 4 BLS providers. The county would need to hire 3 BLS providers and 5 ALS providers with part-time employees filling in the gaps in coverage.
- H. The County would have to consider either purchasing or leasing a transport unit and also consider a third party billing agent in order to assume financial feasibility in operation of the McHenry area. Additionally, the County would have to consider an RFP for short term housing of transport unit and staffing quarters. Other needs include equipment for personnel such as uniforms, gear and communication.
- I. The ESB considers this plan the anchor for both Rescue Squads to hook to. All coverage would be the responsibility and obligation of NGCRS and SGCRS in accordance with COMAR regarding service obligation.
- J. In light of these concerns a motion was made by Paul Harman and seconded by Sonny Vincent and the motion carried unanimously for the ESB to forward a recommendation to the Board of Garrett County Commissioners, requesting that they send a letter to the Board of Directors to Northern Garrett County Rescue Squad, informing Northern Garrett County Rescue Squad of their duty citizenry, citing that adequate service is not being provided as mandated. The County must act to avoid liability as well as burdening the taxpayers in overtime and additional manpower expense. Further, the Commission should advise them of the proposed aforementioned plan. NGCRS must acknowledge acceptance of the proposed plan or provide a reasonable, workable solution that fits within the intent of the original RFP or the County will have to seek out alternatives or a solution that may ultimately affect the squads continued operation. We believe the letter to NGCRS should require that the Chairman of the Board of Directors of NGCRS attend the special ESB Meeting scheduled for September 24, 2015 and be prepared to advise the ESB of their plan of action to resolve this response and personnel issue.

**NEW BUSINESS: “OTHER”**

- A. Emergency Services Club - Wayne Tiemersma informed the Committee that Vicki Walker is doing the lesson plans for the Emergency Services Club for the whole school year and the plans will be ready by the start of the school year. The intention is to have the Emergency Services Club to meet once a week at both Southern and Northern High Schools.
- B. Lou Battistella, Chairman of the ESB presented a letter of resignation from Paul Harmon to resign from the Emergency Services Board. The Board did not accept the resignation and asked that Paul postpone his decision until the end of the year and make his decision then. Alex Mellott made a motion to not to accept Paul

Harmon's resignation from the Emergency Services Board. Johnny Mayne seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

- C. The 2015 Garrett County SWOT "Revisited" Overview is complete. Wayne Tiemersma is currently gathering signatures from organization members.
- D. Dick Bolt sent an email regarding safety concerns for the Savageman Triathlon. Wayne Tiemersma informed the committee that Garrett County EMS handles the event alone on Saturday; the Tri-Towns Ambulance Service is involved in helping out for the event on Sunday. Mr. Tiemersma is going to present an OPS Plan to Greg Hawkins, CEO of the Savageman Triathlon Event.
- E. Alex Mellott made a motion to Table all other discussion until the next regularly scheduled ESB meeting on November 19, 2015. Richard Carlson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**NEXT MEETING: "SPECIAL FOLLOW-UP MEETING"**

The next meeting of the Emergency Services Board is September 24, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. The purpose of this meeting will be to determine if this matter has been resolved or if further recommendations need to be made by the Emergency Services Board to the Board of Garrett County Commissioners.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m. on a motion by Alex Mellott, which was seconded by Paul Harman and carried unanimously.

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