



Garrett County Emergency Services Board

32 Outfitter Way, McHenry, Maryland 21541
garrettcourtymd.gov/emergency-management

February 15th, 2024, Emergency Services Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 1600 hours by Chairman Lou Battistella and the minutes were approved by unanimous vote from the previous meeting.

Chairman Battistella requested to step down as ESB chairman after 14 years. The position of Chairman must come from one of the 3 citizen representatives and per Lou Battistella, he met with the other 2 citizen representatives, and it has been decided that Chris Nichols will take over as Chairman effective the end of today's meeting. Lou will continue to serve on the board through the end of 2024.

Reports

Garrett County Emergency Services

- Director Sam Grant welcomed and introduced Derek Crippen as the new Garrett County EMS Chief. Director Grant also reported that Garrett County has appointed Dr. Rameen Shafiei as the new medical director for Garrett County.
- EMS Chief Derek Crippen introduced himself and reported on Garrett County EMS. Several work groups have been set up to begin working through things that can be improved on as well as developing a 5-year plan. The department is looking at a new training platform that will allow for more seamless training opportunities and access to continuing education. The department is also working on the process to order and take delivery of a new ambulance.

MIEMMS

- Wayne Tiemersma reported that the continuing education for BLS certification refresher will begin to look different starting fall of 2024. MIEMMS is also requiring the protocol review to be completed for recertification. Tiemersma reported that 2024 is the 5-year mark for MSOF reverification.

Old Business

- Chairman Battistella requested an update for Northern Garrett Station 3. EMS Chief Derek Crippen reported that a report detailing the response times and fails will be sent out to the board. Crippen reported that they are looking at differences in response times and fails from 0600-1800 and 1800-0600 to see if there are differences in response times and fails when there is a county provider in the station vs when there is not. Crippen reported that in December of 2023 the average response time from 1800-0600 was 7.36 and from 0600-1800 the average response time was 2.16. In January 2024 from 0600-1800 the average response time was 2.22 and from 1800-0600 the average response time was 4.55. In February 2024 month to date, the average response time from 0600-1800 was 2.06 and from 1800-0600 the average response time was 3.58.
- Chairman Battistella requested if there were any updates regarding EMS responses into the Finzel area. Director Grant reported that there would be no changes to the current EMS running assignments and that the current EMS running assignments and procedures for that area would remain in place after Allegany County DES requested that Garrett County take measured steps to reduce the number of calls that Allegany County DES was being alerted for in the Finzel area. Director Grant stated that he feels the new alerting

procedures are working well and it allows more flexibility for patients to be transported to more appropriate facilities or facilities of their request rather than just UPMC Western Maryland.

- Director Sam Grant reported on out of county responses and stated that a memo was recently sent to Garrett County 911 in an effort to take a measured step to reduce the amount of out of county responses. Garrett County is also attempting to meet with neighboring jurisdictions to further discuss out of county responses.

New Business

- Chief Justin Orendorf of Bittering Volunteer Fire Department and appointed ESB member made a presentation to the Emergency Services Board on the current state of Emergency Medical Services in Bittering that focused on the lack of funding from the county since the addition of the service to the department in February of 2016. Chief Orendorf presented a written request to the Emergency Services Board and requested that the Emergency Services Board review the request and make a recommendation to the Garrett County Board of Commissioners. (Request Attached)

It was decided that the request would be tabled until the next meeting to allow time for ESB members to think about it and further consider the potential options. ESB member Chris Nichols also requested that a special committee be formed to also investigate the details surrounding the allocation of funding for EMS and to identify some potential options. Justin Orendorf, Mark Clookie, and Chris Nichols volunteered for the committee.

No other new business was brought to the board and the meeting was adjourned at 1715 hours.

Acting Secretary
Justin Orendorf

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