

**HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES**

September 22, 2009 – 3:00 pm

The Henry County Board of Supervisors held its regular meeting on September 22, 2009, at 3:00 pm in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, King's Mountain Road, Collinsville, Virginia. The following Board members were present: Chairman Debra Buchanan, Vice Chairman H. G. Vaughn, Jim Adams, Paula Burnette, Jim McMillian and Tommy Slaughter.

Staff members present were Benny Summerlin, County Administrator; Tim Hall, Deputy County Administrator; George Lyle, County Attorney; Susan Biege, Administrative Assistant; Susan Reynolds, Director of Human Resources/Public Information; Darrell Jones, Director of Finance; and Richard Stanfield, Assistant Director of Finance.

Sheriff Lane Perry and Sergeant Eric Hairston were present from the Sheriff's Office. Debbie Hall of the Martinsville Bulletin and Ron Morris of B-99 were present.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Jim McMillian gave the invocation and Paula Burnette led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Buchanan called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present. She stated that anyone who wishes to be on the Agenda for the Board's regular business meeting held at 3:00 pm must contact the County Administrator's Office seven days prior to a scheduled meeting. Those wishing to speak at the Board's public meeting starting at 6:00 pm may do so under Agenda Item - Matters Presented by the Public without contacting the County Administrator's Office.

Ms. Buchanan welcomed Deputy Mark Jamison who was in attendance as a requirement in his field training program with the Sheriff's Office. Mr. Jamison recently completed basic training. He stated he was glad to be present and appreciates the opportunity to serve the public.

ITEMS OF CONSENT:

Confirmation of Minutes of Meetings

(Copy included in Board's File).

- August 25, 2009 – 3:00 pm
- August 31, 2009 – 7:15 pm

Approval of Accounts Payable

(Copy included in Board's File).

Mrs. Burnette moved that the Board approve Items of Consent as presented, second by Mr. Adams and unanimously carried.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION ENDORSING BASSETT HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S HERITAGE BOOK:

Mr. Adams stated that the Bassett Historical Society is considering the publication of a Henry County "Heritage Book" that would detail some of the County's illustrious history. A resolution has been prepared expressing the Board's support for the effort by the Bassett Historical Society in this endeavor. (Copy of Proposed Resolution is Included in Board's File).

Mr. Adams moved that the Board approve the resolution in support of the Bassett Historical Society's Heritage Book, second by Mr. Vaughn and unanimously carried.

CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES TO THE HENRY COUNTY'S ANIMAL IMPOUND ORDINANCE:

Mr. Summerlin stated the Sheriff's Office is requesting several changes to the Henry County's Dog Impound ordinance, which has not been addressed in more than 15 years. Among the suggestions is to raise the fee charged for the capture and delivery to the pound of a dog, and an increase in the daily boarding fees. He stated as with any change to the County Code, a public hearing is required before any action can be taken.

Outlined in a report by County Attorney George Lyle, the following information was provided after researching the Virginia State Code.

- 1) The fee charged for the capture and delivery to the pound of the dog would be raised from \$30 to \$40 for the first time the animal is captured. Subsequent captures of the same dog would result in an \$80 impoundment fee for the owner to reclaim.

- 2) In addition to the impoundment fee, the Sheriff's Office is requesting an increase in the daily boarding fee charged while the captured animal is at the pound. The current fee is \$5 per-day and the Sheriff's Office is proposing a \$7 daily fee.
- 3) Virginia law allows for animals that remain at the pound after five days to become property of the County. The exact number of days (five or longer) must be set by the Board by ordinance. Currently the County ordinance sets the number of days to be reclaimed at 10. The Sheriff's Office is requesting the 10 day period be changed to 5 days.

Mr. McMillian moved that the Board set a public hearing for October 27 at 6 pm on this issue, second by Mr. Adams and unanimously carried.

CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES REGARDIING SOUTH STREET NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT BUDGET:

Mr. Summerlin stated at the Board's meeting on March 24, 2009, a public hearing was held for a community improvement grant application for the South Street neighborhood in Bassett. The Board also approved a resolution authorizing the grant application in the amount of \$2,169,853. On July 7, 2009, Governor Tim Kaine announced the award of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to Henry County for this project. Since that amount is more than 1% of the overall County budget, a public hearing is required before the money can be appropriated.

Mr. Vaughn moved that the Board set a public hearing on October 27, 2009, at 6 pm to consider this budget adjustment, second by Mr. Slaughter and unanimously carried.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Additional Appropriation re: H1N1 Medical Supplies Grant – Public Safety

Mr. Summerlin stated that Dale Wagoner, Public Safety Director, indicated that Henry County has been awarded a grant from the Virginia Department of Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services in the amount of \$4,320 for the purchase of H1N1 (swine flu) protective respiratory masks. Masks will be distributed to each of the five volunteer rescue squads. The competitive grant requires no local match.

Mr. Wagoner responded to a question asked by Mrs. Burnette regarding vaccines being made available to first responders. He stated Public Safety has been in close contact with the local Health District to insure a consistent

voice on H1N1 preparation, planning and distribution of information. Indications are now that vaccines will be made available to first responders; however, until a final count is available of how many vaccines are going to be allocated to the State and divided up by locality, there's not any absolute to say yes, but the plan is to provide first responders with vaccines.

Mrs. Burnette moved that the Board approve the additional appropriation in the amount of \$4,320 as requested, second by Mr. Slaughter and unanimously carried.

Additional Appropriation re: Title II Part D ARRA Funds – School Board

Mr. Summerlin stated that School Superintendent Anthony Jackson is requesting an additional appropriation of \$9,227.79 in Title II Part D American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. According to information from the School Board office, the money is a sub-grant from the Enhancing Education through Technology Formula. Dawn Lawson, Director of Business, was present from the School Board.

Mrs. Burnette moved that the Board approve the additional appropriation in the amount of \$9,227.79 as requested, second by Mr. Adams and unanimously carried.

Transfer Appropriations re: State Fiscal Stabilization Funds-School Board

Mr. Summerlin stated that School Superintendent Anthony Jackson is requesting two transfers totaling \$1,060,000 for use on facility improvements. According to information provided by the School Board, the money came from the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund. Mr. Jackson is requesting that the Board approve a transfer of \$500,000 from capital outlay addition categories into the building improvements category. The School Board approved the transfer earlier this month. The second transfer, of \$560,000, will not go before the School Board until its October 1 meeting. However, to expedite the process, Mr. Jackson would like the Board of Supervisors to approve the transfer appropriation contingent on the School Board's similar action on October 1. According to information from the School Board, this money would be used for roof replacements, playground fencing, and restroom renovations at various schools.

Mrs. Burnette moved that the Board approve the \$500,000 transfer as suggested and that the second transfer of \$560,000 be approved contingent

on School Board approval at its October 1, 2009 meeting, second by Mr. Vaughn and unanimously carried.

Additional Appropriation re: 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant – School Board

Mr. Summerlin stated that Superintendent Jackson is asking the Board for an additional appropriation of \$200,000 from the Title IV, Part B, 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant. The federal grant flows through the State Department of Education and is intended for Laurel Park Middle School.

Mrs. Burnette moved that the Board approve the additional appropriation in the amount of \$200,000 as requested, second by Mr. Adams and unanimously carried.

Additional Appropriation re: Asset Forfeiture Funds – Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office

Mr. Summerlin stated that Commonwealth Attorney Bob Bushnell is requesting the Board to make an additional appropriation in the amount of \$2,000 from the Asset Forfeiture line item to his Travel Expenses line item.

Mr. Adams moved that the Board approve the additional appropriation in the amount of \$2,000 as requested, second by Mr. McMillian and unanimously carried.

Additional Appropriation re: Philpott Sewer Line Project

Mr. Summerlin stated in April the Board of Supervisors approved a Letter of Intent with the U.S. Corps of Engineers to fund extension of public sewer from Route 57 to the Corps’ property line to serve Corps facilities at Philpott Lake. The cost of sewer line will be approximately \$500,000 and bids are to be opened later this month. The Corps of Engineers will construct sewer lines and necessary facilities on Corps property to make connection to the Public Service Authority and will sign up for PSA sewer services. The Corps is already a PSA water customer. The Board is being asked to allocate up to \$500,000 from its Fund Balance to the PSA for that construction, as agreed to in the Letter of Intent and by vote of the Board of Supervisors on April 28, 2009.

Mrs. Burnette asked what funds remain in the Fund Balance. Mr. Summerlin stated approximately \$20 million in cash and \$11 million in

committed funds. Mrs. Burnette asked if the Board could receive those numbers in its background information in the future. Mr. Summerlin stated staff could provide that information.

Mrs. Burnette moved that the Board approve the additional appropriation of the funds, up to \$500,000, second by Mr. Slaughter and unanimously carried.

Award of Contracts re: Riverside Drive Housing Rehabilitation Project

Mr. Summerlin stated on September 3, 2009, the Riverside Drive Housing Rehab Board reviewed and approved the following contract awards for three houses in the project area:

- Kenneth D. Robertson Masonry - \$24,775.00 – rehabilitation of Nancy Wood’s home at 3110 Riverside Drive, Bassett
- Kenneth D. Robertson Masonry - \$25,210.00 – rehabilitation of Dorothy Craiger’s home at 3260 Riverside Drive, Bassett
- Wood Building & Remodeling, LLC - \$45,000 – rehabilitation and addition to Herbert and Rebecca Parnell’s home at 4008 Fairy Stone Park Highway, Bassett

Mr. Adams asked the County Attorney since he was a member of the Housing Rehab Board would it be a conflict to vote on the motion. Mr. Lyle stated it would not be a conflict of interest.

Mr. Adams moved that the Board award the contracts as recommended by the Riverside Drive Housing Rehab Board, second by Mr. Vaughn and unanimously carried.

UPDATE ON STATE BUDGET CUTS:

Mr. Summerlin stated that Governor Kaine revised the Virginia’s revenue forecast and projected additional shortfall in state revenues of approximately \$1.3 billion. This will be the fourth cut localities have sustained in the past two years. Mr. Summerlin stated the additional cuts are all revenue the County receives for its Constitutional Officers. He stated the only exception is a few dispatchers in the 911 Center whose salaries are through the Sheriff’s Office and funded through the Compensation Board, which will also be impacted. He stated the amount of State funds to be cut from Henry County total \$451,000, which is recurring costs. Mr. Summerlin

stated he has met with the Constitutional Officers and asked them to prepare plans to reduce expenditures by the amount of the State revenue cuts. He stated Constitutional Officers would be very appreciative if the Board could find the funds to put local money in instead of State money for the State cuts. He stated he didn't see where the County had the money to do that since it is a recurring expenditure. He stated the FY 2011 budget will be coming up in the next few months and this would be the same revenue reduction in the FY 2011 budget. He stated at some point, and probably not until the end of the calendar year, he could not say if there would be local County revenue shortfalls. The County has not collected property taxes and is not collected until December 5. Mr. Summerlin stated after property taxes are collected staff will re-examine local revenues, but if for some reason the County is not OK, staff will have to come back to the Board again during the FY 2010 calendar year to make further reductions in County expenditures. He stated he would again meet with Constitutional Officers to make the reductions based on their state revenue as authorized in the appropriations resolution.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Comments from the Board

Mr. Slaughter stated he attended the Bassett Heritage Festival and was a great success. He stated he would like to commend the Stanleytown Ruritan Club and everyone involved in the activities.

Mrs. Burnette stated the Axton Fireman's Fair and Brunswick stew will be held this upcoming Saturday. She stated as far as Henry County's financial fiscal management, she would put Henry County on a pedestal. She thanked Benny Summerlin, Tim Hall, Darrell Jones and Jimmie Wright for a good job.

Mr. Adams stated in addition to attending the Bassett Heritage Festival he attended the River Access Point event. He stated it was well attended and he had an opportunity to speak with numerous out-of-town visitors.

Mrs. Buchanan stated the Coat Drive for Kids is underway and she recently held a community meeting on September 15.

Mr. Summerlin stated he read a recent article where Southside Virginia is getting stimulus funds from the Department of Forestry. He stated a number of those projects are for Henry County. He said he would find out more information and specifically what projects in the area are targeted for those funds. He stated last week five inmates at the Henry County Jail were transferred to an outside jail due to overcrowding, but have since been

transferred back to Henry County. Mr. Summerlin recognized Henry County employees and everyone who supported the United Way Campaign. He stated employees had a 30% increase in its donations over last year. Mr. Summerlin stated the County Surplus Auction was held at the DuPont site over the past weekend and raised approximately \$83,000. Mr. Summerlin stated the County has also been focusing on being more environmentally conscientious and looking at energy costs. He stated the County put out RFP's for a Back of an Envelope Study, which is an informal energy audit. The County would move to a more formal audit after picking an energy partner. He stated the County received three proposals and a committee will start reviewing those next week working with a representative from the State that specializes in this field.

Mr. Vaughn stated on September 9, the Board Chairman, himself, and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the School Board met with both accounting staffs to discuss and exchange ideas of the School Board and Board of Supervisors as far as what challenges in the future the School Board faces with issues such as capital improvements and maintaining existing structures, and the Board of Supervisors' situation regarding revenue projections.

Mr. Slaughter discussed a growing problem with trash on the highways and the need for Henry County residents to start showing more pride for the community.

Mrs. Burnette stated that Gateway Streetscape is continuing with the clean up on the Smith River on Saturday, October 3, and the Community Pride Committee will do its roadside cleanup on the same day. She encouraged everyone to come out and help.

Mr. Vaughn stated several years ago when the Community Pride effort began he was hopeful that convenience stores and fast food restaurants would put up signs reminding people not to throw trash out along side of the highways.

Tim Hall advised everyone that Household Hazardous Waste Day is scheduled on October 10, 2009, from 9:00 am until noon at the New Service Center in Bassett.

Mr. McMillian noted to the Board that in the upcoming election there are six local positions up for election. He stated there are three on the School Board and three on the Board of Supervisors and none of the positions is contested.

CLOSED MEETING:

Mrs. Burnette moved that the Board enter into a closed meeting at 3:34 pm to discuss the following, second by Mr. Slaughter and unanimously carried.

- 1) §2.2-3711(A)1 for Discussion of Appointees to Patrick Henry Community College Board, Southern Area Agency on Aging Board and Dan River ASAP Board.
- 2) §2.2-3711(A)7 for Consultation with the County Attorney re: Pending Legal Matters.
- 3) §2.2-3711(A)3 for Consultation with the County Attorney re: Acquisition/Disposal of Real Estate.
- 4) §2.2-3711(A)5 for Consultation with the County Attorney re: Discussion of As-Yet Unannounced Industries.
- 5) §2.2-3711(A)1 for Discussion of Personnel Matters.

OPEN MEETING:

The Board returned to an open meeting at 4:20 pm on a motion by Mrs. Burnette, second by Mr. Adams and unanimously carried.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING:

Mr. Hall read the Certification of the Closed Meeting and took a roll call vote. Those voting in the affirmative were: Mr. Slaughter, Mr. McMillian, Mrs. Burnette, Mr. Adams, Mr. Vaughn, and Mrs. Buchanan.

Easement – King’s Mountain Overlook

Mrs. Burnette moved that the Board approve an easement on King’s Mountain Overlook with Lester Lumber Company, Inc. for 0.055 acres and allow transfer of \$3,600 within the Parks and Recreation’s Capital Improvements budget, second by Mr. Adams and unanimously carried.

APPOINTMENTS:

Patrick Henry Community College Board

Mr. Vaughn moved that the Board appoint Nancy Sprinkle to the Patrick Henry Community College to fill an unexpired term ending June 30, 2012, second by Mrs. Burnette and unanimously carried.

Southern Area Agency on Aging Board

Mrs. Burnette moved that the Board appoint Myron Kelly to the Southern Area Agency on Aging Board with a term ending November 1, 2012, second by Mr. Slaughter and unanimously carried.

Dan River ASAP Board

Mr. Adams moved that the Board appoint Ronnie Minter to the Dan River ASAP Board to fill an unexpired term ending March 31, 2011, second by Mr. Slaughter and unanimously carried.

The Board recessed its meeting at 4:25 pm until 6:00 pm. Mrs. Buchanan called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and welcomed everyone present.

MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC:

No one was present who wished to address the Board under Matters Presented by the Public.

PUBLIC HEARING – DISPOSITION OF HENRY-MARTINSVILLE SOCIAL SERVICES BUILDING:

Henry County and the City of Martinsville jointly own the Henry-Martinsville Department of Social Services building on Church Street in Martinsville. The two entities recently entered into an agreement to move Social Services into the former Athena Building on Progress Drive in the City. In order to proceed with the disposition of the current building, a public hearing has been set for tonight's meeting.

The public hearing was open at 6:00 pm. There being no one present who wished to speak the public hearing was closed at 6:01 pm.

Mrs. Burnette moved that the Board coordinate with the City on the path forward to dispose of the property, second by Mr. Slaughter. The motion carried 5 to 1. Mr. McMillian voted in opposition.

PUBLIC HEARING – CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES TO OUTDOOR BURNINGS LAWS IN HENRY COUNTY CODE:

Mr. Lyle stated the Code of Henry County, Chapter 9, Article II. Section 9-201, Outdoor Burning, does not mirror the Virginia Department of Forestry's outdoor burning laws. The Henry County code prohibits outdoor burning except for from 4 pm to 12 midnight from March 1 to May 15. The state code is from February 15 to April 30. A public hearing is required to change the ordinance, and has been set for tonight's meeting.

The public hearing was open at 6:02 pm. There being no one present who wished to speak the public hearing was closed at 6:04 pm.

Mr. Vaughn moved that the Board change the Henry County Ordinance as proposed in order to mirror the Commonwealth of Virginia's law, second by Mr. Adams and unanimously carried.

PUBLIC HEARING – REZONING APPLICATION R-09-07 – MILLARD'S MACHINERY, INC.:

Mr. Lee Clark reviewed Application R-09-07 for Millard's Machinery. (Copy of Application included in Board's File). Mr. Clark stated that following a public hearing both the Planning Commission and staff recommend approval of the request.

The public hearing was open at 6:05 pm. There being no one present who wished to speak the public hearing was closed at 6:05 pm.

Mr. Vaughn moved that the Board accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission to approve the rezoning request, second by Mr. McMillian and unanimously carried.

GENERAL HIGHWAY MATTERS:

Ms. Lisa Price-Hughes, Residency Administrator of the local Virginia Department of Transportation, was present to discuss general highway matters.

Consideration of "Watch for Children" Signs on Lackey Road in the Collinsville District and Fellowship Drive in the Horsepasture District

Mr. McMillian moved that the Board request VDOT to install a “Watch for Children” sign on Lackey Road in the Collinsville District and on Fellowship Drive in the Horsepasture District, second by Mrs. Burnette and unanimously carried.

Ms. Hughes stated VDOT has two projects that open for bid tomorrow. She stated one is the bridge repair project on Trent Hill Drive (Route 666) over the Smith River and the bridge will be closed during construction until early summer. Ms. Hughes stated the second project is the safety project on Route 220 at Bassett Forks with the installation of the median. She stated on October 5 a paving project will begin of approximately 10 miles that runs from Route 58, and runs from the City limits all the way to the Leatherwood Creek bridge on the east bound lane and also the section at 220 business that goes from the Cloverleaf to the bypass. This project will be paid for with \$1.9 million of stimulus funds. Ms. Hughes stated VDOT’s last round of mowing for the year will begin on Monday on primary and secondary roads and the interchanges on the bypass.

Several Board members discussed miscellaneous projects in their districts such as painting line markings, status of Adopt-A-Highways signs and its program, trash issues, the signage confusion on Route 58 East bypass from Spencer to Martinsville going south, Koehler Road and Route 220 at Bojangles regarding north bound traffic cutting through Bojangles and the elevation of the new bridge at Fieldale.

CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES REGARDING EMS TASK FORCE REPORT:

Mr. Lyle stated at the August meeting the Board heard a progress report by the Emergency Services Task Force. Representatives of the committee recommended to the Board of Supervisors that an EMS Commission, with operational authority, be created. The Board directed County staff to research the issue if the Board of Supervisors could appoint an Emergency Medical Services Commission that can be empowered to impose regulations on the operations of the volunteer rescue squads in the County and enforce said regulations and report back to the Board. Mr. Lyle stated he and the Director of Public Safety Dale Wagoner are prepared to update the Board on their research.

Mr. Lyle reviewed background information of the five non-profit volunteer rescue squads governed by the Commonwealth of Virginia. Mr. Lyle discussed the Board of Supervisors’ role in the provision of emergency medical services, which he stated is two fold. First, the Board allocates funding to the rescue squads and to the Department of Public Safety which provides indirect support to the squads. Second, the Board, in partnership

with the City operates a joint dispatch center for all public safety functions. Mr. Lyle stated that Virginia courts have traditionally upheld the Dillon Rule which stands for the proposition that local governments can only exercise such powers as the Virginia General Assembly has specifically delegated to local governments. He stated in his research he could find no authority for the Board to appoint a panel of citizens that would impose additional regulations at the local level.

Mr. Lyle stated it seemed to be the EMS Task Force's position to have more uniformity in the operations and delivery of emergency medicine in Henry County. He stated one way to move toward that objective would be to adopt an ordinance assigning authority for provision of emergency medical services to the Henry County Department of Public Safety. He stated an EMS Commission could still be in place in an advisory capacity to help guide the decisions of the Public Safety Department. Mr. Lyle stated there is no statutory authority for the Board to create an EMS Commission to govern the independent, non-profit and for-profit corporations that provide emergency medical services in Henry County.

Mr. Wagoner came forward and stated the Board at its August meeting also requested that staff research information regarding the number of members in each squad; the number of calls a member runs; how many hours put in by a member for one year without providing names; information on what levels of training that members have; information on the point system and how it works; and to seek input from the Public Safety Department. Mr. Wagoner stated Public Safety has solicited that information to the individual squads and would provide that information as soon as it is received.

Mr. Wagoner stated the public safety staff solicited information from other localities in the Commonwealth as to how their locality administered emergency medical services. He stated most localities grant the authority for the provision of EMS to a county department (Public Safety, Fire Department, etc.) He stated many localities also use an appointed advisory committee to facilitate responder and citizen input into EMS decisions. Mr. Wagoner briefly reviewed a 1990 Study by RAM Communications regarding recommendations to improve emergency medical services. He also discussed a 1993 "Report on Feasibility of Establishing a County of Henry Emergency Medical Services Commission" submitted by the Public Safety Department. He stated while there have been significant improvements since 1990, staff clearly recognizes the need for consequential changes in the delivery of emergency medical services. He stated over the past several years, the trend has deviated from a more central approach of delivery to a more decentralized, fragmented approach where rescue squads are making

independent policies that do not take into consideration the overall County-wide delivery of EMS. Mr. Wagoner stated based on the research and recommendations of the County Attorney, the Public Safety review of other localities, and the current trends in Henry County's EMS system, the Public Safety staff recommends intervention by the Board to prevent further deterioration and fragmentation of emergency services in Henry County. He stated this can be accomplished either through granting of authority to County staff in conjunction with an advisory board or delegating that authority to an independent commission as requested by the task force. He stated either directive will require a contractual arrangement with the volunteer rescue squads to ensure compliance and will be limited in scope based on findings of the County Attorney. Mr. Wagoner stated that both proposals have strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that should be explored in greater detail before making a final decision. Mr. Wagoner stated any path forward whether it be an EMS Commission or the Public Safety Department model, the first step would be adopt a five-year strategic plan and identify key priorities as to what items need to be addressed first.

Mr. Robert Logan, Executive Director of the Western Virginia Emergency Medical Services, commented on State regulations in forming an EMS Commission.

Mr. Stuart Bowman, President of the Fieldale-Collinsville Rescue Squad, presented information as requested from the August meeting on F-C's levels of training, its stipend program and point system, coverage of calls, and its bookkeeping procedures. (Copy of Report in Board's File).

Mr. Ronnie Grubb of the Reed Creek District briefly discussed a 2004 JLARC Study (Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee) commissioned by the General Assembly to provide a comprehensive assessment of EMS systems that operate throughout the State. He stated this issue has been ongoing since 1990, and the County is at a juncture where something needs to be done with its EMS services. He stated the previous speakers are very accurate in their assessment of the current EMS system in Henry County.

Mr. John Mitchell of the Iriswood District and member of the EMS Task Force stated there needs to be more discussion on giving citizens input and be made one of its priorities since this will be a system designed to serve the public and they're the ones paying the bill.

Ms. Ruth Dickinson of the Iriswood District commented that each district should call their communities together to hear complaints and agreements and a lot can be resolved out of committee meetings.

The Board discussed and asked questions of those who spoke regarding EMS services.

Following comments regarding holding a work session to discuss the issue further, Mr. Summerlin suggested that it may be helpful to the Board to first invite several communities who have made such changes to their EMS services to come and speak with the Board and discuss the advantages and disadvantages before trying to proceed. The Board was in agreement with Mr. Summerlin.

There being no further business to discuss Mr. McMillian moved that the Board adjourn at 7:32 pm, second by Mr. Adams and unanimously carried.

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