



605 Port Street Easton, MD 21601

**ROLL CALL**

**Date: 10/12/2022**

20	Richard Smith	60	Tim Knotts
30	Shirley Quidas, Bobby Quidas	70	Absent
40	Dan Mautz	80	Dennis Starkey, Corky Starkey
50	Jimmy Easton	DES	Brian LeCates
Association	Bill Keswick, Steve Mroczek, Dan Tarrant and Holley Guschke	Chief's Committee	Sonny Jones
Guests	Mark Bilger	R&R	Danielle Starkey

President Keswick called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge. Meeting was suspended and dinner was served by Trappe Volunteer Fire Department.

President Keswick called for a Roll Call of Officers, followed by a Roll Call of Executive Committee or Alternatives. President Keswick asked for the minutes from the September meeting to be read. Tim Knotts made a motion for minutes to be accepted.

**GUESTS:**

**Mark Bilger- MIEMSS**

- Encouraged everyone to get their annual flu shot and updated COVID Vaccine Booster
- Working with several Counties on the Hospital off load time at the ER's so units can get out on the street faster
- If you have a member looking for online EMS Training, Miltenburger and Winterfest EMS from last year are still online.
- The new Stipend Program is maxed out at this time. They are monitoring the program and will see if this is something that will be available again in the future. It seems to be successful at this time.

**John Mautz- Delegate**

- He is currently working with Trappe Volunteer Fire Department to work on funding for the new fire department
- Elections will be held on Tuesday November 8, 2022 and early voting will start on October 27<sup>th</sup>
- In the upcoming legislative session, he hopes to work with the Counties regarding the Maryland LEOPS Program and moving forward with changing legislation for that.
- Still has not received any updates on the Federal level for those that applied for the Firehouse Improvement Grants. This is federal money but hasn't been dispersed at this time.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

R&R	\$21,000.00
Career Tech	\$ 4,748.00
Foam	\$ 5,000.00
Training	\$ 10,000.00
Admin	\$ 2,000.00
Checking:	\$11,040.62
CD	\$15,234.69

Dan Tarrant read the Treasurer's Report.

- President and Treasurer Budget meeting will be held on Thursday November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7Pm at Talbot Center; please make sure a representative is able to attend

### **Talbot County Department of Emergency Services- Brian LeCates, Director**

- The County is in the process of purchases a building on Mary's Court in Easton, which is house the Talbot County Sheriff's Department, and in the future will house TCDEs- 911 and Administrative staff.
- Emergency Management is working on updating the Emergency Operation Plan
- Also still working on a COVID after actions plan
- Information was sent out to all Departments in regard to the 50/50 Cardiac Grants from MIEMSS- Applications are due by October 28<sup>th</sup>
- 911 Center is working with Mission Critical to look at a CAD Upgrade//Will be meeting with Fire, EMS, and Law Enforcement partners. Meetings will occur in November, and agencies will be notified.

### **COMMITTEES**

#### ***Chief Committee –***

Sonny Jones, Station 60

- There will be a Presentation by Lawyer Brad Pinskey, which will be held on Saturday November 5, 2022, at Easton Fire Department. Open to all members of each department, and surrounding counties.
- Sonny asked if the TCFRA would purchase light fare to be served at the event. Motion/2<sup>nd</sup> to spend \$200 for light fare// Roll Call: 20-Y, 30-Y, 40-Y, 50-Y, 60-Y, 70-Absent, 80-Y
- All Chiefs were present at the last Chiefs Committee Meeting. Just a reminder February 25-26 is Maryland Weekend at the National Fire Academy. Chiefs are looking to host a Fire Officer 3 class; if you have anyone interested in taking the class talk to your Chief
- The old foam has been removed from the county and disposed of properly. The bill was actually \$1,000 less than previously thought; bill has been paid; If you need foam now there is a supply; foam is located at the Old Black and Decker building.
- MSFA Water Supply drill was successful in QAC; a few Talbot County Departments were present
- Station 80 is working on getting an Electric Vehicle Drill put together for the County; Right now there is an Electric Vehicle pit located at Knotts Towing; Station 60 has purchased 2 Thermal Blankets for the new Engine; Each blanket cost a few thousand dollars.
- Waiting on the County Attorney to sign the MOU for Calvert County.

#### ***R&R –***

Danielle Starkey

- A meeting was held last Wednesday at Talbot Center; only a couple people were present for the meeting. Will be working more on retention this year but will also focus on recruitment as well.
- Each fire department needs a representative to attend the meetings in the future.
- Station 20 & 40 still haven't received their monies from last year; fill follow up with County

- Any station who has had a member complete training, needs to fill out the form in order to receive a gift card for training. Class must be at least 20 hours.
- Station 80 attended the First Responder Day at Lowes and passed out information to the public
- Danielle will be sending out a survey to all Departments in reference to the future of R&R and suggestions on how the group should move forward in the future. She would like to attend each fire department meeting

**Hall of Fame-** Nominations for Hall of Fame need to be post marked by October 31, 2022.

### ***Career Tech-***

- Hoodies have been ordered; still waiting on a few to get in
- 3 students are currently enrolled; Midterm test coming up

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- The yearly review of books will happen next Wednesday and will include the Treasurer from Station 70- Leah Lednum, who is a CPA
- Had discussion in reference to the Talbot County Memorial- currently the memorial is located on the corner of Dover Street/West Street. There was previous discussion on possible increasing the size of the memorial and or moving locations. This was something that was discussed in 2018, and no further discussions have been held. There are no plans to move forward with this plan.
- Annual Review of Dues- There was a motion and 2<sup>nd</sup> to increase the annual dues from \$100 to \$200. Some departments did not know the vote was going to happen at this meeting and stated they weren't properly given the information. Motion moved forward. Roll Call- 20-Y, 30-N, 40-Y, 50-N, 60-Abstain, 70-Absent, 80-Y. Motion failed.
- Previous discussion had been held on rather to continue having dinner meetings. Through discussions, some departments though it should be left up to each station, while others didn't want to continue except for the December meeting. Motion made/ 2<sup>nd</sup> to stop having dinner meetings except for the month of December for Hall of Fame. 2-Y, 30-Y, 40-Y, 50-Y, 60-Y, 70-Absent, 80-N

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Discussion was held in regard to the ESO (formerly Firehouse Software); This issue has previously been discussed at the Chiefs Committee level, and there are representatives who are in discussions with the company to find out if a cheaper price can be given to each department if there is one contract. Queen Anne Hillsboro stated there was misinformation about QAC paying for their department to have a software program. Station 80 currently has a different program, and they paid for the cost themselves and did not receive funding from QAC. Last year, Phil Starkey spoke with Council representatives about having the County pay for all stations to have this software program, however they said no. There would be a funding increase, and the stations could use that money to buy whatever program that would fit their needs. The chiefs have had discussion as well to see if the County would pay for the CAD integration. Some departments have already signed contracts to move forward, as services will currently end on December 31, 2022, for Firehouse Software. More info will be provided when available.
- Station 60 brought up discussion in regard to the LOSAP onboarding process. They feel like not everyone who becomes eligible for LOSAP, knows they are responsible for contacting the County when they turn 62 years of age. DES will work with volunteer fire departments, with the process and Director LeCates will send out a letter to each department with a follow-up on what the member is responsible for and what they need to do.
- Station 40- President Chris Thomas- brought up a tax break incentive for property taxes or also closing cost for purchasing house. Would like to see the Recruitment and Retention Committee work on this

process. There was discussion that the State of Maryland has passed legislation for each county to allow up to \$2500 off your property tax, however each County has to adopt the program. Currently, Talbot County does not participate in this program. Queen Anne County currently has adopted this program, and they also allow up to \$50,000 for purchasing a new home in the County. There will be a new Council elected in November, and this should be something which is brought up for discussion again.

### **GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION**

- 20- Breakfast will be held November 13<sup>th</sup>
- 30- Soup Sale 11/8  
Gun raffle tickets for sale; will be given away on January 10<sup>th</sup>
- 40- Nothing
- 50- Nothing
- 60- Mike Newnam Past President passed away earlier in the week; Services will be next week  
Stair Climb in Ocean City for Fallen Firefighters on 10/29  
Manufacturing delays are occurring for the 2 new engines; New Brush Truck ordered  
Beer Fest was a success with 1200 in attendance  
Stews and Brews will be held in February
- 70- Tilghman Day on 10/15
- 80- Ladies Bingo postponed until March  
Gun Raffle tickets will be available for purchase and given away with lottery in February  
Craft Show on 11/12  
Sportsman Bingo on 11/19

The next meeting is a regular meeting will be November 9, 2022, at Talbot Center

Tim Knotts motioned to adjourn; Dan Mautz seconded; meeting adjourned 8:47PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Holley Guschke*

Holley Guschke  
Secretary, TCVFRA