

At a joint meeting of the Cumberland County Board of Supervisors and the Cumberland County Emergency Services Committee held at 6:00 p.m. on the 12th day of November 2009 at the Cumberland Volunteer Fire Department, Cumberland, Virginia:

Present: William F. Osl, Jr., Chairman, District 1
Timothy Kennell, District 2
Van H. Petty, District 3
Elbert R. Womack, District 4
Robert J. Oertel, District 5
Judy Ownby, County Administrator
Michael Cooper, Asst. County Administrator

Several members of the Emergency Services Committee were present, including representatives of the Cartersville Rescue Squad, Cumberland Rescue Squad, Randolph Fire Department, Cartersville Fire Department, Cumberland Fire Department, and other members.

Chairman of the ESC, Kelly Hale called the ESC meeting to order and turned the meeting over to Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Van Petty, who called the Board meeting to order. The County Administrator called the roll and all members were present except for Mr. Osl who arrived at 6:50 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss revenue recovery and following a brief discussion of other business matters by the ESC, each representative of the emergency services agencies was given an opportunity to state his opinion on revenue recovery.

Mr. Kennell, Board representative on the ESC and Director of Emergency Services, discussed the two methods of billing (hard billing where the insurance company is billed, then patient is billed for the balance and if not paid, the bill goes to collection) and (soft billing where the insurance company is billed, then patient is billed for the balance and if not paid, no further attempts to collect are made). It was the consensus of those present that the preferred method of billing would be "soft" billing and the revenues collected would be those from the insurance company. He stated that there are still questions to be answered, such as who will collect the funds. Mr. Kennell stated that he wanted the Board of Supervisors to hear from each agency on how they would like for revenue recovery to work.

Bruce Zirkle, Cumberland Rescue Squad stated that he is ready to begin revenue recovery. Kelly Hale, Cartersville Rescue Squad stated that she is not ready to move forward at this time. Kevin Ingle, Cumberland Fire Department believes that Cumberland Rescue should be allowed to begin revenue recovery and that funds collected should go to the Rescue Squad. Roy Garrett, Randolph Fire Department also is of the opinion that any funds collected should be for the rescue squads.

There were concerns that since there is no funding for CIP, there will no equipment replacement and that the original purpose of revenue recovery

was to replace CIP funds, however, if the Rescue Squad bills and retains all funds, this is a change in the original intent.

Mr. Kennell requested input from the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Petty then stated that he wants more information before making a decision and that the ESC needs to make a recommendation to the Board.

Mr. Kennell stated that he did not want to see the discussion on revenue recovery fragment the ESC since it had worked so well in the County since it was formed. A decision must be made about how funds will be collected—by the agencies, or by the County and redistributed to the agencies.

A concern of Mr. Womack and Mr. Oertel was that services would be impacted if Cumberland Rescue plans to cover all the southern end of the County, in place of Prince Edward.

Cumberland Rescue Squad's Attorney, Mr. Jackson, stated that Cumberland Rescue is ready for revenue recovery, beginning immediately.

There was a question as to whether the Rescue Squad needs Board approval to begin revenue recovery. Mr. Osl commented that the Board has been advised by County Attorney Estes that this is a Virginia Code requirement, and that he also agrees that this method of billing and collecting is a change in the original discussion which was that the ESC would collect the funds and redistribute to the agencies.

Mr. Kennell stated that we have received opinions from each agency and said the question now is whether to move forward. The ESC needs to make a recommendation to the Board.

Kevin Ingle then made a motion that the ESC recommends to the Board of Supervisors that the rescue squads located in Cumberland County begin the process of revenue recovery. It was seconded and passed by the ESC.

The recommendation will be discussed at the next Board of Supervisors meeting. Also, the rescue squads will discuss the coverage issues in the southern end of the County and bring back to the Board.

The Vice-Chairman ordered the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. until the regular meeting on November 17, 2009.

Chairman

County Administrator