# EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD MINUTES May 23, 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 <u>GUESTS</u>: Jim Raley, Commissioner Brad Frantz, County LOSAP Coordinator Carol Riley-Alexander, Secretary

# 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 February 21, 2013 meeting were distributed via e-mail prior to the meeting for review and comment. Sonny Vincent made a motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Edward McLellan and the motion carried unanimously.

## **REPORTS**

1. <u>LOSAP</u>: Brad Frantz distributed LOSAP Agreements (that was effective since July 1, 2008) for discussion and possible suggestions for changes to the point system. Mr. Frantz stated he is working contractually with the County as the LOSAP Coordinator and has spoken with the local Chief's and the LOSAP coordinators to review the LOSAP Agreement. These meetings were well attended and very productive. Mr. Frantz asked that each coordinator go back to their individual company and try to get input on the suggested changes that were discussed. Mr. Frantz asked that they get their comments back to him and he would meet with the ESB Board and make his recommendations based on their suggestions.

Mr. Frantz stated that the responses he received from the companies were a request for an overhaul of the points system as laid out originally. This Agreement was set up so that the Maryland Tax Incentive was the points system the County was accepting until this coming year in July 2013 would change to the County Points System. Mr. Frantz stated that it was going to be burdensome to the company's to have to complete the two (2) sets of points.

Mr. Frantz stated one of the strong recommendations to the ESB from the companies, and one that he is going to echo, is that the County follow the Maryland Tax Incentive Points System but increase the number of required points for the LOSAP to Seventy (70). This action will target the active members. The companies feel this will simplify the documentation process. For the State Tax Incentive the members would have to reach a threshold of Fifty (50) points to be eligible and then meet the threshold of 70 points to be eligible for the LOSAP. To accrue 70 points you are going to need to get them in three categories. Mr. Frantz has suggested 70 points but this is completely his recommendation.

There was much discussion on point system and how members will be able to achieve reaching the higher number of points required. Johnny Mayne stated he had some questions on the next point system and some of his members would like to use the same point system format. Mr. Raley stated that he feels Mr. Frantz needs to attend the next association meeting for some final tweaking of the agreement.

There was discussion on having the County LOSAP Coordinator spot check companies to see how they arrived at the required points, this action would not be intended to be an audit, but to make sure the process is being compiled correctly and that everyone is on the same page.

Mr. Frantz said there is still some misunderstanding on the agreement that had previously been covered with the companies and the initial startup will require a follow-up with the companies on eligibility questions.

Lou Battistella asked if the Board had any other questions or wished to purse these recommendations. Mr. Frantz feels the Board at that point should pursue the recommendation of following the Maryland Tax Incentive and increase the numbers. He has heard back from 6 companies and they all agreed to the Maryland Tax Incentive. Jim Raley stated he doesn't feel the increase number of points is clear yet and feels that would be member's next concern of being out of reach for them to reach the higher bar.

Mr. Frantz would like to recommend that the ESB in concept follow the Maryland State Tax Incentive as the point system with an increase in the number of points to be determined. He would also like to recommend an increase of points to 70 but would like to get input back from the companies before this is concluded. Mr. Frantz stated that everybody that was eligible for the Maryland State Tax Incentive for the last 5 years is eligible in July 2013 for the LOSAP because the first 5 years of this agreement was solely based on the Maryland State Tax Incentive. He stressed there is not a drop dead date on July 1, 2013 for these changes to be implemented. It is only after the point system which won't go into effect until this current year which no one will get paid out for until next year.

Jim Raley requested that the Board extend this agreement and allow time for Brad to complete the work because he feels it needs to go back to the association to review. Lou Battistella stated we are on the right track.

Brad Frantz wanted to make a comment on the LOSAP actuarial studies. He now has 100 % completed forms from all the companies. He said there are a couple that are incomplete but will follow up with these to help get the information needed. Ms. Yoder is stressing that she needs the completed information to send to CBIZ. Mr. Frantz is going to suggest that the ESB agree to not approve any payouts until the actuarial studies are completed. Lou Battistella feels this is the only way to do it and feels there is no harm in doing this. Mr. McLellan asked when Wendy Yoder needs this information completed; Mr. Frantz stated our deadline is to have the information back from CBIZ by July 1, 2013. Brad feels the companies are making a good faith effort to retrieve the information and he will help when needed.

Motion #1: Richard Carlson made a motion to extend the LOSAP Point System as we are now. The motion was seconded by Sonny Vincent and the motion carried unanimously.

<u>Motion #2</u>: Edward McLellan made a motion that any company that neglects to provide the required information for the filing of the LOSAP Spreadsheet necessary for the actuarial study, that no member in that company can receive a LOSAP payout. The motion was seconded by Sonny Vincent and the motion carried unanimously.

Jim Raley discussed the new software program their company purchased for \$1,200. This system will make record keeping easier and collect all the points. It produces a very sophisticated document. Brad stated the companies were discussing this program at the association meeting.

Mr. Frantz stated he will get back with the Board once he hears back from the association. He will be attending the association meeting next week. Lou Battistella will forward the Draft minutes to Brad Frantz for him to share this with the association to discuss.

2. <u>Tichnell Scholarship</u>: Brad Frantz discussed what a wonderful opportunity this scholarship is for our local students and how personally rewarding it is to him. This is the largest local scholarship offered in the county for anything related to the Public Safety or Public Health field.

Mr. Frantz stated that 11 candidates applied. This year The 2013 recipients of the Jeffrey Scott Tichnell \$5,000 scholarships are: Allison Yommer from Northern High School will be attending Allegany College in Nursing and Lexie Moreno from Southern High School will be attending will also be going into the nursing field.

Lou Battistella stated he would like to see more students apply for this next year. Mr. Frantz feels once word gets out about this the membership will increase.

- 3. <u>Emergency Services Club</u>: Brad Frantz updated the Board on the Emergency Services Club and his involvement. Southern High School does not have as many members this year due to a misunderstanding with school guidance counselors informing students it would not be available to them. Since Southern has to fill in for classes the previous fall, this left a gap. Next year he will be coordinating this. Brad Frantz stated 2 students (that won the award last year) went with him to Annapolis because he knows we make a difference in their lives.
- 4. <u>9-1-1 Center Report & Response Time Activity</u>: John Frank distributed information packets on response times from the rescue squads. This packet detailed data on the response times, delayed, failed, and secondary response of each, if mutual aid was required, how long squads were on scene, where they are transported to, etc.

Johnny Mayne discussed a MOU they have with Garrett Medical Transit to help during peak hours with the Crew Two (2) Calls. John Frank feels this is going to be a very good asset.

There was discussion on the need for a few more drivers to help with the calls. Mr. Frank stated this would free up the paramedics to provide more coverage. This is an issue they will be looking at in the future about possible additional paid personnel and better scheduling.

Sonny Vincent requested a further breakdown of Northern Garrett Rescue Squad's three (3) stations so that the ESB is receiving more accurate information to monitor to see if a particular station needs more help. Mr. Frank said they are placed together because they are all Company 1 but it is something they can look at doing. Jim Raley said is should be a simple thing such as separating them by using 1A, 1B and 1C. Lou Battistella asked to see if this can get done.

5. <u>USACK Senior Team Trials – Deep Creek 2014</u>: This event was held on May 17-19, 2013 at the Adventure Sports Center International location and was covered by the Department of Emergency Management & Public Safety. Mr. Frank stated this was a good training opportunity for a much larger event that will be held next year – Deep Creek 2014 event. There was discussion on the event and planning on the larger event which is going to be the largest international event being held in the United States next year. John Frank distributed an Event Emergency Plan in preparation for the event.

## 6. Emergency Operations Center Report:

- A. John Frank distributed information packets on the Essential Staff Policy of the EOC covering the staffing needed during Level 1 Full Scale Activation Staffing; Level 2 Partial Activation Staffing; and Level 3 Monitoring Activity Staffing. They will be identifying with the different departments at what level they are to be notified and who is essential personnel in their department.
- B. There was also discussion on the installation of the new generator and the preparation for it at the EOC.
- C. Mr. Frank has received the \$50,000 Grant from MEMA. He will be meeting with them in June to discuss this grant. This will cover the cost of computers and GIS Mapping System. This grant will help offset the costs of setting up the EOC and Emergency Trailers. Sonny Vincent stated these trailers need to be inventoried regularly. John Frank said they are preparing a plan to inventory each trailer, which there are several in our County.
- D. HazMat Tech Training for 15 will begin on last week of August and held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, night time training with a total of 6 classes and a total of 52 hours.

- E. Warning Systems for all the local fire departments were discussed and the possibility of acquiring some grants for new systems. Currently the County has nothing in place for a tornado or any other kind of warning. The 911 Center only has the capability of setting off the regular fire sirens. Mr. Frank will be looking into this and report back. Jim Raley stated that the County does have reverse 9-1-1 system that can be used during an emergency. Unfortunately this only works for individuals who have landlines. Lou Battistella stated he feels the public should be made aware of this and asked about the possibility of news alerts sending out notifications, such as a crawler on the Pittsburgh stations.
- F. Public Safety is having issue with radios and the low band and VHF issue. County Roads still does not have their system up and employees have concerns about not having the ability to call for help. Mr. Frank has created a committee to look into the problem and they will be meeting individuals from Allegany County and Staley Communications to discuss the issue and what future radio needs are.
- 7. MIEMSS Report No Report
- 8. <u>Paramedic Program Report</u> Duane Kitiz is not in attendance so this update is tabled for next meeting. Jim Raley stated he would be nice if Jim Koon and Doug Beitzel could attend the next to give the update.
- 9. <u>FEMA Funding Report</u> Jim Raley stated the County did get the 75% reimbursement funding. The County can still submit for continuing issues. The file is kept open.

#### NEXT MEETING:

Date: August 22, 2013 Time: 4:00 p.m. Location: County Commissioners Conference Room

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m. on a motion by Sonny Vincent which was seconded by Johnny Mayne and carried unanimously.

MINUTES APPROVED BY:

Lou Battistella

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

#### REMAINING 2013 MEETING DATES:

 Thursday, August 22, 2013
 4:00 p.m.

 Thursday, November 21, 2013
 4:00 p.m.

County Commissioners Conference Room County Commissioners Conference Room