



Public Safety Committee Agenda

Committee Members:

The Honorable Ray Graham, Chairman
The Honorable Craig Wooten
The Honorable Jimmy Davis

Friday, August 14, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

This meeting will be held via Webex:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Call to Order: | Honorable Ray Graham |
| 2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: | Honorable Jimmy Davis |
| 3. Approval of Public Safety Minutes:
a. July 2, 2020 | All Committee Members |
| 5. Discussion on EMS Billing Fees: | Mr. Steve Kelly |
| 6. QRV's Outline Area | Mr. Steve Kelly |
| 7. Executive Session:
a. Discussion concerning Franchise Agreements and Contracts | |
| 8. Citizen Comments: | |
| 9. Adjournment: | |

Tommy Dunn
Chairman, District 5

Craig Wooten
Council District 1

Ray Graham
Council District 3

Cindy Wilson
Council District 7

Brett Sanders
V. Chairman, District 4

Gracie Floyd
Council District 2

Jimmy Davis
Council District 6

Lacey Croegaert
Clerk to Council

ANDERSON COUNTY
SOUTH CAROLINA
Rusty Burns | County Administrator
rburns@andersoncountysc.org



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To join from a mobile device (attendees only)

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To join by phone

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**Minutes
Public Safety Committee
Thursday, July 2, 2020**

The Public Safety Committee meeting of Thursday, July 2, 2020 was called to order at 8:03am by Chairman Ray Graham. Mr. Craig Wooten and Mr. Jimmy Davis were in attendance for the Public Safety Committee meeting. The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was provided by Mr. Jimmy Davis.

The following items were discussed by the committee:

3. Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Jimmy Davis made the motion to approve the Public Safety Committee minutes for December 16, 2019, January 24, 2020 and February 12, 2020 with a second from Mr. Craig Wooten, the committee voted unanimously 3-0 to recommend to Full Council.

4. EMS items, Mr. Steve Kelly, Mr. Don McCown

Currently, there are issues concerning other providers actively taking over nursing homes and transporting all patients exclusively when they are not a part of the franchise agreement franchise. The downside of this is it impacts the other providers. The purpose of the franchise agreement was to solidify the groups involved to avoid bombarding the system. Vital Care has taken over nursing homes in Powdersville, Piedmont, and James St. in Anderson, and Medshore is sub-contracting with another which violates the franchise agreement. Mr. Steve Kelly has talked with these businesses and sent certified letters stating this issue was previously talked about in person. In addition to the letter Mr. Steve Kelly provided a copy of the ordinance of which they are in violation, and an application with the information on how to apply to become part of the franchise. A letter will be sent by the County and the Enforcement officer can deliver it. The County can look into other options for the future.

The County will maintain the current budget from the previous year. There would be no increase in funding at this time. The providers could receive some federal funding from COVID loans if they have applied. Across the United States, the call volumes for the 911 system are down 35%.

Some changes that have been looked at within the City will allow the County to be more accountable within the EMS system. The County will be able to put more focus on patient care, not on the transport aspect. Priority is having issues with customer service, response issues, and difficulty finding paramedics so it was proposed to them that we want them to pay for us to fund five QRV's. The QRV's are paramedics that will be able to respond and provide patient care. As a benefit of doing this, the paramedics will be the best and it will also allow us to select from a better pool of candidates from across Anderson County and this will put the County in the position to assist if a system fails. In the background, EMS Systems are collapsing, and some counties are going bankrupt. The County needs to be prepared for the future with the most cost-effective solutions. Priority is currently having a hard time finding paramedics and if they will pay us to provide the QRV then the County will have some control over the patient care and control over the system. If a squad fails the County will be prepared to step in take it over and fix it. There is not currently a five or ten-year plan to determine what to do if something happens in the future.

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Thursday, July 2, 2020

Transportation in the EMS industry is secondary. The goal is to put someone qualified to handle the patient care on the scene within a 959-response time compliance. The paramedic's only job is to take care of the patient. For this proposal Priority will pay the County to fund 5 QRV's. This will increase the amount of staff by 15 personnel to be run by shifts. The QRV's will respond on every emergency call that requires a paramedic and if a patient has to go to the hospital the paramedic will get on the ambulance and ride to the hospital with them. Priority will bill for their monthly Advanced Life Support (ALS) and they will pay the County a monthly fee to provide the QRV's. This plan will be used for one year and after Anderson County has been providing the service we will need a certain amount of income for providing Advanced Life Support (ALS). EMS has historically been dependent on transports to generate revenue.

Paramedics are in a shortage. A benefit for Anderson County employees is an excellent benefits package. The County will be going back to the emergency concept when the paramedics came out, did patient care and, got on the ambulance and rode in. It is not financially feasible to put a paramedic on every call. Mr. Steve Kelly worked on the EMD Protocols that will help dispatch determine who needs to go to what call. The QRV concept will help put the County in a position to sustain if anything happens. A paramedic can do anything for a critical or cardiac arrest patient such as cardiac monitoring, administering medication, and advanced airway. A paramedic is required to take 2+ years of schooling. An EMT is required to take six months of schooling and is limited in skills but can handle about 95% of calls. The average pay of a paramedic is \$43,000 per year. A paramedic will arrive on the scene in an SUV, administer care and if the patient needs to be transported to the hospital they will ride with them on the ambulance.

The main focus is on taking care of our constituents, taking care of our community and providing patient care and the transportation is secondary. This will allow the County to pick the paramedics and create a more efficient program. Priority is on board with this proposal. They have requested to increase the response time to add 2 minutes and that the County do an Advanced Life Support (ALS) assessment on every patient that will allow Priority to be able to bill for those services. They also asked for an extension on the contract. The committee would like staff to look into the paramedics pay range to see if Anderson County is current with other counties.

Mr. Jimmy Davis made the motion to send the proposal for QRV's to Full Council with a second from Mr. Craig Wooten, the committee voted unanimously to recommend to Full Council.

5. Radio Approval for West Pelzer, Mr. Mark Williamson

Mr. Mark Williamson has been looking into adding the small towns into our radio system. The palmetto radio rate was previously negotiated down to allow the County to have no new cost up to 2000 radios. West Pelzer and the other small towns are having some strain paying these fees to Palmetto 800. If the County rolls the small towns into our radio system it will take away their cost to pay for the radios and it will require no additional cost to Anderson County. The total number of radios would be 41 if we added all the small towns. Mr. Mark Williamson would not recommend adding any privatized radios at this time. This will be big savings for those who serve through our small towns. The County currently has 1400 radios with a cap cost of 2000 radios so there is plenty of capacity.

Mr. Craig Wooten made the motion to move radio approval to Full Council with a second from Mr. Jimmy Davis, the committee voted unanimously 3-0 to recommend to Full Council.

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6. Discussion concerning radios, Mark Williamson

The radios system was started 10 years ago with radio towers and the replacement of radios. It was a big expense to the County with a lot of discussions to make it work. It is approaching time to talk about radios again. The radios in service are now 10 years old. The radio replacement for similar radios will cost around \$5000 apiece. There is currently no funding in place. When discussing the budget a plan could be put into place to replace so many radios each year. Mr. Mark Williamson and Mr. Steve Newton are working on grants and funding options that could provide some assistance with radio costs.

This item was for information only. No decisions or votes were taken for this item.

There being no further business, the Public Safety Committee meeting adjourned at 9:31 am.

Public Safety Committee

_____, Chairman

_____ Date