

LUNENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
KENBRIDGE EMERGENCY SQUAD BUILDING
KENBRIDGE, VIRGINIA

Minutes of September 21, 2015 Joint Meeting

The continued meeting of the Lunenburg County Board of Supervisors was held jointly with the Kenbridge Town Council on Monday, September 21, 2014 at 7:00 pm at the Kenbridge Emergency Squad Building, East 5th Avenue, Kenbridge, Virginia.

The following Board of Supervisors members were present: Supervisors David Wingold, Alvester Edmonds, Robert Zava, Edward Pennington, Charles R. Slayton, Frank Bacon, T. Wayne Hoover and County Administrator Tracy M. Gee.

Mayor Emory Hodges called the Town Council meeting to order.

Town Council members Danny Thompson, Cathy Gilley, Raymond Hite, Ken Blackburn, Sallie Buchanan Glenn, Town Attorney, Cal Spencer, and Town Manager Robyn Fowler were present. Councilman Tom Palmore was absent.

Chairman Wingold called the Board of Supervisors continued special meeting to order.

Kenbridge Emergency Squad Captain Chris Craft called the squad's meeting to order.

Mayor Hodges stated that there have been some issues and concerns regarding the operations and management of the Kenbridge Emergency Squad (KES). He noted that the captain has changed several times recently. He advised that multiple funding sources have been suspended, namely the suspension of an ambulance grant, and local funds from both the Town Council and the Board of Supervisors. Mayor Hodges said that Council and the Board have been informed that KES has lost its 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status as the required forms have not been completed in over three years.

Chairman Wingold asked the Public Safety Committee to provide a synopsis of their concern.

Supervisor Hoover stated that the Board originally suspended funds for KES due to lack of required documents, but the County reinstated funding recently. He added that in light of the current tax and grant status, the squad is in jeopardy of losing County funding again. He noted that it was discovered that the grant financial page did not match the financial statements, resulting in a loss of a \$176,409 grant package. Supervisor Hoover advised that there has been a lack of response to emergency calls lately.

Mayor Hodges commented that there has been a lack of membership; only nine active members were in attendance at the meeting this evening. He added that Lunenburg County is responsible for the license for KES. Mayor Hodges said that it was time for the Town Council and Board of Supervisors to take over the organization and reorganize it.

Supervisor Hoover noted that the best solution was to allow new administration to come in under the same organization. The focus would be to create new bylaws, recruit members, and rebuild

the tax exempt status. Supervisor Hoover stated that rebuilding the tax exempt status should be a priority so that the squad may reapply for the grant to purchase an ambulance.

Mayor Hodges advised that the community could not afford to lose the organization and its services. He stated that the Council and Board would appoint an administrator to oversee the reorganization and requested the cooperation of the current squad members.

Captain Craft stated that he was not aware that the squad's 501(c)(3) status was revoked and the grant funds were in jeopardy. He commented that managing the funds through a CPA would provide for better checks and balances.

Supervisor Edmonds questioned the squad's average response time.

Captain Craft replied that KES is one of the only squads that still allow members to respond from home. Mrs. Connie Moore added that the maximum response time is 30 minutes.

Mrs. Darlene Gee commented that she was glad to see the Council and Board getting involved.

Mr. Curtis Craft noted that he is a life member. He suggested that when the bylaws are revised to require member to get an EMT certification and attend meetings. He recommended that only active members should have voting privileges.

Mayor Hodges stated that the Council and Board were offering KES a fresh start.

Mrs. Connie Moore asked if a decision had been made as to who the administrator would be, if it was a county position, if the position would be advertised, and time frame that it would be implemented.

Supervisor Hoover replied that an administrator would be in place immediately. He stated that the administrator would be on the KES payroll, otherwise a new agency would need to be created.

Mr. Curtis Craft recommended that KES accept the Council's and Board's proposal and the new administrator position.

Member Curtis Craft made motion, seconded by Member Michael Gee and unanimously approved, to accept the proposal and the new administrator position.

Councilman Blackburn made motion, seconded by Councilman Thompson and unanimously approved, for the Town of Kenbridge to restore funding to KES for electric, fuel and insurance.

Supervisor Hoover made motion, seconded by Supervisor Bacon and unanimously approved, to support the hiring of an administrator to reorganize KES.

Councilman Blackburn made motion, seconded by Councilwoman Glenn and unanimously approved, to adjourn.

Supervisor Bacon made motion, seconded by Supervisor Edmonds and unanimously approved, to adjourn.

Tracy M. Gee, Clerk
County Administrator

David E. Wingold, Sr., Chairman
Board of Supervisors