

Resolved: The Ad Hoc Emergency Medical Committee recommends that the Board of Supervisors institute an EMS tax starting in 2015. It is further recommended that this tax be established at a rate that will cover both the current expenditures and a major portion of the increases which will be necessary to maintain coverage after the hospital moves.

This recommendation is based on the following factors:

- 1) The impending move of the hospital will require a significant increase in EMS expenses due to additional coverage required by the increased travel times; mandating additional equipment, staffing and coverage to provide appropriate service and protection for all the citizens of Northampton County. This increase is expected to be up to \$600k.
- 2) EMS will require a substantial period to recruit and train the additional staff and obtain the additional equipment required to meet our new demand.
- 3) Volunteer coverage for our community ambulances is a continual and increasing problem—though efforts are being made to reinforce those companies. This places additional demand on our paid staff.
- 4) The added hours and run length required after the hospital moves will only increase the volunteer strain.
- 5) Establishing the tax in 2015 may make the impact the following year of expected increased real property tax rate to equalize revenue due to reduced assessments easier to understand.
- 6) A separate tax shows the taxpayer what the demand is and where the funds are being used.
- 7) Our public needs to understand that EMS is a real community and government service and a real expense that needs reinforcement to continue to provide excellent service after the hospital move.