

Wicomico County Council
Open Work Session
July 2, 2013

Work sessions require written minutes that reflect each item that the public body considered, the action that the public body took on each item and each vote that was recorded. **It should be noted that at work sessions, the Wicomico County Council does not take formal action, nor is a vote taken on any item discussed.**

Present: Matt Holloway, President; Bob Culver, Vice President; Sheree Sample-Hughes, Stevie Prettyman, Gail M. Bartkovich, John B. Hall and Joe Holloway.

In attendance: Matthew E. Creamer, Council Administrator; Edgar A. Baker, Jr., County Attorney; Wayne Strausburg, Director of Administration; Sharon Morris, Assistant Director of Administration; Andrew Mackel, Director of Finance and Melissa Holland, Recording Secretary.

LOSAP for Volunteer Fire Companies:

Mr. Strausburg said in the 2014 budget for the LOSAP benefit they only budgeted \$85,000 based on the 2013 premium. He said they received the bill from Avery Hall at the end of June and the bill is \$92,623. He said the census grew from 618 to 634 people. He said as the people in the census gets older the premium increases. He said there is a shortfall in the budget. He feels the money should be funded for the Volunteer Fire Companies. He would like to see the policy premium articulated before the budget next fiscal year. He would like to see the census done in advance of the budget. Mr. Joe Holloway asked if when the liability policy is shopped possibly the fire companies could piggyback off the County. Mr. Strausburg said he would like to revisit how the money is spent and are the volunteer fire companies getting the best deal. He said that term insurance is very expensive. The maximum benefit is \$10,000 up to age 69; 70-74 years old \$6,500 and 75 and above is \$5,000. He said that some folks are at an age where the county is paying almost \$2,000 per year. Some people even at 78 years old are still volunteering. Mr. Culver asked if they can be self insured and keep the money with the Fire Companies. Mr. Strausburg

said the people that volunteer become lifetime members. He said that can be looked at however he is not certain that self insuring on a death benefit is the appropriate way to go however he would like to look at all options next year. A contingency transfer will be needed for \$7,623. Mr. Hall asked what an inactive volunteer is to which Mr. Steve White, Parsonsburg, said they have to be active to qualify for insurance. He said they have to participate in at least two categories and earn fifty points. He said that if someone volunteers for 25 years they are a lifetime member and get seven years of insurance as a benefit.

Open Work Session adjourned.