

Emergency Services Advisory Council

June 17, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Rick Baker, Michael Robinson, Michael Guerin, JJ Lynott, Michael Karolenko, Blane Wright, David Coe (virtual), Brett Six, Jeff Fleming, Robert Ruch, Jim Mora, Tim Legore, Scott Dickson (virtual)

Members Absent: Dr. Stephanie Kemp, Joe Brown

Public: Bridget Weishaar- CCVESA 2nd VP, Mike Stewart- Pleasant Valley Community Fire Company, DFEMS Firefighter/EMT Joshua Tohn

Chairman Baker opened the meeting at 19:00 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Brett Six made a motion to approve the May meeting minutes. Jim Mora seconded. The motion was unanimously passed.

Board Member Comments:

Chairman Baker presented Lt. Mike Karolenko with a letter of appreciation for his work on ESAC for two terms over the last six years. Mike and Rick are the last two charter members still on the council and both of their terms are ending this month.

Chief Robinson presented a plaque to Rick Baker and thanked him for his leadership and his contributions to the Department.

Commissioner Guerin also expressed his gratitude for Rick's service and guidance.

Public Comment: None

Director/Chief's Report:

- Chief Robinson attended the EST graduation on May 29th.
- Great job on the acquired structural burn training in Manchester.
- Staffing update: Down 18 positions, 12 new positions added after July 1 for a total of 30 vacancies.
- An information session for FF/EMT candidates will be held on June 25th.

- Hazmat Ops and Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC) are no longer required to apply. Will be taught during orientation.
- The promotional process for Captains and Lieutenants has begun.
- Chief Robinson aims to have the Safety Officer program implemented by Oct. 1.
- There are plans to develop an acting Battalion Chief program.
- The ambulance committee has identified a demo unit that meets our ambulance specs and a letter of intent is being submitted.
- DFEMS will be acquiring four new SUVs in FY27, one for the whole blood program (grant funded), one reserve, and two new Tahoes.
- Once those SUVs are acquired, Dr. Kemp can be provided with a vehicle to use.
- Chief Robinson has been asked by the County Administrator to form an internal committee to decide on the direction for the third-party study.
- Chief Robinson discussed the PFAS remediation project for the PSTC.
- There is funding in the DFEMS's FY27 budget for the SCBA replacement project. The goal is to replace all units at the same time because of changes in technology.
- There will be a new low-interest loan program funded at 10 million dollars for fire companies to purchase apparatus. The goal is to keep the interest rate at 1-2% and offer at least 15 year loans for major apparatus.
- DFEMS employees are getting a 4.5% raise starting July 1.
- Two weeks ago, DFEMS started utilizing transport ventilators. IV pumps will follow soon.
- DFEMS is applying for two federal grants. One is for new non-PFAS turnout gear and another for a wellness app that assists with behavioral health issues.
- The cancer screening for career employees is complete.
- This week is National Safety Stand Down week.
- September 19th there will be a free, day-long training seminar on volunteer recruitment and retention and leadership.

Commissioner's Report (Commissioner Guerin)

- Nothing to add

CCVESA President's Report (Jeff Fleming)

- CCVESA is working on a new budget process and is looking at ways to implement the suggestions from the Commissioners regarding accountability.
- Two EST students competed in Skills USA and came in 5th out of 27 teams.
- The volunteer cancer screening has been completed. CCVESA is hoping to apply for grant funds again next year.

Medical Director's Report: Not present

Committee Reports:

FROPS (Tim Legore)

-No meeting this past month.

EMSOPS (David Coe)

-All EMS units successfully completed the Maryland Voluntary Ambulance Inspection Program (VAIP). The certification is good for two years.

-EMSOPS meets next Wednesday.

Old Business:

- Proposed Bylaw Amendment
 - Mike Karolenko discussed the proposal for a bylaw amendment that would allow the Carroll County Professional Firefighters & Paramedics Association President to be an ex-officio member of ESAC. He feels it is a logical progression of our system and stressed the importance of the position of IAFF President rather than the individual.
 - This position would mirror the CCVESA President's position and does not change the number of voting members.
 - Jim Mora shared objections from his district.
 - **Mike Karolenko made a motion to accept the bylaw change as written. Tim Legore seconded. 9 in favor, 1 opposed. The motion was passed.**
- Officer Standards Policy
 - Chairman Baker noted that his district would not vote in favor of the policy as written. They feel volunteer and career standards should be the same, and Lieutenants should hold the EMT certification.
 - JJ Lynott shared that his district feels the same.
 - Jim Mora stated that Chief 6 disagrees with Lieutenants having to hold EMT. He has not heard from the other two companies he represents.
 - **Brett Six made a motion to not approve the Officer Standards Policy as written. Mike Karolenko seconded. 8 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstain. The motion was passed.**

- Recommendations for Third-Party Study
 - Chief Robinson would like to have ESAC's recommendations by the August meeting.
 - The group brainstormed ideas for what the third-party study should look at (list attached).

New Business

- Payment of Volunteer Fire Company Bills
 - ESAC discussed issues the fire companies have encountered with bills being paid late, specifically vehicle maintenance and repair bills. They are concerned about the negative impact on their vendor relationships.
 - Commissioner Guerin asked for more details and will investigate the issue.
 - Jeff Fleming will bring this up at the next CCVESA meeting to gather more information from the companies.
- Other Bylaw Change
 - Chairman Baker noted that the verbiage in the bylaws about staggered terms is no longer needed now that those initial terms have ended and can now possibly be removed. All members have three-year terms going forward.
 - The issue will be discussed at next month's meeting.
- New Loan Process
 - Chairman Baker brought up the new loan process that the county is developing for volunteer fire companies to purchase apparatus. Companies should not be penalized for already being under contract. Departments will be receiving delivery of new equipment this calendar year that was ordered 2-3 years ago. More work needs to be done on the process.
 - Commissioner Guerin noted that that decision has not been made.
- Pay Grade Issues
 - Mike Karolenko noted that a lot of work was done last year to decompress the pay scales for Firefighter/Paramedics and Paramedics. As a result, there are now instances where a

Firefighter/Paramedic makes more than a Lieutenant. This issue is affecting morale and may result in people leaving to work in other jurisdictions.

- Elections
 - Mike Karolenko nominated Tim Legore for the position of ESAC Chair. Brett Six seconded. Brett Six made a motion to close the nominations. JJ Lynott seconded. The motion was unanimously passed.
 - Brett Six nominated David Coe to continue as ESAC Vice Chair. David Coe declined.
 - Mike Karolenko nominated Blane Wright for the position of ESAC Vice Chair. Brett Six seconded. Brett Six made a motion to close the nominations. Robby Ruch seconded. The motion was unanimously passed.

Action Items:

1. Chairman Baker will send an email to Chief Robinson and the County Administrator stating that ESAC accepts the bylaw change and will attach the proposal.
2. Chairman Baker will send an email to Chief Robinson and Deputy Chief Supko stating that ESAC does not recommend the Officer Standards policy as written.
3. Callie Williams will send an email to Commissioner Guerin with details about late payments for VFCs.
4. Jeff Fleming will bring up the late bill payments at CCVESA to get a list of issues/vendors not being paid.

Mike Karolenko made a motion to adjourn. JJ Lynott seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 21:20.

Third-Party Study
ESAC 6/17/26 Notes

- Short and long term goals
- Fire Station location – current
- Future fire station location
- Level of service- must be data driven
 - *EMS
 - # of transport units
 - # of ALS units
 - *Special Service location
- Vol recruitment and retention incentives- tax breaks, tuition reimbursement
- Career recruitment and retention incentives
- Water supply
- ISO/NFPA 1710/1720 standards
- Mutual aid incoming/outgoing
- Training academy
- Evaluation of command staff
- Supervision at station
- Organizational structure and depth
- Life safety and code enforcement