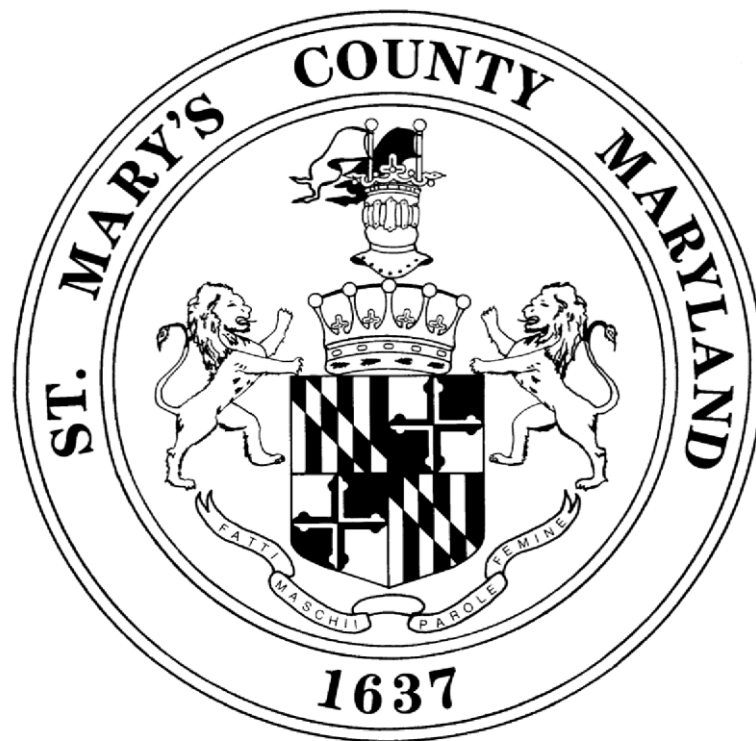


February 10, 2021

St. Mary's County Emergency Services Board



2020 Annual Report

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD
2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

February 10, 2021

Introduction

The St. Mary's County Emergency Services Committee was established under Resolution 94-22 by incorporating an agreement signed on Oct 11, 1994. The St. Mary's County Emergency Services Board (ESB) was adopted as a Board on July 10, 2018 effective July 24, 2018.

The Board shall advise the Commissioners St. Mary's County (CSMC) of matters pertaining to Emergency Services in St. Mary's County. The purpose of the Board is to serve as an advisory board between the St. Mary's County Emergency Services Providers and the St. Mary's County Government as offered by the Emergency Medical System Operational Procedures, St. Mary's County Fire Board, the fire departments, and to work for the best interests of the residents of St. Mary's County. The Board is formed not to take the place of the St. Mary's County Fire Board Association or the St. Mary's County Ambulance and Rescue Association, but rather to affect a partnership, coordinate, and enhance the efforts of these services. The departments, squads, and Advanced Life Support Unit shall remain in control of fire, rescue and emergency medical service operations.

Members

The membership of the ESB shall be (1) County Fire Chief; (2) County EMS Chief; (3) St. Mary's County Fire Board Association President; (4) St. Mary's County Ambulance and Rescue Association Chair; (5) one member of a volunteer fire department elected by the St. Mary's County Fire Board Association; (6) one member of a volunteer rescue squad elected by the St. Mary's County Ambulance and Rescue Squad Association; and (7) Director of Emergency Services; (8) Jurisdictional Medical Director (ex officio, nonvoting member).

2020 Members	Position	Appointment Date	Expiration Date
J. M. "Mock" Mattingly, III	Chair	Dec 5, 2019	Dec 31, 2021
Steve Facini	Vice-Chair	Nov 15, 2018	Dec 31, 2021
Shawn Davidson	Secretary	July 31, 2018	Dec 31, 2021
Peter "Rocky" Woodburn	Member	Dec 3, 2020	Dec 31, 2021
JA Nelson	Member	July 31, 2018	Dec 31, 2021
Gary Bell	Member	Nov. 15, 2018	Dec 31, 2021
Stephen Walker	Member	Ex-Officio	
Daniel Geary	Member	Ex-Officio	

Meetings

The Emergency Services Board (ESB) holds regular meetings on the second Wednesday in even numbered months. In 2020, one special meeting was called on November 30th to discuss proposed EMS billing legislation. The regularly scheduled April meeting was cancelled due to restrictions necessitated by global pandemic precautions.

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Attendance

The St. Mary's County ESB held five (5) regular meetings in 2020 with (1) special meeting called with (6) absences for the year.

Dr. Dan Geary, Jurisdictional Medical Director 6/10/20

J.A Nelson, President of Fireboard Association 6/10/20

Gary Bell, County Fire Chief – 8/12/20

J.A Nelson, President of Fireboard Association 8/12/20

J.A Nelson, President of Fireboard Association 10/14/2020 (Alternate attended)

Rocky Woodburn, St. Mary's County Ambulance and Rescue President 11/30/2020 (Alternate attended)

Election for Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary Positions were held on December 9, 2020. James "Mock" Mattingly, III was elected as the Chairman, Steve Facini as Vice-Chair and Shawn Davidson as Secretary.

Education & Training

The St. Mary's County ESB awarded educational scholarships to (23) applicants from the fire and EMS community, based their services rendered to the citizens of St. Mary's County.

Large-scale online training is being provided on an ongoing basis for volunteers in the St Mary's County first responder community. This has included training specific to changes required in practice due to the emergence of COVID 19 as a global pandemic as well as review of basic medical and trauma emergencies.

Steps have been taken to schedule regular small-group skills classes through the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute to support the recertification process for existing personnel as well as facilitate the courses required for provisional personnel activated under the governor's emergency orders.

Budget and Finance

The ESB distributed budget submission packets, budget rules and Amoss Funds report packets to the fire and emergency medical services departments on behalf of the Department of Finance.

In our June meeting, the ESB voted to approve and forward the loan application request from the Second District Volunteer Fire Department & Rescue Squad to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County.

In our October meeting, the ESB voted to approve the grant application from Ridge Volunteer Fire Department for Water Way Improvement Funds for \$50,000 to purchase a new fire/rescue boat. This was done with the understanding that RVFD cost is \$250,000; no county funds were

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requested, and the grant application met financial and legal requirements. The approval was forwarded to the Commissioners with a request that the Commissioner President sign a letter of support stating the same.

In the same meeting, the ESB voted to approve and forward to the Commissioners the LOSAP plan for pandemic awards and revision to the standard pay out endorsed by both the Fireboard Association and Ambulance and Rescue Squad Association and recommend that it be enacted by the commissioners.

Support Services and Coordination

The Department of Emergency Services conducted a survey of EMS departments and moved forward with a plan to implement contract support services for EMS in St. Mary's County without prior coordination or notification to the ESB. This caused some friction; however, steps have been taken to improve the communication necessary to maintain and improve the service provided to the citizens of St. Mary's County. The contract has been implemented as a short-term solution to boost staffing during the global pandemic and plans are being worked on to expand and enhance the emergency medical services provided in St. Mary's County.

Legislative Recommendations

The Board of Commissioners for St Mary's County forwarded for recommendation several legislative proposals to the Emergency Services Board regarding structural changes necessary to allow for billing for EMS services. These proposals were reviewed and returned to the commissioners with some changes suggested. In addition, the St. Mary's Ambulance and Rescue Squad Association is working with the County Attorney's Office and Department of Emergency Services on agreements for the implementation of further support services in the system. Several members of the legislative delegation have reached out for information on the progress of these initiatives and are briefed as they requested on progress.

Emergency Services System Activities

2020 presented challenges to the typical way of life for every person on the planet. In St. Mary's County that translated to severe stresses being placed on our volunteer emergency services. Efforts that have been undertaken to address those stressors in the EMS service have been outlined in this report. In addition to the steps and planning already mentioned, our emergency services have participated in a county-wide partnership with agencies across the spectrum of services to help respond to the global pandemic threatening lives every day, all the while continuing to answer emergency calls.

Under the leadership of the St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) and the county Emergency Planner, coordination and planning meetings have been held at least weekly since early March 2020. Volunteer fire and EMS personnel have participated in all of these meetings.

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Fire and EMS volunteers coordinated with DES staff to ensure adequate access to personal protective equipment for first responders and worked under the auspices of the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System (MIEMSS) to qualify EMS volunteers to help test citizens for COVID-19, hosting mass-testing events at EMS stations for both responders and the public. Also, under a MIEMSS program, the volunteer EMS service in St. Mary's County has partnered with SMCHD to support mass vaccination clinics in St. Mary's County starting in late December. To date, every public access vaccination clinic in St. Mary's County has been supported by volunteer EMS personnel, either by delivering vaccinations, or providing EMS standby and observation support on-site, or scheduling and logistical support. Fire department personnel have also helped support this effort with manpower and facilities support.

SMCHD is hosted by the Bay District Volunteer Fire Department for COVID testing clinics regularly in the heart of Lexington Park. The primary mass vaccination clinic in St. Mary's County is hosted and supported by the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department. St. Mary's Advanced Life Support Unit and all seven of the volunteer EMS departments in the county – Leonardtown, Mechanicsville, Lexington Park, Ridge, Seventh District, Second District and Hollywood – have provided material support, units, and personnel to support both mass vaccination and testing efforts.

In addition, the new computer aided dispatching system was sent out for bids through the county's procurement process, Harris radio system work has continued, the Department of Emergency Services has placed in service an ambulance to help respond to calls at times of high volume and Lucas CPR compression devices were purchased and deployed.

Conclusion

The ESB and the first responder community we represent remain committed to serving the citizens of our community. The ESB does this by advising the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on fire and EMS service matters. As the world has struggled through 2020, so did St. Mary's County. While there have certainly been trials for our community and our services during the last year – and while the challenges we face will continue for some time – the goal of providing the best possible emergency service in the best possible way to the citizens and visitors in St. Mary's County is always the priority for the ESB, volunteers in the first responder community, the Department of Emergency Services, and the government of St. Mary's County as a whole. We remain dedicated to the people we serve.

Questions or Comments about this report are welcome, and, may be sent to the Emergency Services Board via the Secretary at: smcvemschief@gmail.com.