

VIRGINIA:

At a recessed meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Northampton, Virginia, held in the Board Chambers of the County Administration Building, 16404 Courthouse Road, Eastville, Virginia, on the 29th day of April, 2013, at 5:00 p.m.

Present:

Willie C. Randall, Chairman

Laurence J. Trala, Vice Chairman

Richard L. Hubbard

Larry LeMond

Oliver H. Bennett

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman.

County Administrator's Report:

The County Administrator stated that the purpose of the meeting was to provide a forum for discussion amongst the stakeholders involved in the establishment of a stand-alone emergency room in Northampton County. The meeting was turned over to Ms. Martina Coker who presented the following powerpoint presentation:

# EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

A pressing need



## Issues

- ▶ Riverside Hospital moving to Onley
- ▶ Riverside has indicated urgent care center to remain in Nassawadox, although no definitive plans have been provided
- ▶ Transit times for Northampton County residents will increase significantly due to the planned move



## Transit Times– South of Cape Charles

- Patients south of Cape Charles light will be transferred to Bayside Sentara Virginia Beach
  - ▶ Current drive time:
    - From Cape Charles to Nassawadox– 21 minutes
    - From Sand Hills Drive to Nassawadox– 26 minutes
  - ▶ Drive time once hospital moves
    - From Cape Charles to Bayside Sentara– 55 minutes
    - From Sand Hills Drive to Bayside Sentara– 40 minutes

Add response time on ave. 10.47 minutes (9.76 min.– days; 11.17 min– Eve./Nt./WE) and time to the ER will be 50–65 minutes

## Transit Times– North of Cape Charles

- Patients north of Cape Charles light will be transferred to Riverside Onley
  - ▶ Current drive time:
    - From Savage Neck to Nassawadox– 27 minutes
    - From Smith Beach and Vaucluse to Nassawadox– 21–22 minutes
  - ▶ Drive time once hospital moves
    - From Savage Neck to Onley– 49 minutes
    - From Smith Beach and Vaucluse to Onley– 44 minutes

Add response time on ave. 10.47 min. (9.76 min days; 11.17 min Eve./Nt./WE) and time to the ER will be 54–59 minutes

## Increase in costs for Emergency Services with hospital move

- ▶ Costs of emergency services, once the hospital moves could double from the current budgeted amount of \$1,000,000
- ▶ The extra 26–72 miles per trip will extend turnaround, requiring more staff and ambulances on the road to provide the same response level
- ▶ Transporting patients over the bridge presents challenges due to the need for 2 people in the back of the ambulance
- ▶ Traffic, tunnel closures, and bad weather can detain ambulances



## Potential Solution

- ▶ Free Standing Emergency Department in Northampton County



## What is a Free Standing Emergency Department?

- ▶ Unlike Urgent Care centers, free standing emergency rooms seek to duplicate the full complement of procedures and services offered by a hospital emergency room in an acute care hospital
- ▶ Unlike an urgent care center, can accept ambulance traffic
- ▶ Have been most successful in rural settings



## Benefits of Free Standing Emergency Department

- ▶ Meet emergency needs of citizens of the county
- ▶ Economic Development
  - Good paying jobs
  - Increase appeal of the county to
    - Retirees
    - Families
    - Companies or individuals interested in establishing a business presence in the county
    - Continuum of Care Communities



## CDC Projections for ED visits (2010)

- ▶ Number of visits per 100 persons= 42.8 (US Data)
- ▶ Northampton County population 2010= 12,389, resulting in estimated volume of 5,302 ED visits/year
- ▶ Admission rate 13.3% (US Data)
- ▶ Could expect 705.16 admissions from ED per year



## What will make this happen

- ▶ Hospital willing to invest in Northampton County with Free Standing Emergency Department
- ▶ The Hospital would benefit from generated revenue and patients referred into their system



## What will make this happen

- ▶ Incentives from County, towns, individuals
  - Land
  - County commitment for funds
  - Grants
  - Private donations



## Costs

- ▶ Construction
  - \$1,000,000 (Facility size 4,000–5,000 sq. ft. @\$200/Sq Ft)
  - Purchase price of CAT Scan \$450,000 to \$575,000 and annual service of same approximately \$70,000 per year
  - Total annual support needed would be \$350,000 per year



## Next Step

- ▶ Request for Proposal by Northampton County to hospital systems for free standing Emergency Department



## Emergency Department Task Force

- ▶ Martina Coker
- ▶ Peter Lawrence
- ▶ Ron Matthews
- ▶ Spencer Murray
- ▶ Dora Sullivan



Mr. Hubbard stated that he would like to see a dialogue with Riverside officials (who just purchased the Cape Charles Medical Center). Mr. Bennett agreed, noting that infrastructure is already in place.

Ms. Coker said that the stand-alone emergency facility needed to be affiliated with an existing hospital in order to bypass the state's process (Certificate of Public Need).

Mr. Trala noted that he was very optimistic that Riverside will leave something at the Nassawadox campus.

Mr. Joe Zager and Ms. Susan McAndrews of Riverside were recognized by the Board. Mr. Zager said that an urgent care facility; i.e., "glorified doctor's office", was not what Riverside has in mind for the Nassawadox campus and that in fact, the State did not give Riverside permission to leave the MRI machine there. He said that he believes that there are opportunities to work with the County to develop a practical solution to serve the County, as Riverside has done for the past 85 years, and would be delighted to have a dialogue. Ms. McAndrews stated that Riverside does not know exactly what facilities will remain in Nassawadox and that they are still finishing the plans for the new hospital. She said that they are "willing, and want to do the right thing for the community". She committed to the Board to return with a plan of action including a joint meeting date with all affected parties.

Mr. Randall suggested what he called a "seed idea" – an outpatient surgery clinic combined with EMS headquarters with future expansion into an urgent care facility.

Ms. Hollye Carpenter, Director of Emergency Medical Services, was recognized by the Board and said that with the hospital's move to Accomack County, it will be challenge for emergency medical services and require more personnel. She said that she believes that working with Riverside would be the best direction to go.

Closed Session

Motion was made by Mr. Bennett, seconded by Mr. LeMond, that the Board enter Closed Session in accordance with Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended:

(A) Paragraph 1: Discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees or employees of any public body.

All members were present and voted “yes.” The motion was unanimously passed.

After Closed Session, the Chairman reconvened the meeting and said that the Board had entered the closed session for that purpose as set out in paragraph 1 of Section 2.1-3711 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended. Upon being polled individually, each Board member confirmed that this was the only matter of discussion during the closed session.

Adjourn:

Motion was made by Mr. Hubbard, seconded by Mr. Bennett, that the meeting be adjourned. All members were present and voted “yes.” The motion was unanimously passed.

The meeting was adjourned.

\_\_\_\_\_CHAIRMAN

\_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR