



## Garrett County Emergency Services Board November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Meeting Minutes

### **ESB Members in Attendance**

- Lou Battistella, General Public
- Wayne Tiemersma, EMS Chief
- Alex Mellot, Garrett County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association
- Terry Spear, Northern Garrett Rescue Squad
- Justin Orendorf, Bittering Volunteer Fire Department
- John Frank, Garrett County Emergency Services
- Richard Carlson, Garrett County Chief's Committee
- Mark Clookie, Southern Garrett Rescue Squad
- Bill Ingram, General Public

### **Guests Present**

Kevin Null, Curtis O'Neal, and Alex Kelly.

### **Call To Order**

This Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Battistella.

### **Reports**

#### **MIEMSS Alex Kelly**

- Miltenberger registration is now live.
- MIEMSS 50/50 ALS cardiac device grants are now nearly closed out for 2021 and 2022.
- The critical care coordination center was slow, however is beginning to pick back up with respiratory cases across the state.

### **Emergency Services John Frank**

- Firefighter I class at the EOC instructed by MFRI went well, some additional coordination is needed between the instructor and the EOC staffing for access as well as ensuring the facility is maintained after students have left class.
- Garrett county is still awaiting word on the earmarked funding for the backup facility radio component.
- A 1999 Freightliner was purchased for the Hazmat Team and currently the team is working to get the vehicle in service and Emergency Services is working on the budget line items to maintain this vehicle. The Garrett County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association also contributed funds towards equipment needs for this new vehicle.
- Director Frank also praised the Association for funding the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the I am Responding paging software for all fire and EMS personnel in Garrett County volunteer and career.

### **Emergency Medical Services Wayne Tiemersma**

- Attached report from Chief Tiemersma showing mutual aid responses, response times, call volume, failed responses, etc.
- Northern Garrett Rescue Squad has community meetings scheduled.
- Ongoing talks are occurring between Northern Rescue Squad and Garrett County to develop a new MOU.
- The ESB workgroup to look at EMS volunteerism is continuing to meet and is looking closely at the volunteer shortages that continue to face the volunteer EMS departments in Garrett County.
- A fire and EMS academy is being looked at by a committee from Emergency Services, MFRI, Board of Education, and Garrett College for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders. A concept has been developed and is moving forward for the Board of Education to review and comment on.
- There has been an increase in interfacility transport requests to be handled by the 911 system due to unavailable interfacility transport commercial units being available to get patients out of Garrett Regional Medical Center. MIEMMS and WVU Medical Center are actively being engaged to work on this and come up with alternatives to alleviate the strain on the 911 system that this causes. A challenging factor is that the hospital facility is now owned by WVU and not Garrett County Government.
- DEA 222 forms are now being implemented at Garrett Regional Medical Center to maintain compliance for narcotics.
- Southern Rescue has been implemented a new volunteer incentive program which has improved manpower and cut back on driver requests. Southern also has several personnel in EMT class and they are pursuing additional drivers from their volunteer staff.
- Staffing a 2<sup>nd</sup> line unit from Station 9 is something that is being looked at by the organization.

### **Northern Garrett Rescue Squad Terry Spear**

- Mr. Spear discussed a recent meeting with Emergency Services and the county medical director to discuss the state of Northern Garrett Rescue Squad and the actions that are being taken to correct.
- Mr. Spear stated that the Friendsville station had lost a lot of volunteers due to COVID and was experiencing a 20-25% fail rate. Northern has hired a few drivers and currently has 3 personnel in EMT class that would bring the station back to pre-covid staffing. Station 3 temporarily is placing the unit out of service when no staffing is available until they are able to improve the current situation.
- Mr. Spear stated that Northern Rescue has been presented an MOU by the County and Administrator Null, Northern Rescue has been reviewing and discussing and will engage with the County and Administrator Null to hopefully finalize the MOU in the near future.
- Mr. Spear also stated that Northern Rescue will have 4 units available for calls as early as the next day as parts have come in for units that were down for maintenance.
- County Administrator Null stated that the medical director was adamant that the response situation needs to be improved with the failed responses or drastic action needed to be taken to ensure that EMS is available for the citizens in the affected area.

### **Old Business**

- The Garrett County LOSAP plan has been updated and signed.
- Northern Rescue has now scheduled the discussed town hall meetings for February and March to address the volunteer needs with the Friendsville and Grantsville communities and they have also revamped their volunteer incentive program and have also put incentives in place to encourage personnel to become certified providers in the State of Maryland.

### **New Business**

- Southern is in the process of looking at a new ambulance options.

### **Meeting Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 1645 by a motion by Alex Mellot and a second by John Frank.
- The next meeting is scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup> at 1600 hours at the EOC.

**Minutes Approved By:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Lou Battistella  
Chairman