

**FAAB MEETING – DELAWARE FIRE SCHOOL – NEW CASTLE – MARCH 16, 2023**

**ATTENDEES:**

Mike Shaw, Representative, District #1 N/A  
Eric Haley, Representative, District #2 N/A  
Brian Reeder, Representative, District #3 N/A  
Robert Weber, Representative, District #4  
Dennis Godek, Vice-chairman, Representative, District #5  
Fran Williams, Representative, District #6  
Dave Majewski, Sr., Representative, District #7  
Chief Jeffrey P. Miller, NCC/ESC N/A  
AsstChief William F. Streets, NCC/ESC N/A

AsstChief Donald W. Holden, NCC/ESC N/A  
Chief Mark Logemann, NCC/EMS  
Kenneth Phibbs, President NCCFCA N/A  
Ken Dunn, County Executive's Office  
Councilman William Bell N/A  
Stephanie Mohr, County Executive's Office  
Chief Kevin Cowperthwait, Christiana Fire Company  
Deputy Chief Mike Edwards, Elsmere Fire Company

**1900 HOURS:** Vice-chairman Godek called the FAAB meeting to order; there were no corrections/additions/deletions to the minutes from the February 16, 2023 meeting; **MOTION WAS MADE BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY REPRESENTATIVE MAJEWSKI; MINUTES WERE APPROVED.**

**EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMUNICATIONS:** Acting Chief Holden: N/A

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES:** Chief Mark Logemann:

**Personnel/Staffing Update:** Chief Logemann reported that EMS has been nationally advertising for paramedics inclusive of a billboard on I95 south and throughout the County. **Paramedic Academy:** The fourth academy is continuing to progress; Good Fellowship education finished; 100% with us FTO phase; FTOs mentioned they came out very prepared. In the next month, some will come out to full duty as certified paramedics. The fifth academy has started March 6 and continuing to undergo orientation (policies/procedures); 19 recruits will begin their education at Good Fellowship; have two pre-certified paramedics in field training; also, have a student in DelTech in the final semester of her education (begins this summer). **Presentation to County Council:** Expressed attrition over the years emphasizing the loss of 22 paramedics in 2022 inclusive of seven retirements; discussions centered on how the chiefs can assist; Chief Logemann stressed that *we are not putting units down; there will be a medic in each station.* Discussions continued on notifications and assistance from chiefs; etc.

**NCCFCA:** See New Business

**PROPOSAL #1** that was voted on and approved – **Change the way Fireboard responds to crews on the radio. Fireboard will acknowledge, but no longer give the time.**

**PROPOSAL #2** that was voted on and approved – **Allow the Fireboard to share district grids and hierarchy with other fire chiefs.**

**NCCVFA:** Nothing to report.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Acting Chairman Godek:

**Fireboard Sub-committee:** Acting Chairman Godek sent out the stats for February submitted by Acting Chief Holden. Discussions centered on *All Calls Coming In*: The average from the time that the call is done being processed; sent to the dispatcher and dispatched is 1 minute, 48 seconds (high); *Total Processing Time*: 2 minutes, 33 seconds; *Average Call Create to CAD*: some were 3 minutes, 6 minutes, 8 minutes, 4 minutes (some calls may be justified by specific issues). Should have a better report at our next month. Discussions continued on EMS Alpha; Bravo; and ProQA Open (new column); have to find out if data for December/January was flawed (counting time that it was coded and first dispatched). Acting Chairman Godek will get something out in writing explaining the new data. Discussions continued on dispatch of additional alarms; element of time to dispatch (or any resources); etc. **Symposium on March 28, 2023:** All are invited who wish to attend (Acting Chairman Godek will take care of this); DelState at 0800 x 1600 hours at the Martin Luther King Conference Center. **Revenue Committee:** Received a text message (via Representative Reeder) from AHH&L President Dan Seador; nothing new from the committee; DVFA sending a letter of support with the intent of the draft legislation sent by Representative Baumbach. There will be a meeting of chiefs and presidents at 1000 hours at Station #13, Claymont Fire Company to discuss revenue. Also, President Seador has verbally notified New Castle County (conversation with County Executive Meyer) that Aetna expects to be out of operational funds sometime in 2026. Discussions continued on importance of this issue and cohesiveness between fire companies to go forward.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Acting Chairman Godek:

**PROPOSAL #1** that was voted on and approved – **Change the way Fireboard responds to crews on the radio. Fireboard will acknowledge, but no longer give the time. MOTION WAS MADE BY REPRESENTATIVE MAJEWSKI TO ACCEPT AND SECONDED BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS; ACTING CHAIRMAN GODEK VOTED NO; A SECOND VOTE WAS REQUESTED (REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS); MOTION WAS EVENTUALLY PASSED.** Discussions centered on less radio traffic; identifying units; etc.

**PROPOSAL #2** that was voted on and approved – **Allow the Fireboard to share district grids and hierarchy with other fire chiefs. MOTION WAS MADE BY REPRESENTATIVE MAJEWSKI TO ACCEPT AND SECONDED BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS; MOTION PASSED.** Discussions centered on advantages of doing this; asking for grids, etc.

**Recommendation to send a letter to County Executive Meyer to elect Acting Chairman Godek as Chairman of the FAAB; MOTION WAS MADE BY REPRESENTATIVE MAJEWSKI TO ACCEPT AND SECONDED BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS; MOTION PASSED.** (Approval of three absent representatives was obtained prior to letter being sent; letter was sent via e-mail on March 21, 2023.) Election of a vice-chairman will be at a later date.

**IMPACT FEE REQUESTS:** Nothing to report.

**COUNTY GOVERNMENT:** Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Ken Dunn:

Mr. Dunn mentioned the increased request for the **Rapid Covid Test kits**. **Sprinkler Systems:** Working through legislation; speaking with water companies regarding impact on monthly water bills; responses yielding that they need a separate pipe from the vein (two pipes running to the house, one for sprinklers and another for domestic water); citing a regulation that water cannot be shut off with a sprinkler system to any building (inclusive of family dwellings); two meter charges resulting in two sewer EDU charges; County has decided that there will not be an EDU charge; County will only charge \$25/residence no matter what size pipe; working on initial charge not being a financial burden to the builders. **Fire Damaged Buildings/Houses:** Reminder to the fire chiefs to notify the Fireboard/Land Use Department/Code Enforcement so the properties can be boarded

up. Discussions continued on importance of structural integrity; etc. **Funding Request/AHH&L:** Mr. Dunn reported that the County Executive takes this very seriously (conversation with President Dan Seador); County Executive has offered the services of a financial expert to help review finances (of AHH&L) for sustainability; discussions continued on impact on other fire companies and EMS; this being a City of Newark and State problem. President Seador has accepted the County Executive's offer and an RFP is being worked on for financial reviews of all fire companies (in depth review of each company and officers) to review finances, capital expenses, income streams, and long-term sustainability; etc. County Executive Meyer wants the cooperation of the FAAB to get this information out to the fire companies; etc. **Representative Baumbach's Legislation:** Video calls have been made with Representative Baumbach and his legislative team and the County's policy team; we are reviewing/cooperating with this legislation; Law Department has had some issues and exchanges of information have been made; we have also been in contact with Kent and Sussex Counties (they are also reviewing it). Representative Baumbach pointedly asked if the County was going to institute this legislation (enabling a tax for fire fee, fire tax); how to institute/distribute the money is on the County Government. Mr. Dunn reported that *we have relayed back and are cooperating and we'll have to see what the final product is; it's the County's intention to cooperate all the way through the process.* Legislation does not have a number assigned just yet; still a work in progress. Discussions continued on standard-sized connections on fire hydrants; sprinkler system legislation (homes destroyed 50% by fire are subject to sprinkler systems for a re-build; cost of sprinkler system not covered by insurance unless you have a rider on your policy, called Code Upgrade Insurance); Representative Majewski elaborated; etc.

**At this time, MOTION WAS MADE TO RETURN TO NEW BUSINESS BY REPRESENTATIVE MAJEWSKI; SECONDED BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS; MOTION PASSED.**

**DISTRICT REPORTS:**

***District #1:*** Representative Shaw; N/A

***District #2:*** Impact Fee Chairman/Representative Haley; N/A

***District #3:*** Representative Reeder; N/A

***District #4:*** Representative Weber; nothing to report.

***District #5:*** Vice-chairman Godek reported that he will have a meeting with chiefs and presidents at a later date.

***District #6:*** Representative Williams; nothing to report.

***District #7:*** Impact Fee Co-chairman/Representative Majewski; nothing to report.

**REPORTS FROM GUESTS:**

Meeting was adjourned.

**NEXT FAAB MEETING APRIL 20, 2023  
AT DELAWARE STATE FIRE SCHOOL - NEW CASTLE  
FAAB MEETING WILL START AT 1900 HOURS**