

Board of County Commissioners

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Carroll County Commissioners Briefed on Future Carroll County Emergency Services

Westminster, MD, Thursday, September 28, 2017 – Today, the Board of Carroll County Commissioners (BCC) [participated in a briefing from the Carroll County Volunteer Emergency Services Association \(CCVESA\)](#) regarding consideration of possible future legislation related to the organization of fire, rescue and emergency medical services within Carroll County. CCVESA represents the 14 Carroll County Fire Departments.

The primary topic of the day's discussion was CCVESA's recommendation on how to identify county government's authority, role and responsibility in the provision of fire, rescue and emergency medical services in Carroll County. The workgroup presented draft legislation for the BCC's consideration which reads, "The Board of Carroll County Commissioners shall provide an entity whose purpose shall be the administration of the County's affairs relating to fire, rescue and emergency medical services and associated activities while maintaining the volunteer emergency services. The commissioners shall adopt and implement ordinances and such measures necessary to adequately and appropriately manage, direct and regulate these activities."

The BCC agreed the future of Carroll County Volunteer Services is a legitimate issue which needs collaboration between the government and CCVESA; however, the commissioners believe the recommended language, although entitled enabling legislation is not enabling but a requirement. Possibly modifying the wording to "may" instead of "shall" is providing enabling legislation where citizens, fire companies and county staff can work to establish details through local ordinances to establish the future of emergency services. Also, the recommended legislation wording requires an additional entity, or layer, to be created including administrative and personnel management which would be under the auspices of Carroll County Government.

The commissioners will reconvene in a future Open Session to further discuss this topic. The discussion will take place before the end of October 2017 in room 311 of the County Office Building, 225 N. Center Street, Westminster, MD.

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CARROLL COUNTY

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