

CARROLL COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

The Carroll County Emergency Services Advisory Board held their regular quarterly meeting on Thursday, June 24, 2010, in the Board Meeting Room of the Carroll County Governmental Center.

Present were: Debby Brady, Lola Sutphin, Markel Cochran, , Paul Cooper, Andy Jackson, Manus McMillian, Gary Larrowe, Kathy Surratt, and Ronald Newman.

Ms. Brady called the meeting to Order.

Election of Officers

Election of Chairman

Mr. McMillian nominated Ms. Sutphin, with a second by Mr. Cochran, for the office of Chairman. Ms. Sutphin was elected Chairman by unanimous vote.

Election of Vice-Chairman

Mr. Larrowe nominated Mr. Jackson, with a second by Mr. McMillian, for the office of Vice-Chairman. Mr. Jackson was elected Vice-Chairman by unanimous vote.

Election of Secretary

Mr. Cochran nominated Mr. Newman, with a second by Mr. Larrowe, for the office of Secretary. Mr. Newman was elected Secretary by unanimous vote.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. McMillian, and passed unanimously, the Board approved the minutes of their March 25, 2010 meeting with the amendment of Dr. to Mr. on page 2 and did approve their April 22, 2010 minutes as presented.

Missions, Goals, and Objectives

Ms. Sutphin told that she had presented the Emergency Services Advisor Board Missions, Goals, and Objectives to the Board of Supervisors, who had approved these on June 14, 2010. She stated that the Chairman had asked for clarification on staff responsibilities.

Mr. Larrowe stated that there were some action items such as appointing committees.

Sub-Committee Appointments

Chairman Sutphin appointed the following persons to the below listed Sub-Committees:

Volunteer Recognition – Kathy Surratt, Ronald Newman, Gary Larrowe

Volunteer Support – Pam Smith, Nikki Shank, Horace Leonard

Fire & Rescue Competition – Joe Roma, Willie Richardson, Dr. Edsel, Kathy Surratt, Manus McMillian

Recruitment – Paul Cooper, Kathy Surratt

Retention – Debby Brady, Paul Cooper, Markel Cochran

Junior Firefighter and Junior Rescue – Horace Leonard

Equipment and Facility Master Plan – Andy Jackson, Manus McMillian, Gary Larrowe, Ronald Newman

Administrator Update

Mr. Larrowe told that all meetings had been held with the fire departments and rescue squads with the exception of Laurel Fork Rescue, which had to be canceled a couple of times. He told that the goals and objectives came from these meetings.

Mr. Cooper stated that the Squads were wanting to know answers and results from the meetings.

Mr. Larrowe told that there were a few individual questions to answer but that progress was being made and that the goals and objectives were the result of these meetings. He then asked Kathy Surratt to discuss this item and the Chief's and Captain's meetings. He then told that Joe Roma would be retiring and told that the County would be advertising for an Emergency Services Coordinator.

Fire Fees

Mr. Cooper stated that the fire departments had indicated they have not seen funds from the fire fees.

Ms. Surratt stated that calls have been billed but the insurance companies had stated they did not have to pay.

Ms. Brady stated that if the County had a legitimate claim and the insurance company refuses to pay then the Administrator and Attorney should go after them.

Mr. McMillian told that it would take some time working with the Attorney.

Ms. Surratt stated that claims had not been denied but were being delayed at this time.

Mr. Cooper told that when the rescue squads started billing they stopped getting donations. He stated that if this happens with the fire departments and they are not getting the funds it will really hurt.

Mr. Jackson stated that the Board of Supervisors would need to address this issue.

Ms. Brady asked if the fire departments were continuing to bill.

Ms. Surratt stated that she had not received anything since March but that she had given the fire departments incident reports to fill out.

Ms. Brady stated that the rescue squads had indicated they do not want to bill and asked why the rescue squads were forced to bill if the fire departments were not billing.

Mr. Cooper told that he was against billing at the start but now was getting enough funds to purchase equipment.

Ms. Brady stated that a letter was needed from the County Attorney to the insurance companies demanding payment or a legal opinion as to why they are not paying. She then asked what system was being used to track the billing and stated that a spread sheet needed to be developed to track the billing. She stated that she could not see how the Board of Supervisors could track what is being collected on each call without a way to track.

Mr. Cochran stated that the County needed to receive an Explanation of Account.

Ms. Surratt stated that the rescue squads have access to the reports which shows the call number, charges, credits, and the balance owed.

Mr. Cochran then brought forward information on a call transporting a patient from a house to the hospital and then to another hospital. He told that the bill for the hospital to hospital transport had been paid but the transport from the house to the hospital had not been paid.

Discussion by the Board showed that the patient had been sent a form requesting additional information from the patient.

Following discussion, Chairman Sutphin pointed out that billing was not under the responsibilities of the Emergency Services Advisory Board.

Rescue Computer Update

Ms. Surratt told that all squads except Laurel and Dugspur were on-line.

Mr. Cooper stated that Laurel planned on being on-line by July 1 and that still being on dial-up was presenting problems for Dugspur.

Chairman Sutphin suggested having folks from other squads to assist.

Emergency Vehicle Purchase

Mr. McMillian stated that this does not come under the Emergency Services Advisory Board.

Ms. Surratt told that the Captains had expressed concern with having to supply all the information for each vehicle.

Mr. McMillian told that with this information the Board of Supervisors can make replacement plans.

Mr. Cooper stated that with billing the squads can now purchase vehicles but they have to title them in the Board of Supervisors name.

Mr. McMillian stated that they all needed to be part of the team. He told that the Board is trying to make sure that everyone has the same type of equipment.

Mr. Cooper told that the squads would like to be able to bill under their own agency number and title the vehicles in their own name.

Mr. Cochran told that the perception from the squads is they are being micro-managed and feel like they are being asked for a lot of information but are not receiving information back.

New Business

The next scheduled meeting of the Emergency Services Advisory Board will be held September 23, 2010.

Chairman Sutphin announced that Ms. Brady had resigned from the Emergency Services Board and therefore the members of the Retention Committee would be Mr. Cooper and Mr. Cochran.

Adjournment

Upon motion by Mr. McMillian, seconded by Mr. Jackson, and passed unanimously, the Board adjourned until September 23, 2010, unless there is a need for a called meeting.