

Emergency Services Advisory Council
May 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Rick Baker, Director Michael Robinson, Bruce Fleming, Dan Plunkert, Michael Karolenko, Dr. John Murphy, Eddie Ruch, Linas Saurusaitus, Robert Buckley, Lynn Karr-Kratz (virtual), Suzanne Swisher (virtual), David Coe (virtual), Eugene Curfman (virtual)

Members Absent: Dr. Mike DiNapoli, Commissioner Steve Wantz

Guests: Susan Mott- 1st VP CCVESA, Marianne Warehime- Secretary CCVESA, Kevin Fox- Training, Health & Safety Officer CCDFEMS, Mike Stoner- EMS Officer CCDFEMS

Chairman Baker opened the meeting at 19:01 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Baker introduced Kevin Fox and Mike Stoner, the two new Department of Fire & EMS employees, who each said a few words to the group. Both are happy to be on board and excited to get started on the many tasks assigned to them.

Dr. John Murphy made a motion to approve the April 20th meeting minutes. Linas Saurusaitus seconded. The motion was passed.

Comments:

Chairman Baker emailed Roberta Windham, County Administrator, to request a meeting between ESAC and the Board of Commissioners. He would like that meeting to take place in June. Director Robinson will work with Ms. Windham and Chairman Baker to set a date, per her direction.

Chairman Baker has also informed Ms. Windham of the three ESAC members with terms expiring in June. Dan Plunkert plans to serve another term, Brett Six from Taneytown plans to take over Gene Curfman's seat, and a new citizen representative is needed for Suzanne Swisher's seat. Mr. Six has been informed of the county process to be a candidate to join ESAC.

Director's Comments:

- Director Robinson reported on EMS Week activities that he and his staff participated in including a proclamation from the Commissioners, lunch delivery to first responders and the EMS appreciation picnic at Carroll Hospital.
- The Director reported that the community budget sessions and the public hearing were held, and the FY23 budget will be adopted on May 24th.
- The Director described anticipated changes including management of the Public Safety Training Center (PSTC) by CCDFEMS staff, creation of an EMS division, creation of Control Dangerous Substances policy and revision of the Quality Assurance (QA)/Quality Improvement (QI) program. Also, CCDFEMS will begin managing infection control and physicals.
- Director Robinson will be hiring a Medical Director by July 1, 2022.
- Director Robinson requested that the fire companies send information and copies of bills to Callie Williams in preparation for the County to begin paying for the following in FY23: Electricity, water/sewer, natural gas, propane, fuel oil, trash, pest control, PPE, face masks, and hose and ladder testing.

Commissioner's Comments: No Commissioners present.

Chairman Baker asked if any council representatives had comments. The following members had comments:

- Dan Plunkert asked if the Commissioners discussed the staffing plan that ESAC recommended. He feels that ESAC did not have input on the staffing plan.
- David Coe inquired about the status of the MOU. Director Robinson replied that it is dependent on a decision regarding insurance and that a copy of the proposed insurance policy will be sent to the fire companies.
- Chairman Baker asked for verification on whether a split crew would result in the EMS billing being split (once CCDFEMS staff are in the field). Director Robinson verified that billing would not be split.
- Suzanne Swisher commented that she is impressed with the progress made since the last ESAC meeting.

CCVESA President's Report:

-President Fleming reported that many tasks that were previously done by the Training Center Manager (at the PSTC) will now be done by the Training Center Coordinator.

-The Training Center Manager email address will still be functional and can be used to schedule classes, etc.

Committee Reports:

FROPS- Eddie Ruch reported that FROPS is continuing to review turnout gear specs and work on the chain of command policy.

EMSOPS -David Coe reported that EMSOPS is meeting tomorrow and that he has already been working with the new EMS Officer, Mike Stoner.

Old Business:

1. FLSA Update-Chairman Baker advised that County Administrator Windham and the Commissioners should be aware that FLSA is a big issue and will have a huge impact on the delivery of emergency services in Carroll County. Director Robinson reiterated the County's labor attorney's legal opinion that County employees can continue to volunteer for now, but when all stations become County worksites, they may not be able to. If that is the case, it will cause harmful ramifications affecting the ability of volunteers to function and the ability to provide fire and EMS service to the citizens with a combination fire & EMS department.
2. Strategic Plan Update: The Strategic Plan has been printed and copies were handed out to all ESAC attendees. Chairman Baker advised that groups should continue working on the issues addressed in the plan and that group leaders should brief ESAC periodically on their progress. Chairman Baker would like the Commissioners to endorse the Strategic Plan.
3. Statistics Update: Eddie Ruch gave a presentation on statistics. Late and failed responses, as well as unit staffing, are still not being captured correctly. Chief Ruch questioned if Emergency Reporting System is the right software for us and restated the need to correct these ongoing statistical problems.

New Business:

1. Adequate Facilities- Chairman Baker gave a presentation making the group aware of issues with the adequate facilities policy including the fact that mutual aid calls are excluded from calculation as are many other call types. Chairman Baker's opinion is that all incidents need to be counted.
2. Dr. Murphy shared information about an upcoming virtual information session on the Emergency Service Transporter Supplemental Payment Program. Dr. Murphy also shared that he is distressed by the lack of quality control in the County's EMS program and questions why no physician attends ESAC meetings regularly. He is very disappointed that the Commissioners have not adopted the recommendations of this advisory council. He feels the Commissioners are not supporting ESAC or the citizens of the Carroll County.

Linas Saurusaitis made a motion to adjourn. Eddie Ruch seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:00.