

GREATER SEVERNA PARK COUNCIL MEETING JULY 10, 2018

GUEST SPEAKER

Chief Dave Crawford from Earleigh Heights **Volunteer** Fire Department

Chief Crawford began talking about the history of the Fire Department, which can be found here: <http://ehvfc.org/page/history>

Company #12, their company number, is the most centrally located and the fourth busiest station in Anne Arundel County. Responses for Company #12 in 2017: 2,503 total medic responses, 2,601 total engine responses, 538 total squad response (this is a rolling toolbox with equipment such as cutters, jacks, electrical and handheld saws, airbags, blow up portable boat, axes, sledgehammers, and tools to help with the ability to lift concrete and tractor trailers). Company #12 is the first responder to BWI airport.

There is a great tax savings to the citizens. The National Fire Protection Association did a study in 2014 and determined that volunteer firefighters saved the taxpayers approximately \$129B a year in taxes. 80% of runs are made by volunteer firefighters.

In Company #12, there are 42 active volunteers with 154 people in the company (including administrative and auxiliary).

The ages of current fire equipment:

- * Squad 12: 18 years old (useful life is 15 years old)
- * Engine 121: 12 years old (must be replaced soon)
- * Engine 122: 3 years old
- * Brush 12: 3 years old

Also, Fire and Rescue is urging Company #12 to build a new station per repeated county assessments. A taller door height is critical to Company #12 and Anne Arundel County and a new station will allow for needed aerial apparatus.

Squad 12 is on its last leg. A new aerial ladder truck is needed; they do not have one now. An aerial truck is needed to serve taller buildings such as Severna Park High School and assisted living/nursing homes of three stories or more. The station is now unable to service these buildings if a disaster happened. Their current fire station could not even hold these because of space.

The total need is \$8.5M: \$6M for a new station, \$1.3M for a new aerial ladder truck; \$1.2M for squad 12 replacement. CCS Fundraising Corporation did a large analysis and concluded that people will not commit to help fundraise or donate to the fire station. The annual funds required are: new station- 25 year note at \$360,444/year, plus additional yearly funds with a 15 year note for the apparatus.

The only way they can build a new station is with their real estate, which is their one asset. They want to lease retail property along Ritchie Highway, potentially 2-3 sites. And they would move their station 500 feet down, closer to the post office. A corner convenience store would lease for

\$300K - \$400K per year. The other pads would lease for \$100K - \$125K per year. They are hoping for community support and understanding with this decision.

To contact Chief Crawford with any questions via email: dave.crawford@pfgc.com and dcra2@att.net.

COMMITTEES

Chamber of Commerce:

- * The 4th of July parade was very successful.
- * National Night Out is scheduled for August 7, 2018: “Members of the Anne Arundel County Police Department, county leaders and community groups are teaming up for the events aimed at crime and drug prevention awareness, promoting police and community involvement in the partnership to create safer communities and strengthening community spirit.”
- * The earlier rained out Shop Local event is rescheduled for August 18 from noon – 4pm.

Planning/Zoning/Legislation:

- * Please see the attached Watch List.
- * There will be a possible submission of plans for Sabrina Park.

Education:

- * The new AACPS Board Member is from Severna Park High School, Josie Urrea. She will be invited to attend a GSPC meeting soon.

Police/Community Relations:

- * The County’s new Central Booking Facility on Jennifer Road will be ready in 2020.
- * The police department has a fleet of tasers to recycle; will cost approximately \$300K to replace these.
- * Encourage community members to attend National Night Out to get to know their first responders. This is not a fundraiser.
- * The police department is considering the purchase of a new helicopter.

Airport Noise:

- * See attached Airport Noise Committee Report.
- * A petition is being drafted by the state of Maryland regarding the airport noise problem to share the concerns regarding the noise.

Environmental:

- * Severn River Association: Thank you to all who gave during the green give. The Severn River Oyster Rebuilding Cruise will take place on 07/23 from 12:30 – 2:30.
- * A “show and tell” about mussels and oysters was given.
- * Plants at beaver dam have grown, which has increased its vegetation and helped the filtering of the water.
- * A filing of an appeal on Old Man Creek regarding an entire rebuild on a critical area took place. The Magothy River Association feels this is an area where the yellow perch can spawn.

The next Greater Severna Park Council meeting is Tuesday, August 14, at 7:30pm at the Severna Park Library.