

JANUARY 24, 1990 AT 7:00 P.M. - BOARD MEETING ROOM OF THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, DINWIDDIE, VIRGINIA, - CONTINUATION OF JANUARY 22, 1990 MEETING.

PRESENT: HARRISON A. MOODY, CHAIRMAN	ELECTION DISTRICT #1
AUBREY S. CLAY, VICE-CHAIRMAN	ELECTION DISTRICT #4
EDWARD A. BRACEY	ELECTION DISTRICT #3
CHARLES W. HARRISON	ELECTION DISTRICT #2
MICHAEL H. TICKLE	ELECTION DISTRICT #2

IN RE: MEETING WITH DINWIDDIE AMBULANCE AND RESCUE SQUAD
AND NAMOZINE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT TO DISCUSS
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed the guidelines to be followed. He stated that a spokesman from each of the groups will be allowed to speak and then others who wish to speak would have a five minute limit.

The Chairman then asked the Interim County Administrator to give a brief opening statement:

I have been asked to try and provide a brief history for the citizens and everyone here of what has transpired over the past five to six months with emergency medical services in the County and why this meeting was scheduled for tonight.

Our volunteer organizations, along with other volunteer agencies across the State, have been facing a shortage of manpower, brought on by many factors which we have discussed before—the continuing increase in mandatory training requirements, jobs which take our citizens out of the County during the day, the availability of more leisure activities and the desire to spend leisure time with families, to name a few.

Previous communication from the Rescue Squad, along with a tragic death in September, contributed to what the Board felt was an emergency situation for emergency medical services in the County.

In response, the Board of Supervisors appointed a Public Safety Committee with an immediate goal of examining patient care services and the long range goal of looking at all facets of public safety.

During this time, the Board of Supervisors through its Public Safety Officer, was investigating all the resources available to try to insure the County was adequately covered 24 hours a day. This was being accomplished through our various mutual aid agreements with surrounding localities as well as assistance from the EMT's in the Namozine VFD. Naturally, the surrounding localities are facing the same manpower shortage.

In October, the Board of Directors of the Rescue Squad made a public statement that the rescue squad could not guarantee it would answer all emergency calls and made a plea for volunteers. They also met with some members of the Board of Supervisors to discuss their status. As a result of this meeting, an agreement was reached with the Rescue Squad to repair and place a unit at Namozine VFD and provide supplies and maintenance as needed until the Rescue Squad was able to return to a full complement of members and provide 24 hour coverage for the County.

The Board of Supervisors certainly supported and encouraged this arrangement because the Board felt obligated to try to provide 24 hour coverage for its citizens using all existing resources before placing a tremendous tax burden on Dinwiddie County by going to paid personnel. The report from the Public Safety Committee was presented on November 1, 1989, and one of the recommendations was four paid Public Safety Technicians, two to be placed at fire departments and two at the Rescue Squad building—suggesting combined resources of the rescue squad and fire department personnel.

Since that time, there appears to have been friction among the volunteers with this arrangement. The Board of Supervisors has met with the leadership of the two organizations to try to understand and resolve the issues, but the compromise proposals have been rejected. The Board members have been contacted individually on a number of occasions by members of the Rescue Squad concerning their dissatisfaction with a unit being placed at Namozine VFD.

By letter dated January 3, 1990, the Rescue Squad membership notified the Board of Supervisors that effective February 1, 1990, the Dinwiddie Volunteer Rescue Squad will no longer allow any other organization within Dinwiddie County to operate under its license or in its name, and will no longer provide vehicles or equipment to any other organization. They accept the responsibility of providing qualified volunteer rescue workers from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. daily seven days per week and recommend that paid rescue personnel be available from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. day, seven days per week.

The Namozine VFD has agreed to assist the County by providing 24 hour coverage which will fill the gap between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. if they are provided a unit(s) with equipment and supplies.

Again, the Board of Supervisors feels they must try to use existing resources to provide 24 hour coverage for the citizens. Therefore, they have requested that the Rescue Squad allow a vehicle to be placed at Namozine VFD, which to comply with the Rescue Squad's letter of January 3, 1990 will be separately licensed to operate in the County. The County will also be faced with providing all supplies, equipment, fuel and maintenance costs. I have asked appropriate personnel to provide the Board with an estimate of what these costs will be.

I would like to stress that the Board of Supervisors at the present time does not want to be in the Rescue Squad business nor operate nor regulate the volunteer services in the County. The Board of Supervisors only wants to ensure coverage for its citizens, again using existing resources that may be available, before taking action that will have a significant impact on the taxpayers of the County. They are sitting in session tonight to provide a public forum for the members of each organization to be heard and freely discuss whatever problems they feel exist that would prevent a cooperative effort for both organizations to provide emergency medical care to our citizens.

We have asked representatives from Emergency Medical Services Council to be present tonight to offer any suggestions, observations they might have.

I hope I have explained the progression of events accurately. If not, it was not intentional and please feel free to amend our report. We thank everyone who is here tonight and the Board of Supervisors especially wants to express their appreciation to our volunteers for the service they provide and we hope this forum will relieve some of the frustrations that seem to be present within both organizations.

I will now turn it over to the Chairman to discuss the format we will use for the meeting.

Statement by Rosemary Spain, President of Dinwiddie Volunteer Rescue Squad:

Mr. Chairman, honorable members of the Board, fellow volunteers and citizens:

I come before you tonight as a representative of the Board of Directors and membership of Dinwiddie Volunteer Rescue Squad.

This organization has been faced with an increasing inability to provide adequate emergency medical service to the County, especially during the daytime hours. This has become more apparent in the last few months, but has reached the current state over a period of several years. I have found information contained in our annual fund drive letters dating back to 1985, which addresses the need for additional manpower, as well as stating our inability to provide consistent day

coverage. Many factors have contributed to this situation - increasing certification requirements, fewer volunteers, and normal attribution. We have reached what we consider to be a crisis situation.

In an effort to ensure adequate 24 hour coverage, we have done several things in the last few months to aid our commitment to our fellow citizens. Some of these are:

1. We launched a membership campaign VIA Billboards and Val-Pak coupon mailings.
2. We also complied with your request to accept the offer of assistance from the Namozine Volunteer Fire Department as a temporary measure.

Since November 27, 1989, we have placed a unit at the Namozine fire house that is being staffed by the volunteers at that company. They have been operating under our EMS license, although technically as a completely separate entity. I want to take this opportunity to personally thank the volunteers at Namozine for their assistance - we truly appreciate your commitment to help and the volunteer spirit in which it is given. This is especially noteworthy in a time when dedicated volunteers are a rare commodity.

However, we do not feel that this situation is one that should continue. We feel that we are at risk to allow any group to operate under our state license when we have no authority over them or their actions.

On January 2, 1990, our organization unanimously voted to end this current arrangement. We notified you by letter that effective February 1, 1990 we would no longer allow any other organization to operate under our license or in our name and requested the return of vehicle and equipment. We further stated our commitment to provide adequate emergency medical service from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. daily and requested that you follow the recommendations of the Public Safety Committee as reported to you on November 1, 1989. This committee recommended that the County hire four paid EMT's for daytime coverage.

In response you have now requested that we:

1. Give a fully equipped unit to be permanently stationed at the Namozine Fire Department. You would then assist Namozine to obtain their own EMS license.
2. To have a back-up unit available for their use if needed.
3. To allow some compromise to the February 1 date if the EMS license could not be obtained by that date.

Our organization has voted not to comply with these requests. We do not believe that this would be in the County's best interests. The current and proposed arrangement is a "quick-fix" solution that fails to address the real problem - the short supply of qualified volunteers, especially during the daytime hours. It also places two organizations in a position of destructive competition which creates a "no win" situation for everyone. Not only would each organization compete for financial support, they would also compete for manpower which is already in very short supply. The goal should be to have paid providers to work in conjunction with one central volunteer organization to provide consistent, quality service.

To further emphasize our organizations desire to serve citizens of this county, we would like to make an offer.

The offer, Mr. Chairman, should the Board of Supervisors decide to accept it, is as follows:

I have in my hand a check made payable to the County Treasurer in the amount of \$60,000.00. This is provided to cover the salary and benefits of two paramedics for a period of one year. The remaining two EMS providers (as recommended by the Public Safety Committee) would then be paid from County funds. We already have the equipment and vehicles in place to make this a viable beginning.

We appeal to you as citizens to accept this offer. We should all agree that paid providers is inevitable and now is the time to make a proactive decision to help ensure the safety, well-being and quality of life in our County.

Thank you.

Statement by John Tyrcha, Chief of Namozine Volunteer Fire Department:

Dear Honorable Members:

The Namozine Volunteer Fire Department has been providing continuous emergency medical service to the citizens of Dinwiddie County since the 27th of November 1989. During this time we have provided 3,420 man hours of service and responded to 171 calls for assistance county wide. Our average underway time has been 1.47 minutes and our average time from alert to arrival on location has been 15 minutes. When we started this service we had five emergency medical technicians. Since then we have recruited an additional four EMT's and one paramedic. At this time we have ten members enrolled in an EMT course. We anticipate that between training and recruiting we will have a minimum of 24 EMT's by the end of May 1990. Our dual goal has been and will continue to be crew-patient safety and the provision of the best possible pre-hospital care to those we serve.

Our department was asked to provide this service due to the inability of the Dinwiddie Volunteer Rescue Squad to provide service. Unfortunately, during this period, our department has been the constant target of inudendos, vilification, and verbal abuse from some members of both the squad and the Board of Directors. It is not our intent to become involved in a debate with the rescue squad on capabilities or quality of service provided to the citizens of the County. Rather, we ask only that we be judged on our documented performance.

We are aware that you have been placed in a position wherein a decision must be made to insure constant service to the county. We are not campaigning for any particular outcome, but are instead confident that whatever decision you arrive at will be made with the best interests of the county in mind.

If your should desire our department to continue providing emergency medical service our long range plan is as follows:

1. We are in contact with a physician who has agreed to serve as medical director. He has indicated a willingness to be actively involved in training, quality control, and quality assurance. His primary interest isn't sudden cardiac death and pre-hospitalcare. We are scheduled to finalize our relationship tomorrow.
2. Depending upon the donation of a semi-automatic defibrillator we plan on having all our current EMT's certified in defibrillation by the end of April 1990.
3. We expect to have enough EMT's to support two units on a 24 hour basis by the end of June 1991.
4. It is our intent to be able to provide full advanced life support services by the end of 1991.

We are fully confident that we will be able to provide the personnel and training required to meet or exceed these goals.

In closing, while we are not soliciting the emergency service business, we stand ready to provide it if that should be your desire. We hope that we will be able to preclude the necessity of hiring EMS personnel of three or five years.

Sincerely,

John E. Tyrcha, Chief
Namozine Vol. Fire Department

Other Comments: The following people spoke concerning emergency medical services in the county: Ms. Linda Milton, Mr. James Elder, Mr. Mike Goodwyn, Ms. Nila Cook, Mr. Kenny Milton, Ms. Wendy Cross, Mr. Edward Titmus, and Mr. Raymond Foster, Mr. Paul Walk, Ms. Jeannette Gupton, Ms. Diane Vaughan, Mr. Baxter Sessums.

Mr. Bracey stated that there were so many questions unanswered. He asked what happened to the meeting that had been discussed with the Board of Supervisors consisting of two representatives from both agencies to work out whatever issues or differences that may have had.

Mr. Paul Walk stated that the Board of Supervisors did meet with representatives from the two agencies. However, the membership by unanimous vote decided not to have another organization operate under its license. He urged the Board to accept the \$60,000 and the Board of Directors and Rescue Squad will continue their efforts to raise funds.

Mr. Tickle stated that he would like to ask both groups to select two members to work together with a Board member as an arbitrator. He begged each and everyone to think about it.

Mr. Paul Walk stated that the groups have tried to work together for five to six months and couldn't work it out. The Public Safety Committee made a recommendation and the offer of \$60,000 is for one year.

Mr. Bracey asked again who cancelled the meeting. Mrs. Spain stated that Mr. Walk drafted a resolution which was approved by the Board of Directors, but disapproved by the membership before Namozine VFD met; therefore, they felt the need for the meeting was void.

Mr. Bracey stated that he hoped that the two groups would come together and work together.

The chairman asked if the two groups would work together with the committee. He was told that the membership will have to vote on it.

Mr. Michael Davidson with the EMS Advisory Council of the Virginia Association of Counties and also a member of the Campbell County Board of Supervisors was present and made a few comments about his observations of the group. He stated that the two groups could iron their problems and there are many people he knows that would be available to serve as an arbitrator to ensure ongoing coverage.

Mr. Moody stated that he would like an arbitrator to work with the two groups. Mr. Bracey asked Mr. Davidson if he could get an arbitrator. Mr. Davidson said he thought he could. Mr. Bracey asked the Rescue Squad if they would waive the February 1st deadline. Mrs. Spain stated that she did not think the Rescue Squad would change the date. She felt the Board had ignored the Public Safety Committee recommendations. Mr. Bracey then appealed to the members present to waive the February 1st date.

Mr. Baxter Sessums stated he felt the county had bypassed the Dinwiddie VRS and directed them to work with Namozine.

Mr. Bracey stated that he felt there's a need for the Board of discuss these issues in Executive Session. The Interim County Administrator stated she was not an attorney and since the County Attorney is not present; she did not feel comfortable allowing the Board to discuss these items in Executive Session without a specific purpose.

Mr. Clay stated that he did not understand. He felt like the Rescue Squad was pushing for paid personnel and the Public Safety Committee was not appointed to make decisions for the Board of Supervisors.

Ms. Linda Milton asked why the Rescue Squad was bypassed when the Board made a decision to provide a vehicle to the Namozine Volunteer Fire Department. The Interim County Administrator stated that in October the Board of Directors stated publicly that they could not provide coverage on a continual basis. Namozine was a resource which the Board felt they should use, and if other fire departments had

offered to cover for 24 hours, she felt the Board would have also considered them.

Upon motion of Mr. Clay, seconded by Mr. Harrison, Mr. Bracey "abstaining", Mr. Harrison, Mr. Tickle, Mr. Clay, Mr. Moody voting "aye".

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Dinwiddie County, Virginia agreed to take all of the comments under advisement and no further action was taken.

The Chairman declared a brief recess at 9:20 p.m. The meeting resumed at 9:40 p.m.

IN RE: ADDITION TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Chairman stated that the County Attorney had been contacted and he advised the Board that they could discuss legal issues concerning Emergency Medical Services in the County in Executive Session.

Upon motion of Mr. Bracey, seconded by Mr. Tickle, Mr. Bracey, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Tickle, Mr. Clay, Mr. Moody voting "aye".

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Dinwiddie County, Virginia approves the addition of legal matters to the Executive Session.

IN RE: CLARIFICATION OF RECREATION PROGRAMS UNDER THE CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

The Interim County Administrator stated that she would like clarification of the amount of funds generated by the Recreation Department that the Board desired to see placed within the Recreation Programs under the Capital Projects Fund. She explained again that \$15,000 of the funds raised by the Recreation Department was budgeted to provide a \$100,000 operating budget for the Recreation Department for 1989-1990.

Upon motion of Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. Clay, Mr. Bracey, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Tickle, Mr. Clay, Mr. Moody voting "aye".

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Dinwiddie County, Virginia agreed that to properly balance the budget, only those funds generated over \$15,000 are hereby authorized to be placed in the recreation program category of the capital projects fund.

IN RE: EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion of Mr. Bracey, seconded by Mr. Clay, Mr. Bracey, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Tickle, Mr. Clay, Mr. Moody voting "aye", pursuant to Section 2.1-344(1), (5), and (6) of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, the Board moved into Executive Session at 9:45 p.m. to discuss personnel issues relating to the employment of County employees, industrial matters relating to industries that have not yet announced, and legal issues relating to the provision for emergency medical services in Dinwiddie County. A vote having been made and approved, the meeting reconvened into Open Session at 10:55 p.m.

IN RE: CERTIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE MEETING

Upon motion of Mr. Clay, seconded by Mr. Harrison, Mr. Bracey, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Tickle, Mr. Clay, Mr. Moody "aye", the following Resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Dinwiddie County convened an executive meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.1-344.1 of the Code of Virginia, requires a certification by the Board of Supervisors of Dinwiddie County, that such Executive meeting was conducted in conformity with the Virginia law;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Dinwiddie County, Virginia, hereby certifies that, to the best of each

member's knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the executive meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Board of Supervisors of Dinwiddie County, Virginia.

IN RE: ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. Tickle, Mr. Bracey, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Tickle, Mr. Clay, Mr. Moody voting "aye". The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., February 7, 1990.

Harrison Moody
Harrison A. Moody, Chairman

ATTEST: Wendy W. Quesenberry
Wendy W. Quesenberry
Interim County Administrator

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