

December 12, 2018

At the special joint meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County and Farmville Town Council, held on Tuesday, the 12th day of December, 2018; at 11:00 a.m., at the Farmville Emergency Operations Center, 116 North Main Street, 2nd Floor, there were present:

Board of Supervisors

Pattie Cooper-Jones, Chair
Jim Wilck, Vice-Chair
J. David Emert
Robert M. Jones
Gene A. Southall

Town Council

David E. Whitus, Mayor
A.D. "Chuckie" Reid, Vice Mayor
Greg Cole
J. J. "Jamie" Davis
Daniel E. Dwyer
Donald L. Hunter
Thomas M. Pairet
Brian Vincent

Absent: Odessa H. Pride, C. Robert Timmons, Jr., Jerry R. Townsend

Also present: Wade Bartlett, County Administrator; Sarah Elam Puckett, Assistant County Administrator; Gerald Spates, Farmville Town Manager; Nat Carter, President, PEVRS; Carol Broadwater, Treasurer, PEVRS; Michael Herndon, PEVRS; W. Taylor Reveley, IV, President, Longwood University; Ken Copeland, Vice President for Business Affairs & Finance, Hampden-Sydney College.

Chairman Cooper-Jones called the reconvened meeting to order. Mayor Whitus called the Farmville Town Council meeting to order.

In Re: Presentation – Prince Edward Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc.

Mr. Gerald Spates, Farmville Town Manager, stated the purpose of the Joint Meeting is to discuss future funding issues with the members of the Prince Edward County Rescue Squad. He introduced Dr. Taylor Reveley, President of Longwood University and Ken Copeland, Vice President for Business Affairs & Finance, Hampden-Sydney College.

Nat Carter, President of the Prince Edward Volunteer Rescue Squad, reviewed a presentation on the short- and long-term needs of the Rescue Squad, and said there needs to be a sustainable level of funding. He stated the organization is made up of 33 volunteer members; eight serve on the Executive Board. The Squad now has 25 paid crew members who make 90% of the calls; seven are full time and one is a full-time EMS Supervisor. Mr. Carter reviewed the Health Insurance, Payroll, and Profit/Loss statement and pointed

out other costs such as \$158,000 in 2018 for Rescue 10 rechassis, and \$168,000 in 2017 for cardiac monitors and ongoing repairs to the vehicles. He further reviewed expenses.

Mr. Carter reviewed the call stats and explained the process when a call for service is dispatched.

Mr. Carter then reviewed Regional Costs, and thanked the Town of Farmville for approximately \$13,000 worth of fuel last year. He then stated the five ambulances are aged and one had a rechassis done in the past year; a new ambulance with the up-to-code “box” is \$232,000.

Mr. Carter presented Projected needs for 2019 and beyond; he said they would like to replace the ambulances each year until they are all new, and get a new truck this year and every three to five years, they will need a new truck. He said staff that is needed include an Executive Director, and an Office Assistant; also needed are more providers and new radio systems. He invited those in attendance to attend any of the business meetings and to tour the building at any time, and asked for suggestions and comments.

Supervisor Wilck asked if Centra contributes to the Rescue Squad; Mr. Carter said they do not.

Supervisor Wilck then said the Rescue Squad is responsible for getting people to Centra’s doors. He then discussed the variance in costs between a three-hour flight on a Medical Air Ambulance with a medical team to fly to Dallas, Texas at a cost of \$18,000 versus a 20-minute helicopter flight from Farmville to Lynchburg, at \$25,000. He said that needs to be questioned.

Mr. Carter explained the organizational structure of the Rescue Squad.

Mr. Hunter asked if the Rescue Squad holds fund raisers in addition to the Squad Care. Mrs. Carol Broadwater stated there are fewer than 30 active volunteers and no Auxiliary; two evenings a month are business meetings and training, they run their duty night which is six hours a week from 6:00 p.m. to midnight, and there is no time for fund raisers.

Mr. Carter said the Squad Care brings in about \$40,000-\$48,000 annually.

Supervisor Jones asked if approximately 1,000 households participate.

Mrs. Broadwater said that in the past, between 1,200 and 1,500 participate; over the years it was just mailed to that database. She said nothing has been updated in the past few years. This year, a mass mailing was sent to “US POSTAL CUSTOMER” and they have seen many new members, some that didn’t know about Squad Care. She said the funds raised from Squad Care are primarily used for training, not to fund the day-to-day operations.

Discussion followed on the qualifications to be on the Board of Directors and the positions currently filled to support the Rescue Squad. Mr. Carter stated a person would need to be a full member of the organization, would have to have, at minimum, EMT certification in order to be eligible for nomination for the Executive Board. Mrs. Broadwater said the current makeup is the President, the Vice President who is in charge of the building, the Treasurer, a Training Director, a Vehicle Officer, a Supply Officer who orders the medical supplies, a Secretary, and a Captain. Mrs. Broadwater said more expertise is necessary and the Rescue Squad is open to restructuring the agency.

Discussion followed regarding billing and the ability to “claw-back.” Mr. Carter said Delta is a wonderful organization; he said the Rescue Squad does soft billing, any that cannot be collected are written off. Discussion followed.

Mr. Reveley asked what the Rescue Squad wants over the next five to ten years. Mr. Carter said they would like to have the vehicles purchased for the Squad. He said it would allow them to hire the personnel with the expertise necessary for billing and other areas, and still be able to pay off the building and other expenses.

Mrs. Broadwater said this past year, \$130,000 has been spent on maintenance on the ambulances. She said there is always an ambulance in need of repair.

Mr. Copeland asked the reason for soft billing and what oversight do the local governing bodies have in this volunteer organization if they provide more funding. Mr. Carter said it may have been to keep a positive public image, and the process necessary was not worth it if the patients are not able to pay the bill; he added they would like to have someone serve on the Board and have equal vote on the Board. He said they are willing to have representatives from the Town of Farmville, Prince Edward County, Hampden-Sydney College and Longwood University restructure the Rescue Squad’s Bylaws. Mrs. Broadwater said she begged the current Board to remain in their positions and they need people with the expertise to run the business.

Mayor Whitus said the four entities – Longwood, Hampden-Sydney, the County and the Town – are in a unique position to reach out and help the Rescue Squad and make this work.

Longwood President Reveley thanked the Rescue Squad for all that they have done; Mayor Whitus agreed and said EMS is one of the core services that local government should provide.

Mr. Carter said they would like four representatives meeting with the Rescue Squad at the January business meeting to see how to restructure the Squad.

Following some discussion on the date for the meeting, it was agreed that the meeting will be held January 16, 2019. Farmville Town Councilman Greg Cole, County Supervisor J. David Emert, Hampden-Sydney's Ken Copeland volunteered to take part; Dr. Reveley will appoint a representative from Longwood University to attend.

Mayor Whitus thanked everyone for attending and said "We will find a path forward." He then adjourned the Town Council meeting.

On motion of Supervisor Emert, seconded by Supervisor Wilck, and adopted by the following vote:

Aye:	Pattie Cooper-Jones	Nay:	None
	J. David Emert		
	Robert M. Jones		
	Gene A. Southall		
	Jim R. Wilck		
Absent:	Odessa H. Pride		
	C. Robert Timmons, Jr.		
	Jerry R. Townsend		

the meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.