

**Emergency Services Advisory Council Meeting
July 14, 2021**

Members Present:

Rick Baker, Dan Plunkert, Gene Curfman, Lynn Karr-Kratz, Michael Karolenko, David Coe, Bruce Fleming, Steve Wantz.

Members Absent:

Linas Saurusaitis, Dr. Mike DiNapoli, Eddie Ruch, Deric Dunn.

Chairman Baker opened the meeting, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests:

Susan Mott, 1st. Vice President of CCVESA.

A motion was made by David Coe and seconded by Dan Plunkert to approve the June meeting minutes with one minor correction. Motion Passed.

Board Member comments:

David Coe commented that the Council needs to investigate being able to do hybrid form of meetings or change the By-Laws to allow for alternates to help avoid not having a quorum for a meeting. Chairman Baker also mentioned that adding two more members (non-union and citizen) to our vacant positions will help as well. The non-union rep will help with meeting the quorum requirement if the union member is unable to attend. County government is working on approving those two members before the next meeting in August.

Commissioner Wantz informed the Council that the Maryland Association of Counties is discussing possible legislation to help the Fire and EMS services with recruitment and retention. He said that MACO is aware that many Counties are experiencing the same problems with getting and retaining emergency service personnel.

Commissioner Wantz gave an update on the hiring of a new Director for the Department of Fire and EMS. The County received 11 applications for the position. He also advised that the interview panel would have 9 people on it (5 Commissioners; County Administrator; Budget Director; Human resources Director, and a CCVESA representative).

Commissioner Wantz indicated that the job description had placed a larger emphasis on EMS this time. He also reiterated that ESAC will have a larger role in the transition going forward.

EMSOPS Report:

Dave Coe stated that he is working with Doug Brown, Assistant director of Public Works, to ensure that the funding was available in the budget to purchase a replacement reserve ambulance. Dave indicated that there may be sufficient funds available to re-chassis one of the other reserve ambulances.

Dave reported that the work on COVID was winding down, and that the new protocols were out.

Old Business:

Mike Karolenko handed out a draft of a pay study that the union had prepared, showing proposed pay scales for employees based on an average of pay scales from other Metropolitan Counties pay scales.

Statistics:

Chairman Baker showed the Council 2 slides showing late and no response statistics for a two-year period of July 2019 through June, 2020. The one slide showed the current method based on 1st due units on 1st. calls. These statistics do not include various call types, (i.e., Transfers, service calls, and other miscellaneous calls). The second slide (new method) showed statistics for late and no responses for all units dispatched on all calls.

There was a question if the statistics included out-of-county calls.

Chairman Baker indicated that he would send the second slide, showing the new method, to the ESAC members.

Chairman Baker indicated that he is continuing to work with Scott Campbell to get additional statistics.

Transition and Staffing:

There was a long discussion on these issues, including the background of the need.

There were discussions of different possible staffing methods and the pros and cons of some of these different methods. The discussion ended noting that future discussions should include a hybrid system of providing service.

The meeting was adjourned at 2100.