

HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING
MAY 6, 2013

6-3-13
APPROVED

Members Present: JoAnn Blankenship, Ken Arney, Robert Gobble, Ronnie Trivett, Buford Peters, L.C. Tester and Richard Winters.

Members Absent: Scott Sams.

Meeting was called to order by Chairwoman, JoAnn Blankenship at 6:30 PM. Quorum present.

Motion was made by Ken Arney, seconded by L.C. Tester, to approve as printed the minutes of the last meeting, April 1, 2013. By majority voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Old Business

Pauper's Burial was again discussed. Restore Life USA was presented last month as an option other than Pauper Burial however they cannot be the solely adopted due to the fact they are a private non-profit charity organization.

County Attorney, Keith Bowers, Jr. was present and presented information concerning Pauper Burial. It was stated that monies "may" be designated for Pauper Burial by the Commission, however it is not mandated. Also stated that Sullivan County counties no longer provide this service.

During discussion it was stated that the number had increased recently. Some felt that people were "taking advantage" of these services as now set forth by policy. Also it was noted that certain rules applied to those making request for Pauper Burial as well as the Restore Live USA program.

The Mayor stated that he felt that Pauper Burial still needs to be provided in Carter County, but other options should be available.

Presently \$ 600.00 is the fee paid for the Pauper Burial.

Motion was made by Ken Arney, seconded by Ronnie Trivett to make recommendation to refer to the Budget Committee for consideration by reviewing the current Pauper Burial policy. By majority voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

New Business

CARTER COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD

Joy Powers, Roan Highland Nursing Home was recognized by Chairwoman Blankenship at this time.

Ms. Powers stated that they have had excellent service provided by the CCRS. She ask that Commission please consider the elderly people and residents of the nursing home when making a decision concerning the CCRS.

Chairwoman Blankenship also presented letters from Tom Anderson, Carter County Tomorrow, Dwayne Taylor, Sycamore Shoals Hospital CEO, and Ron Street, Carter Co. Chief Deputy concerning CCRS.

Richard Norris, Attorney for CCRS was present and stated that City of Elizabethton presently have a four (4) year agreement with the CCRS:

Much discussion was voiced concerning the services and their cost with the CCRS.

An "a la carte" option was discussed concerning payment of services without knowing what type of services or the cost of the service would be. It was noted that cost for such services could not be determined, especially for search and rescue, due to unknown length of time that may be needed for the rescue.

County Attorney stated that at this time there was no "cap" on these fees.

Attorney Norris stated that the Commission could approve a one-time payment of \$225,000 to fund the nonprofit's annual search and rescue, prisoner, corpse transport and HazMat response services.

Strict training requirements and state mandated laws and requirements was stated as being factors in budget request.

Mayor Humphrey stated that funds received from the Secure Rural Schools Title III Project for rescue services on Forest Service property could be designated toward funding going to the CCRS.

Chairwoman Blankenship recognized and introduced to the committee Ronnie Patterson, director of operations for the TN and IL Division of Texas-based Medic One. He stated that the company was interested in serving Carter County if the opportunity was made available. However, the current contract between Carter County and City of Elizabethton could make it difficult for any company to make a profit doing so.

Motion was made by Robert Gobble, seconded by Richard Winters to present to the full Commission for vote a one (1) year contract with the Carter County Rescue Squad for \$225,000.00 and during that year to go out for bid (to see what else is available and at what cost).

Terry Arnold, CCRS stated that currently, on July 1st the contract would be expiring concerning services outside the City of Elizabethton.

Voice vote was undecided, therefore Chairwoman Blankenship called for a roll call vote as follows:

Ayes: JoAnn Blankenship, Robert Gobble, Buford Peters, and Richard Winters. (4 Ayes)

Nay: Ken Arney, and Ronnie Trivett (2 Nays)

Absent: Scott Sams and L.C. Tester

Motion Failed.

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Motion was made by Ken Arney, seconded by Ronnie Trivett to put out for bid the Emergency Services (now held by Carter County Rescue Squad).

Voice vote was undecided, therefore Chairwoman Blankenship called for a roll call vote as follows:

Ayes: Ken Arney, Ronnie Trivett, and Buford Peters. (3 Ayes)

Nays: JoAnn Blankenship, Robert Gobble, and Richard Winters. (3 Nays)

Absent: Scott Sams, and L.C. Tester (2 Absent)

Motion Failed.

Public Comments:

Joy Powers, Director of Roan Highlands Nursing Home again urged that the people living in the Roan Mountain area and the nursing home residents be consideration when the decision is made.

Issue of Emergency services will be turned over to the Budget Committee for decision.

Motion to adjourn made by Robert Gobble, seconded by Ken Arney. By majority voice vote, all ayes, meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Patsy H. Lewis, Secretary

JoAnn Blankenship, Chairman

Jo Ann Blankenship
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