

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
JANUARY 9, 2015**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a special joint meeting with the Camden County Board of Commissioners on Friday, January 9, 2015 at the Camden County Library.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joseph S. Winslow, Jr., Chairman
Jeff Dixon
Dr. William R. Sterritt
Frankie Meads
Bettie J. Parker

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Cecil Perry, Vice-Chairman
Lloyd Griffin

OTHERS PRESENT:

Rodney Bunch, County Manager
R. Michael Cox, County Attorney
Sheri Small, Finance Officer
Jerry Newell, EMS Director
Karen Jennings, Clerk to the Board

Also present were the members of the Camden County Board of Commissioners, the Camden County Manager, the Camden County Attorney and the Camden County Clerk.

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM by Chairman Joe Winslow and Camden Chairman Michael McLain. Chairman McLain welcomed everyone present to Camden County and the Camden County Library and he invited everyone to view the facility following the meeting. Chairman Winslow said it is a pleasure to be here and the Board of Commissioners welcomes the opportunity to meet with its friends and neighbors in Camden County. He noted that Commissioner Griffin and Vice-Chairman Perry are unable to attend today's meeting.

1. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA:

Chairman McLain asked for consideration of the agenda.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by William Sterritt to accept the agenda as presented. The motion carried.

2. UPDATE ON CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM:

Sheriff Randy Cartwright reported that a committee was appointed of all the players who use the 911 System and they have met several times. He said a recommendation from the committee will be presented at the next meeting of the 911 Board to hire a consultant to look at the interoperability and reliability issues. He stated that a consultant has already looked at the system and provided a proposal. He said the 911 Board will be making a recommendation to the counties as to whether to budget funds in the next fiscal year to hire a consultant and address the issues which may include switching to a 700 or 800 MHz trunking system like several of the surrounding counties have done.

Sheriff Cartwright noted that a backup 911 center was discussed a couple of years ago and 911 funding was not made available to move forward with it. He explained that there is no backup for the 911 Center and legislation has now been passed that a backup center must be provided a minimum of one mile away from the original 911 Center. He said if a backup center is not provided the county could lose its 911 surcharge money which would have a big impact on the Pasquotank-Camden-Elizabeth City Central Communications System. He noted that the legislation stipulates that counties have until 2016 to comply with the law before they would be subject to losing the surcharge money. He said one of the proposals is to partner with another 911 operations center as a backup. He stated that meetings have been held with representatives from other counties to discuss a regional 911 backup center. He advised that another meeting will be held later this month. Sheriff Cartwright said there will be no cost to the counties to equip the backup center and the cost is supposed to be provided through grant funding and 911 surcharge funds. The backup center is to be equipped and operated at the same capacity as the original facility. Sheriff Cartwright said this will be a big expense and he questions whether

there will be sufficient funds for all counties to draw from to equip their backup centers. He suggested that the counties determine whether to partner with another county or take a regional approach. It was noted that the next decision to be made will be the location for a backup center to house all of the equipment. Sheriff Cartwright asked that anyone who would like to attend the next meeting with representatives from other counties to let him know and he will notify them once the meeting is scheduled.

3. DISCUSSION REGARDING EMS AGREEMENT:

Chairman McLain said the next item on the agenda is a discussion on an amendment to the existing EMS agreement between Pasquotank County and Camden County. County Manager Rodney Bunch asked EMS Director Jerry Newell to present proposed options and staffing/cost models for providing EMS services to Camden County. Mr. Newell explained that he has prepared four options: 1) the current arrangement in which EMS provides 12 hours of in-county coverage at Station 12 on Sawyer's Creek Road; 2) 12 hours of in-county coverage at Station 12 and at Station 14 in South Mills; 3) 24 hours of in-county coverage at one station and 12 hours at the other; and 4) 24 hours of in-county coverage at Station 12 and Station 14. Under all scenarios 24 hour coverage is provided to Camden County from the EMS Building behind Albemarle Hospital.

Mr. Newell said in preparing these options, staff attempted to estimate what the cost would be for each line item. He stated that they also included in each option \$30,000 for fleet vehicle purchase reserve to help replace the fleet of ambulances on a timely basis, and \$75,000 for administrative costs. Mr. Newell reviewed each revenue line item and advised that Camden's recommended fee for service under the first option would be \$400,000 per year.

Mr. McLain stated that Camden County is currently paying about \$264,000 after a 164% increase from the prior year and he questioned why there will be almost another 100% increase this year. Mr. Newell responded that is the proposal which more reflects the actual costs for Pasquotank County to provide EMS services to Camden County. He stated this is a flat fee for service and therefore if there is a shortfall, Pasquotank County would bear the risks and have to make up that shortfall. Each year Camden's fee for services would increase by a set percentage so Camden would know its costs going forward.

Camden County Manager Mike Renshaw stated that the increase from \$264,000 is pretty significant. He said however he was pleased to see a 3% cap from one year to the next to know what the costs will be. He stated that he would like to focus on the current staffing scenario which provides 12 hours of in-county coverage at Station 12. He presented a counter-proposal in which Camden County would pay \$294,000 per year for the existing level of service. The contract would be for a two-year term with an option to extend for another year. Mr. Renshaw questioned the administrative prorate and suggested that details be provided as to which positions are included. He asked why this \$75,000 figure shows up now beyond the \$264,000 currently paid for the services. Mr. Newell stated that the staffing figure included in the proposals just included staff that would man the stations and does not take into consideration administrative staff. Finance Officer Sheri Small said all staffing costs were rolled into the current \$264,000 figure and Camden's cost was based upon total projected EMS budget expenditures minus revenues. Camden County paid 20% of the difference between the cost and the revenues. Mr. Newell said the proposals being presented today are based on actual projected costs. Mr. Renshaw stated that he does not understand why there is such an increase from what Camden County is currently paying to the amount Pasquotank County has proposed to provide the same service.

Chairman Joe Winslow asked if the administrative costs have been reflected in prior budgets with Camden. Mr. Newell responded that these costs were considered in the total expenditures. He said however he believes the service Camden County has received, whether for a \$98,000 fee for service or a \$263,000 fee for service, has been a fair deal. He stated that the proposed agreement is based on actual costs. Chairman Winslow noted that Pasquotank County has been providing services to Camden County below costs and Pasquotank County staff has spent a great deal of time determining its true and accurate costs and that is what is being presented today.

Lengthy discussion was held and Chairman Winslow stated that Pasquotank-Camden EMS provides a very good service and the goal is to provide the best service possible for the residents of Pasquotank County and Camden County.

Both boards concurred to continue to have subgroup meetings to try to iron out the differences between the two proposals and come to a firm resolution.

4. DISCUSSION REGARDING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT:

County Manager Rodney Bunch stated that the current Emergency Management Interlocal Agreement between Pasquotank and Camden Counties and the City of Elizabeth City will expire June 30, 2015 and the agreement provides for two additional one-year extensions at the option of Camden and the City. He asked if Camden intends to extend the agreement. Camden Commissioners commented that the current agreement seems to be working very well, and they are pleased with the performance of the Emergency Management Director and the partnership among all three jurisdictions. The consensus of the Camden Board of Commissioners was to extend the agreement for an additional two years.

5. DISCUSSION REGARDING CAMDEN MEDICAL PARK PROPERTY:

Camden County Attorney John Morrison explained that Camden, Pasquotank, and East Carolina Behavioral Health own the Camden Medical Park property as tenants in common. The original owners were Pasquotank County, Camden County, Albemarle Hospital, and Albemarle Mental Health Center and the idea was to have a medical complex in Camden. Over the years Albemarle Mental Health Center has ceased to exist and East Carolina Behavioral Health (ECBH) is their successor interest. Mr. Morrison stated when Albemarle Hospital became an authority, all of the real estate Albemarle Hospital had acquired was then transferred to Pasquotank County so Albemarle Hospital no longer has any interest in this property. That leaves Camden, Pasquotank, and ECBH as the owners of the Camden Medical Park property. Mr. Morrison explained that each of the three entities owns one-third of each building and there is no one building for each entity. He said in addition to the three buildings there is a large amount of vacant land. He stated that one of the buildings which was historically known as Pasquotank's building is not being used. He outlined the potential remedies. He explained that any of the three parties could partition the court to have the property sold at public auction under a judicial sale in which the high bid could be raised during a 10-day period and this would go on until there is a 10-day period in which no upset bid is received. He said the obvious disadvantage to a partition sale is that it could go at a fire sale price. Another option would be an agreement between all three parties whereby they would just exchange deeds with no money passed and each entity would own one building. It would then be up to Pasquotank County to decide what to do with its building. Mr. Morrison said there have been discussions as to whether Pasquotank County wants to continue in joint ownership or whether there would be a desire for an interchange of property. He noted that there would still need to be some type of an agreement regarding maintenance of the common areas. If Pasquotank County sold its building, it would be out of the partnership. Mr. Morrison noted that a final option would be to declare the property as surplus and sell the entire complex.

Commissioner Jeff Dixon suggested that the entities begin the procedure to exchange deeds. Mr. Morrison noted that ECBH is not at the table, and if there is an exchange of deeds ECBH would also have to approve it.

County Attorney Mike Cox explained that the holdup has been Albemarle Mental Health which no longer exists and an entity that no longer exists cannot convey anything. An act of the General Assembly was passed to allow the Secretary of Health & Human Services to transfer Albemarle Mental Health's one-third interest to ECBH. Mr. Morrison stated that the Department of Health & Human Services has taken the position that they do not have the authority to assign Albemarle Mental Health's interest in the property to ECBH. He said there is no benefit to the state having this property tied up and he would suggest that a meeting be held with the Secretary of Health & Human Services or that local legislation be requested to get this done.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Frankie Meads to adopt a joint resolution of the two boards to authorize Mr. Cox and Mr. Morrison to approach ECBH on an exchange of deeds leaving each party with a fee simple ownership of their historically used building at Camden Medical Park and one-third of the common areas; also to allow Mr. Cox and Mr. Morrison to do whatever they need to do to get the Department of Health & Human Services to authorize this partition. The motion carried by both boards.

6. CLOSED SESSION TO PRESERVE THE ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGE:
Chairman Winslow asked for a motion that the Board enter Closed Session to preserve the attorney client privilege.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Frankie Meads that the Board enter Closed Session to preserve the attorney client privilege. The motion carried.

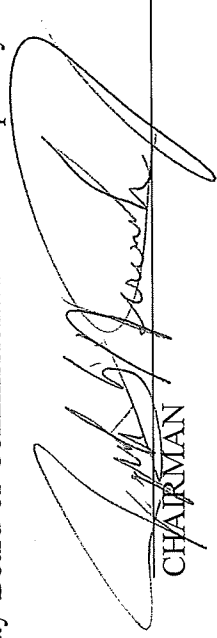
Upon the end of Closed Session;

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Frankie Meads that the Board return to Regular Session. The motion carried.

At the absence of further business;

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Frankie Meads to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 PM.

Chairman Winslow thanked the Camden County Board of Commissioners for its hospitality in hosting today's meeting.



FRANKIE MEADS
CHAIRMAN


CLERK TO THE BOARD