

# Garrett County Emergency Services Board

Meeting Minutes  
for  
November 30, 2006

Members present:

Ed McLellan  
Brad Frantz  
Terry Spear  
David Betz  
Jamie Rodeheaver  
Todd Dyche

Guests:

Dave Ramsey  
Joe Robison  
Joan Robison  
Steve Kestner

The meeting of the Garrett County Emergency Services Board was held at the WISP Resort in the Embers Conference Room.

Chairman McLellan opened the meeting at 16:00 hours. Minutes of the November 16, 2006 meeting were approved as presented.

Chairman McLellan welcomed the guests and gave a brief overview of the Garrett County Emergency Services Board and our assigned mission. Stating that the establishment of a LOSAP is the current priority of the Board.

The meeting was then turned over to Joe and Joan Robison for a presentation of the different LOSAP's currently in place in Maryland Counties.

Highlights included:

- 1) Fire Tax in 2 of Maryland's Counties fund their LOSAP with the remainder being funded through General County Budget Funds.
- 2) County Governments provide funding while the Volunteer services deals with any disputes.
- 3) Most Counties utilize the MSFA Tax Incentive Point System as a general guideline to determine eligibility.
- 4) Establishing a LOSAP requires determining the number of qualified individuals, the number of years of service for those individuals and the amount of funds to be made available for start-up and dedicated future funding.
- 5) It was suggested to utilize the MSFA Tax Incentive Program for historical information to determine years of service. This information is certified by each department and is readily available.

- 6) Disability is not dealt with or addressed due to the complex nature and resolution problems.
- 7) It was questioned as to which is best to coordinate the payment of benefits to members, through the County or a private firm.
- 8) Age for eligibility and years of service are the primary factors in determining the schedule of benefit payments.
- 9) LOSAP is a proven method for retention and recruiting for volunteer departments.
- 10) Property tax breaks for volunteers in addition to LOSAP is a bargaining tool for R&R also.
- 11) Implementation of Impact Fees is also an option for funding R&R program for the volunteer emergency services.
- 12) Lump sum yearly payment vs. monthly payments was reviewed.
- 13) Most generally up to 4 years of military credit is granted in LOSAP.

In order for initial RFP submittal the following information will need to be complied and reviewed:

- 1) How many people would qualify
- 2) Age breakdown of those that qualify
- 3) Years of service breakdown
- 4) Recommendation that the County handle distribution of payments to save money.

Rollout of the program would start with a general plan presentation to the Garrett County Commissioners and then to the volunteer emergency service organizations.

Prior to the close of the meeting the following general items of discussion relating to LOASP were talked about:

- 1) Appeals committee and process and final review by the ESB.
- 2) Audit committee for LOSAP information submitted for payments, use of random and just cause audits.

Next meeting will be held on January 11, 2007 at WISP Resort.  
Adjourned at 18:05 hours

Terry Spear  
Secretary