

MINUTES

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF HENDERSON

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 10, 1995

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners met for a Special Called meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room of the County Office Building. The purpose of the meeting was an EMS Satellite Substation Workshop.

Those present were: Chairman Renee Kumor, Vice-Chairman Vollie G. Good, Commissioner J. Michael Edney, Commissioner Bob Eklund, Commissioner Don Ward, Assistant County Manager David E. Nicholson, EMS Director Tom Edmundson, Asst. EMS Director Terry Layne, Clerk to the Board Elizabeth W. Corn and members of the media.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Kumor called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. Chairman Kumor stated that the purpose of this workshop was to allow public comments regarding the need and placement of an EMS Satellite Substation.

PARK RIDGE HOSPITAL PRESENTATION

Mike Gentry, Director of Marketing/Public Relations at Park Ridge Hospital, used a Henderson County tax map and discussed response times, population, and population density.

Herman Davis, Assistant to the President of Park Ridge Hospital, discussed the economics of placing the satellite substation at Park Ridge. Park Ridge would be willing to:

1. donate the land for the substation
2. build the building and lease it to the county
3. help train the necessary staff
4. explore the county's suggestions.

FLETCHER TOWNSHIP

There were no representatives present from Fletcher due to a Township Meeting. It was stated that there were letters on file at the Commissioners Office from the Town of Fletcher.

MARGARET R. PARDEE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Frank J. Aaron, Jr., Chief Executive Officer at Pardee Hospital,

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suggested that the satellite substation be built at the location of the Family Practice Center in Mills River at the 191/280 intersection.

MILLS RIVER FIRE AND RESCUE

Rick Livingston, Chief of Mills River Fire and Rescue, felt that the recommendations of the EMS staff should be followed and the EMS satellite substation be placed in the Northwest District of Henderson County. He wants it located where it will serve the most citizens the fastest. He asked that the Board of Commissioners disregard politics in making this important decision.

ETOWAH/HORSE SHOE FIRE AND RESCUE

Don Gash, Chief of Etowah/Horse Shoe Fire and Rescue, stated that he can see a definite need for an EMS satellite substation.

BLUE RIDGE FIRE AND RESCUE

Gary Brown, Chief of Blue Ridge Fire and Rescue, stated that he is highly in favor of a satellite substation. He stated that Blue Ridge has land available for the county's use for such a substation.

HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Bob Rugal, a resident of High Vista Estates in Mills River, stated that he can see a definite need for an EMS satellite substation. This is the sort of thing that everyone would want in their neighborhood.

PUBLIC INPUT

Kevin Waldrup - Assistant Chief at Edneyville Fire and Rescue, Mr. Waldrup agreed that there is a definite need for a satellite substation. Edneyville would agree to an EMS crew at their department. They have an extra bay.

Dr. H.B. Norton - Dr. Norton stated that he was speaking as a private citizen. He has been a vol. fireman for 28 years and a member of the Fire Commission for 37 years. He spoke of a definite need for an EMS satellite substation. Regarding the location of the substation, he stated that the following should be considered:

- *long-range planning
- *the quickest response time
- *population growth
- *greatest number of homes, not industry

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Jim Kennedy - Mr. Kennedy, a retiree in the Mills River community of Henderson County, spoke of the need for an EMS satellite substation in the Mills River area.

Billy Anders - Mr. Anders stated that he has 26 years with the Blue Ridge Fire and Rescue. He can see a definite need for a substation but stated that it just won't work at one of the fire departments. It should be a separate entity. He asked that the Board "think lives, not money" in making this important decision.

BOARD DIRECTION TO STAFF

Commissioner Edney asked that staff research daytime response times versus nighttime response times.

Commissioner Good discussed how a Convalescence Ambulance Service would affect EMS as a department and asked if we would still have a need for a satellite substation if we had a Convalescence Ambulance Service in Henderson County.

There was discussion of how many additional personnel would be needed to staff a substation. At least four additional personnel would be needed, up to as many as eight.


The question was asked about how many of the present calls are convalescent calls. The answer was given that 60% of calls are emergency and 40% are convalescent. 60% of the calls are to residents over the age of 65.

Staff will research the information requested and bring it back to the Board of Commissioners.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:


Elizabeth W. Corn, Clerk


Renee Kumor, Chairman

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