

Emergency Services Advisory Council
February 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes

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

Members Absent: Dr. Mike DiNapoli, Suzanne Swisher

Guests: Susan Mott, 1st VP CCVESA

Chairman Baker opened the meeting at 19:02 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Baker asked for a motion to approve the January meeting minutes. Motion by Dr. John Murphy, seconded by Danny Plunkert. The motion was passed.

Chairman Baker asked if any council representatives had comments. Michael Karolenko commented on the loss of paramedic-firefighter Bobby Jones and expressed gratitude to those who assisted with the line-of-duty-death/funeral arrangements. There were no other comments at that time.

Director's Report:

-The Director acknowledged the death of paramedic-firefighter Bobby Jones as a great loss and commented on the support received from agencies across the state for the line-of-duty-death procedures and funeral.

-The Director acknowledged the loss of three firefighters in Baltimore City and thanked the multiple engines from Carroll County that went to Baltimore to assist on the day of the funeral.

-The Director met with Baltimore County Fire Department Chief Joanne Rund and discussed mutual aid policies. He also received permission use Baltimore County's physical ability test for the Department of Fire & EMS's hiring process.

- The Director commended everyone involved in the Strategic Planning process for their excellent work so far. He invited all participants to be present when the plan is presented to the Commissioners.
- The Director invited ESAC members to attend the State of the County address on February 22nd at Carroll Arts Center.
- The Director reported that the demo ambulance was delivered but had to be sent back to correct an issue.
- The Director will meet with CCVESA treasurer and Department of Fire & EMS's budget analyst next week to go over CCVESA's FY23 budget.
- The Director gave an update on the hiring process and described the various steps candidates will progress through as well as the types of positions. He hopes to advertise Fire and EMS positions by April.
- The Director reviewed the Department of Fire & EMS's direction and goals. He will present several different staffing plans to the County Commissioners on March 1st. No decision from the Commissioners is expected at this meeting on March 1st.

Commissioner's Report:

- Commissioner Wantz noted that budget discussions are underway.
- Commissioner Wantz relayed that there are currently over 70 job openings in Carroll County Government. Raises planned for July are being moved up to March in an effort to increase morale and help fill open positions.
- Commissioner Wantz emphasized his commitment to transparency and that he will ensure ESAC has knowledge/input as the Department of Fire & EMS moves forward. This includes the information presented to the BOCC on March 1st.
- Carroll County Government's Comptroller has left for another agency. Jenny Hobbs will be acting Comptroller.
- The County Commissioners have put forth a name to the state for the new Health Officer.
- The State of the County address will take place on February 22nd at 7:30am at the Carroll Arts Center. It is open to the public and will be streamed live.
- The Commissioner discussed several proposed bills in Annapolis related to public safety/EMS.

-The Commissioner noted that the filing deadline for candidates running for office was extended to March 22nd.

Nothing to report from CCVESA President Fleming.

Committee Reports:

FROPS: Nothing to report.

EMSOPS: Nothing to report.

Old Business:

Strategic Plan Update

-Chairman Baker and the Director met two weeks ago to review strategic planning goals and objectives developed by the seven groups. Groups were given feedback and suggestions.

-Chairman Baker and President Fleming will meet with the Director next week to discuss progress on the overall document. We are on track to meet the goal of having a rough draft by March 1st.

Statistics

-Chairman Baker reported that more work needs to be done by the county regarding statistics. It needs to be someone's job in county government to produce statistics working with the Department of Fire/EMS.

-Eddie Ruch gave a presentation on his work with statistics received daily from CAD for all 14 stations. He reviewed the challenges and discussed the need for the process to be more automated.

-Director Robinson suggested the open position in Emergency Communications could be utilized to handle Fire & EMS statistics. He also suggested a meeting with Public Safety, IT, Eddie Ruch and Chairman Baker to discuss statistics.

-Chairman Baker asked for a motion to write a letter to the Board of County Commissioners explaining the need for more attention and resources to be devoted

to statistics. An individual, a team of folks from county government or a contractor working with the Department of Fire & EMS needs to be identified to produce timely and accurate statistical information. Motion by John Murphy, seconded by Dave Coe. The motion was passed.

New Business:

-Callie Williams gave a briefing on the spotted lanternfly quarantine order that is now in effect for Carroll County.

-Linus Saurusaitus began a discussion on the ripple effect the transition to a combination career/volunteer fire department will have on the stations that do not receive county personnel on the first or second rounds of employment. Individuals that are hired as county employees will leave gaps for their former stations to fill, and stations will still be spending fundraising money to make payroll. The discussion continued to suggest possible solutions for the stations to get additional money since we are in budget season. Chairman Baker suggested that CCVESA work out details since they are the organization that is currently responsible for the distribution of funds and negotiations with county government for the budget.

Action items:

-Callie Williams will clarify how the spotted lanternfly quarantine order applies to vehicles stored indoors.

The meeting was adjourned at 22:30.