

MINUTES

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF HENDERSON

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 12, 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 Work Session.

Those present were: Chairman Renee Kumor, Vice-Chairman Vollie G. Good, Commissioner J. Michael Edney, Commissioner Bob Eklund, Commissioner Don Ward, County Manager David F. Thompson, 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 reminded those in attendance that this work session was for the Board of Commissioners. It was held so that the Board could receive information that Terry Layne has prepared. It was not a time for a dialogue or questions from the audience.

The Board of Commissioners will have further discussion when they will invite public input, since this will be a long term process.

Terry Layne - EMS Presentation**Proposal for first EMS Satellite Substation**

Terry Layne informed the Board that part of his department's effectiveness is measured by their response times, which is from the time the bay doors open and they respond until they arrive at the patient's side.

The American Heart Association recommends that a Paramedic Crew be on the scene of a life threatening emergency (heart attack, trauma, or medical emergency) within 8-10 minutes of receiving a call. Irreversible brain damage can occur in as little as 6 minutes without proper care.

In 1993, their average response time increased by an average of 2 minutes, to the outlying areas of the county. This increased the average response time to the outlying areas to over 12 minutes.

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The increase in the past year is an unacceptable time for life-threatening emergencies. The increase was due to three uncontrollable reasons:

1. Increased number of emergency calls,
2. Traffic along the major highways 25N, 191, 64E-W,
3. The increase in the number of calls to the out skirts of the county which is directly related to residential development of the more outlying areas of the county. Henderson County has the fastest growing population in Western North Carolina.

EMS is centrally located at 820 Justice Street. Terry Layne showed the location on a map of the county. He also showed major highways on the map that they use daily for accessing emergency calls.

At this location, EMS responded to 3,800 emergency calls in 1993. EMS also responded to 3,807 routine calls. With the increase in response times and the increased number of emergency calls, they have determined that they need to satellite a substation to decrease response times.

On a different map, Terry Layne showed EMS districts. There are **four proposed EMS Districts** according to response times, number of calls, (serving the most people), geographic location, and road and highway accessibility:

Northwest - Fletcher, Mills River, and Etowah-Horse Shoe Fire Districts.

East - Edneyville, Dana, Bat Cave, and Gerton Fire Districts.

Central - City, Mountain Home, and Valley Hill Fire Districts.

Southern - Blue Ridge, Green River, and Saluda Fire Districts.

They have combined fire districts to determine the number of calls and average response times to the proposed EMS Districts. The Northwest district had a call volume of 706 (19%) of the emergency calls and an average response time of 12.1 minutes. The Southern District had a call volume of 529 (14%) emergency calls, an average response time of 12.3 minutes. The Central district had 2,096 (55%) of the emergency calls and an average response time of 4.8 minutes. The Eastern district had 469 (12%) of the emergency calls and a response time of 16.4 minutes.

Terry Layne then compared 1992 to 1993 emergency calls and average response times. The Northwest District had a 2.1 minute increase in response time and an increase of 72 emergency calls. The

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Southern District had an increase in response time of 1.8 minutes and a decrease of 6 emergency calls. The Central District had 79 O.R. calls while the response time remained the same. The Eastern District had an increase of 2 minutes in response time and an increase of 9 emergency calls.

Using the information they have gathered: number of calls, average response times, location of calls, and projected population growth, EMS staff recommended that the satellite station be centrally located in the Northwest section of Henderson County, near the intersection of 280 and 191.

The reason this area was chosen to locate a satellite substation in was the average increase of 20% in response times to this area over the past year, 10% increase in the number of emergency calls to this area, the accessibility due to the completion of highways 280 and 191, and the projected population growth. Placing a satellite substation centrally in the Northwest District at the intersection of 280 and 191 could allow EMS to reduce response times to Etowah-Horse Shoe, Mills River, and Fletcher.

Terry Layne stated there are over 4,700 dwellings in the Northwest district and a population of approximately 15,600. A substation centrally located could respond to Etowah-Horse Shoe in 9 minutes and respond to Fletcher in 7 minutes. This location for the satellite substation would reduce the average response time to this district by approximately 5.1 minutes per call for 706 emergency calls.

The population of the county is expected to grow 19% by the year 2000. The Mills River and Hoopers Creek townships are projected to grow 30% and 22% respectively. With this in mind in reference to page 78 of the Land Use Plan, focus was on the growth areas of the county, and the associated need for additional medical service facilities to serve these growth areas. A substation centrally located in the Northwest part of the county would meet these emergency medical needs.

In answer to a question, Terry Layne stated that in life threatening situations, EMS must take the patient to the nearest hospital facility. There was much discussion with questions asked and answered sporadically during Mr. Layne's presentation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

At the close of the meeting, several people signed up to speak at an up-coming work session:

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Herman Davis - Park Ridge Hospital.
Gary Livingston - Mills River Fire Department.
Lowell Griffin - Edneyville Fire & Rescue.

ATTEST:

Elizabeth W. Corn
Elizabeth W. Corn, Clerk

Renee Kumor
Renee Kumor, Chairman