

**Windsor, North Carolina
December 12, 2013
Special Meeting**

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met for a Special Meeting at 10:00AM in the Commissioners Room located at 106 Dundee Street Windsor, NC. The following members were present or absent:

Present: J. Wallace Perry, Chairman
Charles L. Smith, Vice-Chairman
John Trent
Ronald "Ron" Wesson
Rick Harrell

Absent: None

Staff Present: County Manager Scott Sauer
Clerk to the Board Sarah Seredni
County Attorney Lloyd Smith
Finance Director William Roberson
Emergency Services Director Mitch Cooper

Bertie County Sheriff John Holley, Communications Supervisor Jennifer Stalls, and Register of Deeds Annie Wilson were present for a portion of the meeting.

Medical Transport representatives present included Operation Managers Will Megs and Anthony Wilson, as well as Director of Medical Transport Russell Blow.

Media members present included Thadd White of the Bertie Ledger-Advance, and Gene Motley of the Roanoke-Chowan News Herald. A representative from WITN Channel 9 was also present to film the meeting.

Chairman Perry opened the meeting, and thanked the public for their attendance.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Harrell gave the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

EMS Transition Update

County Manager Scott Sauer provided the Board with an update regarding the EMS transition.

County Manager Sauer thanked the Board for their rapid response action in regards to FirstMed, and their planned bankruptcy filing.

County Manager Sauer also commended the leadership of Emergency Services Director Mitch Cooper, and informed the Board of a meeting that took place between Cooper, Sauer, and at least 30 former FirstMed employees on Monday, December 9th. Cooper and Sauer received grateful comments from the employees toward both Cooper and the Board.

County Manager Sauer stated that the EMS staff from the Coburn building had been moved into a facility in Windsor, and that all ambulances and equipment had been secured with a copy of the Temporary Restraining Order (TRO).

County Manager Sauer also commended other various County staff members for their team work and quick call to action including: Sheriff John Holley, Communications Supervisor Jennifer Stalls, Network Administrators Scott Pearce and Joe Wilkes, Clerk to the Board Sarah Seredni, Finance Director William Roberson, Economic Developer Steve Biggs, all Maintenance staff, and Human Resources Carolyn Fornes.

County Manager Sauer also thanked County Attorney Lloyd Smith, and Assistant County Attorney Jonathan Huddleston for securing swiftly a Court Order to maintain EMS services, and all equipment.

Mr. Sauer informed the Board that he also received support, and phone calls from various community officials, and other counties including: Mayor Burney Baker of Colerain, Mayor Larry Drew of Aulander, Chowan County Manager Zee Lamb, Northampton County EMS Director Chuck Joyner, and Washington County Manager Rhodes, as well as Washington County EMS Director David Clary.

Mr. Sauer also commended MedEx of Ahoskie for their offer of equipment (ambulance vehicles) as well NCACC for securing liability insurance, and Worker's Compensation benefits

Mr. Sauer also gave an honorable mention to Commissioner Wesson as he suggested that the County explore Washington County's EMS system as a prototype.

County Manager Sauer recommended that the Board approve various financial documents involved with the EMS transition, and also proposed another meeting for Wednesday, December 18th.

Emergency Services Director Mitch Cooper then introduced Medical Transport representatives including Operation Managers Will Megs and Anthony Wilson, as well as Director of Medical Transport Russell Blow.

Medical Transport personnel posed questions to the Board regarding financials and billing practices. They also stated that they would be happy to assist in any way possible, but commended the Board for their swift and efficient response to the events.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Perry opened the floor to any Public Comments.

Ricky White of White Oak Medical expressed disappointment in the County for not contacting him about receiving additional assistance during this time. He encouraged the Board to reconsider the previous EMS system, and recommended only in County services.

There were no other Public Comments in this section.

MANAGEMENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS

County Manager Sauer recommended that the Board adopt Budget Amendment #14-02. The amendment would make approximately \$1.2 million available to continue emergency ambulance services through June 2014.

Chairman Perry posed a question to Finance Director William Roberson regarding a billing number.

Roberson and Emergency Services Director Cooper stated that a new billing number could be attained in 45-60 days.

The Board also discussed the possibility of keeping EMS services under County control, and not outsourcing again to another provider.

Commissioner Wesson recommended that the Board continue to pursue all possibilities.

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to approve Budget Amendment #14-02 which would make approximately \$1.2 million available to continue emergency ambulance services through June 2014. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Budget Amendment #14-02 reads as follows:

BUDGET AMENDMENT

14-02

	DECREASE		DECREASE
10-4330-5399-49	\$ 180,833	10-0090-4991-99	\$ 180,833
	INCREASE		INCREASE
10-4335-5121-00	\$ 551,881	RES SQUAD>	10-0090-4991-99 \$ 180,833
10-4335-5126-00	\$ 78,915	MED REIMB>	10-0090-4991-99 \$ 35,508
10-4335-5181-00	\$ 45,503	FEES	10-0030-4480-00 \$ 416,667
10-4335-5182-00	\$ 39,018	**NEED**>	10-0090-4991-99 \$ 566,278
10-4335-5183-00	\$ 111,710		
10-4335-5186-00	\$ 85,000		
10-4335-5186-01	\$ 3,959		
10-4335-5250-00	\$ 41,000		
10-4335-5260-00	\$ 1,000		

10-4335-5290-02	Departmental Supplies	\$	32,000	
10-4335-5310-00	Travel	\$	500	
10-4335-5320-00	Telephone & Postage	\$	3,800	
10-4335-5330-00	Utilities	\$	8,000	
10-4335-5352-00	Maint. - Equip.	\$	5,000	
10-4335-5353-00	Maint. - Vehicle	\$	22,000	
10-4335-5395-00	Employee Training	\$	20,000	
10-4335-5450-00	Insurance	\$	15,000	
10-4335-5510-00	Cap. Outlay - Equip	\$	90,000	
10-4335-5540-00	Cap. Outlay - Vehicles	\$	45,000	
			\$ 1,199,286	\$ 1,199,286

TO SET UP BUDGET - EMS SERVICES

Temporary Fee Structure

County Manager Sauer also recommended that the Board approve a Temporary Fee Structure.

Commissioner Harrell made a **MOTION** to approve the Temporary Fee structure that would take the County through to June 2014. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Temporary Fee Structure reads as follows:

Level of Service	HCPCS Code	Price
ALS 1 Emergency	A0427	\$600.00
ALS Non-Emergency	A0426	\$400.00
ALS Level 2 Emergency	A0433	\$800.00
BLS Emergency	A0429	\$500.00
BLS Non-Emergency	A0428	\$400.00
Specialty Care Transport	A0434	\$900.00
Mileage	A0425	\$13.00

MedEx Emergency Vehicles

County Manager Sauer advised the Board that it would not be a possibility for MedEx to lease 5 later model emergency vehicles to the County. County Manager Sauer offered the Board the opportunity to purchase all 5 emergency vehicles for a lump sum of \$45,000.

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to purchase 5 later model emergency vehicles from MedEx for a lump sum of \$45,000. Vice-Chairman Smith **SECONDED** the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

EMS Consultants

County Manager Sauer informed the Board that EMS Consultants of LaGrange, Georgia had offered Bertie County a 5.5% service fee on monthly net collections, and will also provide six (6) mobile computers, all software, and technical support services as early as December 16th.

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to accept the offer from EMS Consultants. Commissioner Harrell and Vice-Chairman Smith **SECONDED** the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Human Resources

County Manager Sauer also stated that it may benefit the County to adopt Washington County's job descriptions for EMS personnel, as Washington County is similar to Bertie County. Mr. Sauer requested approval for the County to mirror the descriptions of Washington County.

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to adopt Washington County's EMS employee model. Vice-Chairman Smith **SECONDED** the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

At this time, Chairman Perry re-opened the floor to Public Comments.

Nick Shook stated that he knew the County could not have foreseen the FirstMed bankruptcy. He stated that the Board should not rush this transition process and to "do it right this time." He thanked the Board for their quick response.

Chairman Perry stated that he appreciated Mr. Shook mentioning that the FirstMed bankruptcy was unforeseeable by the Board. Mr. Perry also commended County Manager Scott Sauer and Emergency Services Director Mitch Cooper for their diligent work since being notified of the bankruptcy situation.

There were no other public comments.

County Manager Sauer recommended that the Board go into Closed Session pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with the County Attorney in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege that exists between the attorney and this public body.

Vice-Chairman Smith made a **MOTION** to go into Closed Session pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(3). Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board shifts into Closed Session.

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to go return to Open Session . Vice-Chairman Smith **SECONDED** the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board shifts back into Open Session

OPEN SESSION

The Board had no further discussion.

ADJOURN

Chairman Perry adjourned the meeting at 11:33am.

J. Wallace Perry, Chairman

Sarah Seredni, Clerk to the Board