



Garrett County Emergency Services Advisory Board 203 South 4th Street Oakland, MD 21550

August 17th, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Emergency Services Board Members Present

- Lou Battistella, Chairman
- Wayne Tiemersma, Emergency Services Chief
- Alex Mellot, Garrett County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association
- Justin Orendorf Bittinger Volunteer Fire Department
- John Frank, Garrett County Emergency Management
- Richard Carlson, Garrett County Chief's Committee
- Mark Clookie, Southern Garrett Rescue Squad

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Battistella at 4:00 PM. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved by unanimous consent of the board members present.

Reports

MIEMMS Alex Kelly

- The region I EMS hall of fame induction was recently held at Garrett College. Cheryl Rexrode, Barry Beal, and John Frank were the 2023 inductees for Garrett County.
- The critical incident stress management team is available 24/7 for the region, Al Ward is the contact person for team call outs if needed.

Emergency Management John Frank

- Interviews have been conducted for the emergency planner position that was recently advertised and a candidate has been selected for the position and he will be starting in the very near future. The new hire is Dave Middleton, and he comes with planning experience with the Mineral County Health Department.

Emergency Services Wayne Tiemersma

- Out-of-county mutual aid calls continue to be at approximately 6%. This continues to be closely monitored. Most of these mutual aid responses are ALS assists.
- The Fire and Ems academy within the high schools is still moving forward and implementation if the EMS clubs within the high schools again is being looked at to really help with getting candidates for the academy. The target date continues to be fall of 2024 for the academy.
- There have been a few requests for driving shifts to be filled by the emergency services by Southern Rescue Squad however they have been very minimal and Southern Rescue Squad remains operational stable at this time.
- There have been just 2 interfacility transport requests since the last ESB meeting. 1 was handled by Garrett County Emergency Services and 1 was handled by Southern Garrett Rescue Squad.
- Garrett County Emergency Services continues to work with Northern Rescue Squad, a newly signed MOU has been executed between Garrett County and Northern Rescue Squad for staffing. Northern Rescue Squad has purchased 2 new ambulances, and they are in service. There continues to be concerns regarding the overall fail rate at station 3 (Friendsville). The quality review committee recently met to review an incident where station 3 failed on incident while there was a scheduled crew showing on the schedule. The incident was reviewed, and the recommendation of the committee was that the station does not go in and out of service anymore and that Station 11 (McHenry) be dual alerted on all calls after 1800 until 0600 to ensure that an EMS unit is responding from the initial alert for calls in Station 3's first due response area regardless of what the schedule shows Station 3's staffing to be. Northern Rescue has agreed to support this request. Justin Orendorf stated that he

had received a memo from Terry Spear regarding the implementation of the dual alert however there was some slight discrepancies regarding this as Northern had requested that this only occur when Northern Rescue Station 3 showed no crew on the schedule. Further follow-up on this will need to be conducted to resolve the discrepancies and to ensure dual alerting is occurring appropriately as recommended by the quality assurance board. Chairman Spear who could not be present at the meeting was contacted by phone and the dual alerting procedure moving forward was discussed and it was decided that the dual alerting would automatically begin at 1800 hours each night and discontinue at 0600 each morning unless the station did now show a crew on the schedule during the daytime hours as well.

- The ESB board discussed and expressed concern with the longevity of the issues that have been occurring with Northern Rescue Squad since 2019 which are documented in the ESB minutes. Chairman Battistella stressed the importance of mitigating the issues that are occurring with Northern Rescue Squad and requested ESB support. There was further discussion by the ESB, and motion was made and unanimously passed by members of the board to hold a special meeting in September with Northern Rescue, members of their board, and the ESB board to discuss the issues that have been occurring and come up with course of action to mitigate the problems occurring. Terry Spear of Northern Rescue Squad agreed to a meeting and requested that this meeting be held sometime during the week of September 25th. John Frank advised that he and Chairman Battistella would check on availability of ESB members, but the focus would be on the September 25th date and Terry Spear advised that the week of September 25th for a meeting would work for Northern Rescue Squad. Chairman Battistella advised that a confirmed date would be forthcoming. A special ESB committee will be established consisting of Lou, John, Sam, Wayne, Kevin, and Dr. Rikhye to discuss and come up with a proactive action plan of action for the future if Northern Rescue continues to fail to provide coverage in the Friendsville area. Chief Tiemersma requested that board members Justin Orendorf and Mark Clookie be included in this special committee to represent the other 2 ambulance services in the county during this process, the board was agreement. The action plan will be sent to the board members for review and approval.

No other business was brought to the attention of the emergency services board and the meeting was adjourned.

Justin L Orendorf

Acting Secretary

Justin L Orendorf