

VIRGINIA: A CONTINUED MEETING OF THE SURRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
HELD IN THE GENERAL DISTRICT COURTROOM OF THE COUNTY
GOVERNMENT CENTER ON JANUARY 16, 2014 AT 6:00P.M.

PRESENT: SUPERVISOR ERNEST L. BLOUNT, CHAIRPERSON
SUPERVISOR JUDY S. LYTTLE, VICE-CHAIR
SUPERVISOR JOHN M. SEWARD
SUPERVISOR KENNETH R. HOLMES

ABSENT: SUPERVISOR GIRON R. WOODEN, SR.

ALSO

PRESENT: MR. TYRONE W. FRANKLIN, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MR. ERVIN JONES, DIRECTOR, PARKS & RECREATION
DEPUTY ROCKY BARBEE, SHERIFF'S OFFICE

CALL TO ORDER/MOMENT OF SILENCE/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Blount at 6:20 pm. Mr. Blount explained that this meeting was being held as a work session to further consider policy as it relates to the requested purchase of a pumper truck for the Claremont Volunteer Fire Department. He further stated that no action would be taken in this meeting.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Franklin stated that the request to purchase a pumper truck for the Claremont VFD had generated some concern by members of the Board because the vehicle in question did not meet the uniform standard accepted by the Emergency Operations Team.

Mr. Franklin read excerpts from the minutes of several Emergency Operations Team meetings as well as excerpts from the Springsted Study (conducted in 2007) and the Fire and Rescue Joint Agreement executed in May 2011. *(Excerpts are attached as an integral component of these minutes.)* Mr. Franklin explained that these statements would set the context for his recommendation to the Board.

Mr. Franklin then recommended that the Board authorize a committee representative of the various emergency volunteer organizations and County staff to work together with a consultant to create a new policy for the purchase of emergency vehicles and equipment by the County. This would eliminate the existing interpretation issues regarding current policy. If such a policy could be agreed upon and adopted by the Board it would give the County a clearer process dictating all future purchases.

Supervisor Lyttle questioned the establishment of another committee and stated that she understood that the Emergency Operations Team was already responsible for the development of such policy. Mr. Franklin replied that a new committee may not be necessary, but that a consultant may be better able to work with the existing team members to facilitate the development of a policy dictating future equipment purchases. Supervisor Holmes stated that the purchase of uniform equipment was reasonable because it supported the same level of expertise from each department in the areas of maintenance and training. Supervisor Seward suggested that the Emergency Operations Team should set the standards, with all departments in agreement. He stated that he did not see the need for different types of equipment as the districts did not differ significantly in terrain, conditions, or needs.

Chairman Blount re-read the excerpt from the Operations Team meeting of March 8, 2011 which stated that each department would have five pieces of equipment. Supervisor Seward stated that the list may need to be re-visited as some departments have reported that they do not want a utility vehicle. Board members continued to discuss the current equipment needs as well as recent purchases of equipment. Mr. Franklin stated that the County wants to continue to provide support for the volunteer organizations and purchase necessary equipment on a rotating basis. Chairman Blount agreed, but added that the purchase of different equipment was in violation of the Fire and Rescue Joint Agreement of 2011.

Chairman Blount recommended that the Board take action on the pending recommendation of the County Administrator to enlist the assistance of a consultant at their meeting on Thursday, February 6, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, Supervisor Seward made a motion to adjourn. Supervisor Holmes seconded the motion which passed with unanimous approval.

Pertinent Information Regarding the Purchase of Fire and Rescue Equipment

Springsted Study: Surry County, Virginia – EMS, Fire Services and E911 Dispatch Study – June 4, 2007

Recommendations for Fire/Rescue/Communications ; Page 24; Section: Equipment

“Apparatus and equipment standards need to be developed for the County in conjunction with purchasing of new equipment. Standards for all equipment purchases should be developed utilizing a committee of County staff and emergency service personnel. Development of such a system will result in improved equipment purchases at a more reasonable price.”

Fire and Rescue Joint Agreement – May 10, 2011

Page 5; Section 7: Facilities, Equipment and Work Environment

“D. The County shall purchase new apparatus with an initial compliment of equipment as approved in the County’s annual Capital Improvement Plan. Development of the Capital Improvement Plan related to fire and rescue purchases shall involve input from the Operations Team and the Operations Team shall develop uniform standards for all equipment purchased with County funds.”

Operations Team and Communications Meeting, Minutes March 8, 2011

Page 4; Discussion

“... Mr. Edwards reminded the group that it was agreed that each department would have five (5) pieces of equipment at each station that were similar and they were: 1) tanker, 2) Class A pumper, 3) brush truck, 4) utility vehicle and an 5) urban interface vehicle.”

Operations Team and Communications Meeting, Minutes May 14, 2013

Page 3; Protocol Development

“ . . . Mr. Burns stated that it may not be appropriate for all the departments to have the same type of equipment because the terrains of each district are different along with the area they cover and the roads the equipment will travel are extremely different.”

Operations Team and Communications Meeting, Minutes Sept. 10, 2013

Page 3; CIP Discussion

“After discussion it was determined that the 10 year plan had a total of \$525,000 allocated for the purchase of vehicles and an additional \$17,000 would be needed if the group agreed to purchase the Urban Assault vehicle for Claremont at a cost of \$420,000 and the Mini Pumper for Dendron at a cost of \$122,000. It was agreed that Mrs. Arthur would make a request of the Board of Supervisors at their October 3rd meeting to allocate an additional \$17,000 to the 10 Year Plan for the acquisition of EMS equipment.”