

# EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD MINUTES

August 16, 2018



## MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Lou Battistella, General Public  
Sonny Vincent, General Public  
Wayne Tiemersma, Emergency Medical Service  
Richard Carlson, Chief's Committee  
Alex Mellott, Fire & Rescue Association  
Rich Ford, Southern Rescue Squad  
Terry Spear, Northern Rescue Squad  
Edward McLellan, General Public  
John Frank, Emergency Services

## GUESTS:

Dwayne Kitis, MIEMSS  
Shelia Mahaffey, Emergency Services

---

## CALL TO ORDER

This Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Battistella.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Regular Meeting for May 17, 2018 were distributed for review and comment via e-mail prior to the meeting. Alex Mellott made a motion to accept the minutes with appropriate changes made. Sonny Vincent seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

## REPORTS

- **Emergency Services Clubs**
  - EMS Clubs will start back in September traditionally the Southern Club starts before the Northern Club.
  
- **MIEMSS Report/Commercial Ambulance Services**
  - Ambulance Inspections are scheduled for October 2, 2018
  - EMT classes are canceled due to low enrollment
  - Nine people inducted into the EMS Hall of Fame, five from Garrett Counties ALS Program
  - MIEMMS Grant Money available to 911 Centers for a new texting service that is intended to benefit people that may not be able to make a voice call due to an emergency such as home invasion or domestic violence situation, as well as individuals that are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities.
  - A meeting is scheduled for August 31, 2018 at GRMC to discuss the Interfacility Transfers issue in Garrett County.
  
- **Director of Emergency Services Report**
  - Promotions of Emergency Services Medical Supervisors – First Line Supervisors were promoted to Lieutenants at the May 17, 2018 County Commissioners Meeting. These individuals include; Phillip Rumer- A Shift, Curtis O’Neal-B Shift, Vicki Walker-C Shift and Joshua Hook- D Shift.
  - The Garrett County Hazmat Team was also recognized at the May 17, 2018 meeting, the thirteen (13) member team is made up of volunteer members from the various fire/rescue companies in the County. The Hazmat Team is now available for out of state and mutual aid responses, also actively working on the Emergency Action Facilities Plan for future incidents such as the white powder incident that recently occurred at the Garrett County Courthouse.
  - A Hazmat Training and Educational Conference is scheduled for August 23 – 26, 2018 at Seven Springs Resort.
  - An EPA Hazardous Materials Technician Course will be held September 8 & 9 and 29 & 30, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Garrett College Technology Center.
  - There have been forty search and rescues this year.
  - EM - Maryland First Radio Program – Allegheny County completed testing and is going live with 98% coverage on all portable radios in all communities. Temporarily turned on the towers in Garrett County to test radios the coverage is excellent. Field testing will be done

the end of October and hopefully will be turned on by the end of the year or the first quarter of 2019.

- September 6, 2018 Community Outreach Meeting at the Oakland VFD at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the Table Rock Tower, last step before construction starts on the tower.
  - Ready to install consolets in the 911 Center
  - EOC Project moving along very well should have the complete design by September 17, 2018 and shortly after put out for bid. Will probably be a phased project.
  - Kitzmiller Fire Department will be certified as a Red Cross Shelter.
  - Stop-The-Bleed Training - Funding is available to train 250 Garrett County employees 150 Garrett County Roads Department employees received the training on August 15, 2018. There have been approximately 2,000 individuals trained in Garrett and Allegany Counties.
- **Chief's Report – Emergency Medical Services**
    - Wayne Tiemersma distributed a packet summarizing the response data (response time, delayed calls, failed responses, and secondary response) for all the stations and explained the data presented.
    - GCES continues to provide a limited amount of Driver services to SGCRS as they are requested.
    - GCES has moved to the Elite reporting platform and are working on some minor issues but everything seems to be working well. The end goal is to be as “paperless” as possible.
    - Problems filling shifts at Station 3 with no county staff available so NGRS is handling the calls
    - A meeting is scheduled for August 31, 2018 at GRMC to discuss the Interfacility Transfers issues in Garrett County which is still a big problem with no commitments being made. Attendees for the meeting to be Wayne Tiemersma, GC EMS Chief, State Medical Director Dr. Alcorta, Attorney General Advocate for MIEMMS, the Head of Commercial Service for MIEMMS and Administrative Personnel from Garrett Regional Medical Center.
  - **LOSAP**
    - A committee to review LOSAP Plan includes the following members Rich Ford, Alex Mellott, Brad Frantz, Dwayne Stein and Maggie Robie.
  - **Workers Comp. Fire/Ems Companies**
    - Alex Mellott spoke with Rodeheaver and Associates the paperwork is complete and sent to the IRS, just waiting on the IRS to send paperwork back for the Charter to be reinstated.
  - **New Business**
    - Potomac Edison Issue – Lou Battistella spoke with a representative from West Penn Power who said the response time is totally unacceptable.
    - Senator George Edwards is to follow up on the situation with a representative from First Energy.
  - **Executive Session**

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. Motion by Alex Mellott, and seconded by Edward McLellan at 5:10 P.M.

### **2019 MEETING SCHEDULE**

- The 2019 Emergency Services Board meeting schedule is:  
**February 21, 2019, May 16, 2019, August 15, 2019 and November 21, 2019**  
Special meetings may be scheduled if deemed necessary by the Board.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting of the Emergency Services Board is scheduled for **November 15, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.** With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m. on a motion by Alex Mellott, which was seconded by Rich Ford and carried unanimously.

**MINUTES APPROVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

LOU BATTISTELLA  
Chairman



# EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD MINUTES

## Executive Session

May 17, 2018

- **Executive Session**

The Kitzmiller VFD would like to establish a policy on the use of volunteers using Medical Marijuana while on call at Garrett County Fire Departments and/or Rescue Squads. After a discussion regarding this issue it was decided that Garrett County Fire Departments and/or Rescue Squads will adhere to the county policy as outlined below in a letter from the County Administrator.

In response to the question concerning Garrett County Government's policy on the use of "medical marijuana":

**The Garret County Substance Abuse Policy "provides a uniform procedure regarding the testing of applicants for employment and/or employees to detect individuals having drugs and/or alcohol in their system in accordance with 49 CFR Parts 40 and 382." While 49 CFR Parts 40 and 382 are US Department of Transportation requirements, Garrett County has adopted these requirements for all County employees. Since marijuana, in any form, is currently considered a "Prohibited Substance" and not approved for medical use by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration or the United States Food and Drug Administration, the presence of marijuana during a random drug test would be cause for disciplinary action.**