

AT A JOINT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY VIRGINIA AND THE ROCKBRIDGE EMERGENCY RESCUE GROUP (RERG), HELD IN THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 150 SOUTH MAIN STREET LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA ON MONDAY, JUNE 28, 2010 AT 5:00 P.M.

PRESENT: CHAIRMAN A.W. LEWIS, JR.
MEMBERS: C.R. COMSTOCK, R.S. FORD, M.R. SMITH, R.H. RIEGEL
CLERK OF BOARD: CLAIRE A. COLLINS
FISCAL DIRECTOR: ROBERT E. CLAYTOR
COUNTY ATTORNEY: VICKIE L. HUFFMAN
STAFF: ROBERT FORESMAN, PENNI MCMICHAEL

Call to Order

Chairman Lewis called the meeting to order.

Discussion

Rockbridge Emergency Rescue Group President, Robert Hickman began the discussion by stating that RERG requested the joint meeting to discuss funding issues in regard to the upcoming budget year. The issue that the Group wishes to discuss is options for funding and allocations for the County Rescue Squads for the upcoming budget year. Mr. Hickman added that any reduced funds would only reduce the squads' ability to provide services. The Group does not believe it is workable to cut the funding of other squads in order to provide funding for Kerrs Creek but does recognize that without funding, Kerrs Creek will be unable to provide services for the citizens.

Mr. Ronnie Slough, representing Buena Vista Rescue Squad, noted the squad answers at least thirty percent of calls in Rockbridge County and added it would be difficult, in these economic times, for any squad to take a funding cut. Mr. Slough asked that the Board consider level funding for Kerrs Creek.

Mr. Jim Quist, Fairfield Rescue Squad Captain, noted the increased cost of fuel, equipment and training. He emphasized that the volunteers give an inordinate amount of their time to provide services to the community. Mr. Quist asked that the Board support Kerrs Creek and the community by allocating level funding.

Ms. Linda Arnold, representing Goshen Rescue Squad, stated that although she would like to see Kerrs Creek fully funded, the Goshen Rescue Squad would not be able to operate if its funding was cut. She asked that the Board consider level funding for all the squads.

Mr. Tim Goodbar, Kerrs Creek Rescue Squad representative, noted several squads that will have difficulty providing services if funds were cut whereas if level funding was not provided for Kerrs Creek they would not be able to operate at all.

Mr. J.D. Clemmer, representing the Effinger Rescue Squad, stressed that Kerrs Creek needs the funding more so just starting out than it does once it becomes established. He added he does not think it a positive move to give one-half of Effinger's funding share in order to fund Kerrs Creek. Mr. Clemmer stated Effinger will run its ambulance regardless of the Board's decision on funding.

At this time Mr. Hickman distributed RERG's recommendation to the Board on how to disperse funds if all the squads can't be level funded. RERG recommended that

if cuts had to be made they would suggest Effinger's allotment be split between Effinger and Kerrs Creek. The main justifications being both are operating out of one building. Mr. Hickman spoke on behalf of the Glasgow Rescue Squad by giving the number of calls answered in May and explaining how a funding cut would have a negative impact on the services being provided.

In response to a question from Supervisor Comstock concerning the status of the Request for Proposals for Revenue Recovery, Ms. Collins reported on the number of proposals the County received and informed the Board of the next step which is to establish a review team.

The Board and the representatives discussed cost savings measures the squads were or could be taking. Squads purchasing gas from the County and County assistance with the squads' annual audits and use of tough books were some of the potential cost saving issues raised.

Mr. Claytor suggested the County pay the first two allocations which would give the Board time to examine potential income from the revenue recovery process. Supervisor Smith moved to allocate equitable funding (\$16,555.60) across the board for the first two quarters and re-evaluate the situation in January 2011. The Board stressed that any department experiencing financial difficulty during this time can come back to the Board. Supervisor Ford provided the second. Supervisor Riegel stated it was unfortunate the County was in this spot and expressed his concern relative to the process and his dissatisfaction of data not being provided for the decision making. Supervisor Riegel also added the County now has a wide open procedure for anyone to create a rescue squad. Supervisor Ford informed the Board the data Supervisor Riegel mentioned is expected to be available next month and would provide a clearer understanding of the numbers, calls, needs, etc. The motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

AYES: Smith, Ford, Riegel, Comstock, Lewis

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

Adjourn

The joint meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:10 p.m.