

**Minutes
Public Safety Committee
Friday, October 23, 2020**

The Public Safety Committee meeting of Friday, October 23, 2020 was called to order at 8:32am by Chairman Ray Graham. Mr. Craig Wooten, Mr. Jimmy Davis, and Ms. M. Cindy were in attendance for the Public Safety Committee meeting. The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was provided by Mr. Craig Wooten.

The following items were discussed by the committee:

Mr. Craig Wooten made the motion to go into Executive Session for Discussion on Franchise Agreements with a second from Mr. Jimmy Davis, the committee voted unanimously 3-0 to go into Executive Session.

Mr. Craig Wooten made the motion to come out of Executive Session with a second from Mr. Jimmy Davis, the committee voted unanimously 3-0 to come out of Executive Session with no decision or votes taken.

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

3. Approval of Public Safety Minutes:

Mr. Craig Wooten made the motion to approve the corrected August 14, 2020 Public Safety Committee minutes with a second from Mr. Jimmy Davis, the committee voted unanimously 3-0 to recommend to Full Council.

4. Discussion on EMS Franchise Requests, Mr. Steve Kelly:

Mr. Jimmy Davis made the motion the County does not accept any Franchise applications for a period of six months until we evaluate how the QRV success rate is for the County. Any funds received by a company applying will be refunded with a second from Mr. Craig Wooten. The committee voted unanimously to 3-0 to recommend to Full Council.

5. Update on EMS System, Mr. Ray Graham:

Mr. Jacky Jackson requested an increase to the subsidy for the unit at Sandy Springs due to concerns that less subsidy is received from Anderson County for this unit than other providers are receiving for the same partial unit. At this time Williford and Ebenezer have a QRV in and removed the ambulance Priority had in place to be more feasible for the County. Mr. Graham recommended the subsidy should stay the same for this unit. The issues are with paramedic coverage in this truck and with the implementation of the EMD system and the QRV's in place, there should be less of a strain on resources making it a more manageable system. Staffing this truck with a paramedic/ EMT does max out the subsidy that is paid to them. This is an important truck for this area because each truck runs at least one hundred ten 911 calls a month. This a 12-hour day truck and is very busy. If this unit was replaced with a QRV the County would lose another transport unit which would be taxing to the surrounding areas. Since this truck was added Clemson University has not had to come into Anderson County to assist as much and previously it was once or twice a day. Since dispatch has been revamped Mr. Steve Kelly would like to have a discussion with Mr. Jackson that if it can't be kept as paramedic/EMT then it should go to EMT/ EMT. At this time the County cannot increase the subsidy so staff will work with him to keep it Paramedic/EMT. A paramedic is in place at the Zion Fire Department. The funding is not there to increase the EMS system so the County is trying to be constructive to provide the same level of care and improve the services for the same cost.

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6. Update on QRV, Mr. Steve Kelly, and Mr. Don McCown:

On October 1, 2020, the seven QRV's began operation and have been running for 23 days. Zion, Starr, Ebenezer, and Williford are 12-hour day trucks. Homeland Park, Centerville, and City Station 3 are the 24-hour trucks. The new dispatch software began implementation on Thursday, October 22, 2020. It will take a few days to get everything running smoothly and to make everything easier for the QRV's and the County as a whole. The impact of the QRV's has been significant. It is taking longer to staff and fill the part-time positions due to COVID. The system has been running well so far. This system is not only being used by Anderson it's being used in Iva, Belton, and the City of Anderson. Positive feedback has been received by providers and patients. One QRV was damaged by a fire truck. Mr. Steve Kelly appreciates the hard work of Mr. Joseph Stone in acquiring and outfitting the vehicles for this need. It took time to get everything running in a cost-effective means for the County. Some of the patient care protocols will be revamped to include new standards and this will decrease some of the needs for a paramedic and allow the EMTs to step up more. The EMTs can handle 97% of the calls received and the Paramedic will take care of the other 3%. Mr. Steve Kelly has received calls from across South Carolina and other States to see how Anderson County is implementing this system.

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

7. Citizen Comments:


Mr. David Hudon the Clinical Manager of Thorne Ambulance located in Greenville and Laurens. Mr. Hudon spoke about trying to remain in compliance. Thorne Ambulance will reapply to the Franchise Agreement in six months when it becomes available.

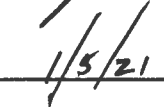
Mr. Brandon Nelson with Carolina EMS asked what process the County will use to verify the success of the QRV system and could the company continue to operate until the six month period comes if there are still calls there will be a need identified for people to come in.

Mr. Graham Carolina EMS will not be able to continue operating until a need is identified. The Council members will create some guidelines within this six month period to identify the need to add additional services into the franchise agreement. A notification will be sent out when a franchise opportunity becomes available in Anderson County.

8. Adjourn:

There being no further business, the Public Safety Committee meeting adjourned at 9:45am.

Public Safety Committee

_____, Chairman


_____, Date