

VIRGINIA:

At a recessed meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Northampton, Virginia, held in the auditorium of the former Northampton County Middle School, 7247 Young Street, Machipongo, Virginia, on the 22nd day of August, 2011, at 5:00 p.m.

Present:

Willie C. Randall, Chairman	H. Spencer Murray
Oliver H. Bennett	Laurence J. Trala

Absent:

Samuel J. Long, Jr., Vice Chairman	Richard Tankard
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1. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman
2. The County Administrator indicated that the purpose of this meeting was a joint session with representatives of the County's fire and rescue agencies, called as a result of a request coming from the Northampton Fire & Rescue Commission. Ms. Nunez noted that a draft report has been received from the State on the Board's requested fire and rescue study. Factual corrections have been made and the State will be present at the September 26th work session to do a full presentation of the study.

Mr. Warren Wisneski, representing the Fire & Rescue Commission, questioned why the Board was not using the Fire & Rescue Commission for information. He stated that the Board had committed significant funds for equipment and possibly a new EMS building without seeking input from the Fire & Rescue Commission. He stressed that the Commission was available and had much experience and information to share with the Board.

He commented on a current problem with Station 16 (Northampton Fire & Rescue) with no personnel – no coverage – and questioned why the Board could not afford to staff Station 16. With no personnel, there are no funds being received from billing.

Ms. Cathy Ulrich of Station 19 (Cape Charles Rescue), said that Station 31-1 was working well with Cape Charles Rescue but thought that the main concern was lack of communication.

The County Administrator responded to the question relative to a new EMS building by indicating that this project has been included in the County's Capital Improvement Plan since 2008, having known by then that the EMS Department was outgrowing its present facility and because of subdivision of the parcel, would be unable to expand there.

Ms. Hollye Carpenter, EMS Director, stated that Stations 13 and 16 (Exmore and Nassawadox) have to come to an agreement on the staffing for Station 16 and that the Board of Supervisors has to decide how to create equality across the board. She noted that the County provides career staff to supplement volunteer efforts.

In response to a question from the Chairman, it was noted that some financial reimbursement for gas and extra shift coverage is provided to the volunteers at Cape Charles. Nassawadox and Eastville provide no financial compensation to its volunteer staff.

Mr. Murray noted that he saw three issues: (1) a real communication and relationship problem; (2) where we house our EMS ambulance; and (3) the need for more full-time EMS staff, especially in light of the hospital's relocation to Accomack County.

Mr. Wisneski reiterated that purchase of the County ambulance was another example of not seeking any input from the Fire & Rescue Commission, noting that there were already five under-utilized ambulances in the County. This represents money that the Board did not have to

spend.

Ms. Carpenter responded that the Department of EMS has been located in Machipongo since 2004 with a quick response vehicle. This site, in the middle of the county, gives the department the ability to respond quickly in either direction. Grant funds for the purchase of the ambulance were announced in 2009 with actual delivery in March 2011. It was her belief that the issue of a new ambulance purchase has been known for well over a year.

Ms. Nunez commented that the former middle school location is a natural fit for the EMS Department and that the structural and mechanical needs of the building overall can be partially remedied with the location of the EMS Department, serving as an anchor for this facility.

Mr. Bennett stated that he has concerns with the projected \$1.2 million estimate for renovation of this site for the new EMS home and the County Administrator responded that funds for this project are bond funds which are not allowed for other purposes other than capital needs.

When the Chairman asked those in attendance what could the Board do to remedy this situation, Ms. Ulrich said that making sure the Board's liaison (Mr. Long) to the Fire & Rescue Commission serves his role – which has not happened in the last two years. She also asked the Board to consider daytime paid staff at Station 16. It was also noted by Mr. Surran that the former middle school serves as an ideal educational facility for training purposes, providing services for the entire Eastern Shore. The Chairman also offered to provide a regular monthly slot on the Board's agenda to hear from fire and rescue representatives if they so indicate.

In other business, motion was made by Mr. Murray, seconded by Mr. Bennett, that the Board direct the County Administrator, the Director of Planning, and the Zoning Administrator to make a list of items in the current zoning ordinance that, if changed or eliminated, would

reduce staff work load and make the administrative process easier and less onerous for our citizens. All members were present with the exception of Mr. Tankard and Mr. Long and voted “yes.” The motion was unanimously passed. It was noted that the Board was desirous of receiving this list by its September 26th work session. Mr. Murray indicated that he already had a list prepared of items he’d like to see addressed and the County Administrator asked for Board members’ listings to be provided to her by the end of this month so that it could be compiled in a master list.

Closed Session

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

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.

Appointments to Boards/Commissions

All members were present with the exceptions of Mr. Long and Mr. Tankard 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.

Motion was made by Mr. Murray, seconded by Mr. Trala, that the Board rescind its action of August 9, 2011 in the matter of the appointment of Ms. Martina Coker to the Eastern Shore Rural Health System board and that Mr. Calvin Brickhouse remain a member of that body until the investigation can be concluded to determine if this appointment is still a county-made

one. All members were present with the exceptions of Mr. Long and Mr. Tankard and voted “yes.” The motion was unanimously passed. The Board recognized that Mr. Brickhouse’s 17-year term on the Rural Health Board, if it is determined that the appointment remain a county-made one, is outside of the County’s policy for term limitation.

Adjourn:

Motion was made by Mr. Trala, seconded by Mr. Bennett, that the meeting be adjourned.

All members were present with the exceptions of Mr. Long and Mr. Tankard and voted “yes.”

The motion was unanimously passed.

The meeting was adjourned.

_____CHAIRMAN

_____ COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR