

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
FEBRUARY 12, 2015**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a special meeting on Thursday, February 12, 2015 in the Hugh Cale Commissioners Board Room in the Pasquotank County Courthouse.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph S. Winslow, Jr., Chairman
Cecil Perry, Vice-Chairman
Jeff Dixon
Dr. William R. Sterritt
Bettie J. Parker

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lloyd E. Griffin, III (*Out of Town*)
Frankie Meads (*Out of Town*)

OTHERS PRESENT: Rodney Bunch, County Manager
R. Michael Cox, County Attorney
Sheri Small, Finance Officer
Jerry Newell, EMS Director
Karen Jennings, Clerk to the Board

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM by Chairman Joe Winslow who stated that the purpose of today's meeting is to discuss the EMS contract between Pasquotank County and Camden County.

1. EMS CONTRACT:

County Manager Rodney Bunch explained that the Board had approved a proposal at its last meeting to provide Camden County with 12 hours of EMS coverage at two stations in Camden County at a cost of \$500,000 per year for two years with a 3% increase in cost the second year. He provided a copy of a letter from Camden County proposing that the cost be reduced to \$485,000 with a 3% increase in the second year.

Mr. Bunch stated that both Boards will be meeting on Monday and the Board needs to respond to Camden's proposal so the Camden County Board of Commissioners might take action on the county's proposal at its meeting on Monday.

Chairman Winslow noted that he has spoken with each member of the Board and with staff and he believes the county can accept the \$485,000 offer although it is not the \$500,000 the county wanted. He added that the \$500,000 figure was rounded up from an estimate of \$483,739. He stated that the county has also learned that there will be no reduction in Medicaid and Medicare mileage reimbursements as originally indicated due to reclassification of Camden zip codes. Chairman Winslow said the \$500,000 amount also included telephone/internet charges and building maintenance, however Camden has advised that those are already included in Camden's budget and will be made available to EMS staff.

Chairman Winslow asked if the members of the Board are agreeable to Camden County's counterproposal or if they have other suggestions or changes. In response to a question from Commissioner Sterritt, Chairman Winslow stated that there is no profit factored into the \$485,000 amount as it is based on actual costs.

Commissioner Parker asked if this is the way the contract has been negotiated in the past. Commissioner Dixon responded that this is new ground because the contract has not been approached this way in the past since previously Camden County paid 20% of the difference between the estimated revenues and expenditures. The two counties are now negotiating a fee based on the true cost.

Chairman Winslow stated that Camden County has been getting a good deal for many years and now that everything has been laid out and this contract is being approached from a different perspective, he believes it has been a shock to Camden as to the good deal they were getting. He

said they are now going to have to pay a lot more to get the same services plus the additional services they want.

Commissioner Sterritt asked why the proposed contract would be for two years instead of three. Chairman Winslow said he prefers a two year contract because there are risks involved and it is unknown where the healthcare and insurance industries will be in two years or what the Medicare reimbursement rates will be. He said if Medicare were to decrease its reimbursement rates it would fall on Pasquotank County to make up the difference. He stated that Camden would prefer a two year contract so they would be in a position to look at something different at the end of two years if they felt that the contract with Pasquotank County was not working.

Vice-Chairman Perry suggested that Pasquotank split the difference and counter at \$492,000.

Commissioner Parker said if the calculations have already been done and staff feels that \$500,000 is fair, she would like to stick with the \$500,000 figure. Chairman Winslow noted that since those calculations were made it has been determined that charges for telephone/internet and building maintenance can be eliminated since Camden will provide those items.

Commissioner Dixon stated that even though Pasquotank County will be paying more as a result of the second location in the South Mills area of Camden County the residents in the northern portion of Pasquotank County will also benefit because it will decrease the response times to the Newland area. Commissioner Dixon noted that Pasquotank County is one of the few counties in the state, if not the only one, where taxpayer money does not contribute to the cost of EMS.

Mr. Bunch stated that Camden's first proposal back to Pasquotank County was \$425,000, so Camden has moved from that amount to \$450,000 to the \$485,000 it is now proposing.

County Attorney Mike Cox provided a draft contract with Camden County for the Board's consideration. He stated that the contract amounts for each year still have to be filled in.

After discussing Camden's counterproposal further Commissioner Sterritt said in the interest of goodwill he thinks the Board should approve the \$485,000 figure.

Motion was made by William Sterritt, seconded by Jeff Dixon to approve the proposed two-year Emergency Medical Services agreement with Camden County with Camden to pay the rate of \$485,000 to Pasquotank County the first year with a 3% increase to \$499,550 the second year.

Discussion followed and members of the Board expressed a desire that the contract contain language requiring a meeting of the chairmen and managers in January 2017 to determine the next step with regard to termination or renewal of the contract so that each Board will have notice of the other's intentions before the contract expires on June 30, 2017. Mr. Cox agreed to include language to this effect in the agreement.

The motion carried by a four to one vote with Vice-Chairman Perry voting against the motion.

Chairman Winslow thanked the Board and staff for their patience during these contract negotiations. He said he believes the contract that has been approved will be fair to everyone concerned.

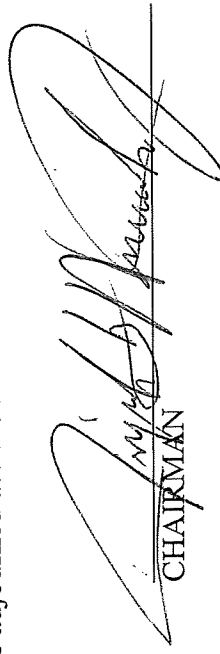
2. DISCUSSION REGARDING BOARD OF ELECTIONS ACTION:

The County Manager passed out a summary of this week's action by the Pasquotank County Board of Elections to approve a precinct consolidation plan that would combine the current eight city precincts into four precincts. Mr. Bunch said nothing has officially been approved yet and the Board of Elections took action to request the change, however it has to be approved by the State Board of Elections. Mr. Cox explained that the recommendation to consolidate precincts came from the State Board of Elections. He said part of the reason the State Board was pressing for consolidation was because of the number of one-stop voters now. He stated that one upcoming issue is the purchase of new voting machines. He noted that the county has received grant funds in the past for purchasing voting machines and there are no more grants available for the purchase of voting machines. Mr. Bunch stated that it is not a requirement to consolidate, only a recommendation. It was noted this would not change precinct lines or what appears on

voters' ballots, but would only change where they would cast their ballots. Mr. Cox advised that the Board of Elections has not gotten into the details yet as to which precincts would be closed or consolidated. He said even with the consolidation, the precincts would still not be as large as some of the county precincts. Finance Officer Sheri Small added that the consolidation would also save on poll worker costs. Members of the Board commented that they would have liked to have had some advance knowledge that the Board of Elections was considering this change before it came out in the newspaper.

Chairman Winslow asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being no further business;

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Cecil Perry to adjourn the meeting.
The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 2:48 PM.



CHAIRMAN


CLERK TO THE BOARD