

HIGHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTES

MEETING DATE – April 2, 2024

The Highland County Board of Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on April 2, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. at the Highland Modular Conference Center, 89 Highland Center Drive, Monterey, Virginia 24465.

PRESENT:	ABSENT:	STAFF / GUESTS:
Henry A. Budzinski, Jr.		Jerri Botkin, Interim County Admin.
Harry B. Sponaugle		Melissa A. Dowd, County Attorney
Paul S. Tribble		Nicholas J. Fialo, IV, EMS Chief
		R.W. Kelly, Sheriff
		25 members of the public
		35 people online

Chairman Budzinski called the meeting to order.

Supervisor Tribble made the motion to approve the minutes from March 5, 2024, and March 13, 2024, with no changes. Vice Chairman Sponaugle seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
Chairman Budzinski	Yes
Vice-Chairman Sponaugle	Yes
Supervisor Tribble	Yes

PRESENTATIONS

Corey Johnson, Virginia Department of Health presented the current locality request for our local Health Department. Mr. Johnson provided an overview of services offered and utilized in our locality and why there have been steep increases in locality requests.

County Attorney Dowd provided an overview of current statutes that pertain to local government and Emergency Medical services.

John Montgomery, President, Highland County Volunteer Resue Squad, presented the following EMS proposal for the future of Emergency Medical Services in Highland County:

- HCVRS to fund apparatus, equipment supplies, fuel, buildings, and 1/2 of the supervising paramedic salary (salary only).
- County funds 1/2 supervisor ALS, 2 ALS, 2 BLS, 2 part time, and their benefits.
- Due to a reduction in staffing we recommend current employees re-apply.
- County to receive 35% of revenue recovery funds.
- Chief position eliminated, with one paramedic paid a 10% override to schedule paid staff and coordinate regulatory compliance/scheduling with/HCVRS officers.
- All staff supervised by joint volunteer Captain/Paramedic Supervisor team.
- We recommend county owned apparatus/buildings sold, with funds returned to taxpayers.
- HCVRS will build a joint operation base in Monterey as soon as feasible.
- Paid staff will transition to the HCVRS admin building by the end of 2024.

Public Comments

Supervisor Tribble, spoke in favor of the Highland County Volunteer Rescue Squad proposal.

Chairman Budzinski, discussed a sample schedule and how this may or may not affected second due call coverage.

Dan Hamilton, EMS Advisory Committee, The cost of healthcare is always increasing, and more paid staff equals higher costs to county and residents. Without a blended system the county will not be able to continue. As a group he would like to see them continue and work on recruitment of volunteers.

Vice-Chairman Sponaugle, asked Supervisor Tribble to make considerations and allow for some give and take. The current County Building has more room for expansion and larger bays to house the units. Discussed if the Highland County Volunteers would consider moving into the Current County Building.

Captain D. Tribble Highland County Volunteer Rescue Squad, stated none of the three buildings that are currently owed are suitable for EMS, but as a whole they would be happy to entertain any suggestions to help straighten up the current mess.

Diane Montgomery, discussed issues within EMS that need to be resolved.

New Business

Christy J. Harper, Treasurer Highland County, provided the projected revenues for fiscal year 25. Due dates and advertising were discussed among board and staff.

Mrs. Botkin presented, Sheriff office Request- Vehicles—Sheriff Kelly has requested permission to order 2 vehicles for the HCSO one being a 2023 Ford Police Interceptor AWD SUV the total purchase price for this vehicle would be \$43,267. The second unit 2024 Dodge Durango Pursuit rated unit total purchase price of \$43,877. Vice-Chairman Sponaugle made to motion to approve said purchases. Supervisor Tribble seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

PRESENT

VOTE

Chairman Budzinski	Yes
Vice-Chairman Sponaugle	Yes
Supervisor Tribble	Yes

Mrs. Botkin presented, Sheriff's Office Credit Card Request—In the past the sheriff's office has had access to their own credit card staff to use for training, conferences, and long-distance transport cost in emergency situations. Sheriff Kelly is requesting a credit card account specifically for his department for this type of situation. The department would need to follow the newly adopted credit card policy and provide receipts to go along with any purchases made on the credit card. Vice-Chairman Sponaugle made to motion to allow the Sheriff's office to set up a credit card account. Supervisor Tribble seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
Chairman Budzinski	Yes
Vice-Chairman Sponaugle	Yes
Supervisor Tribble	Yes

Mrs. Botkin presented, EMS Request Chief Fialo has put together a list of needed equipment that he would like to order to place on unit 702 when it arrives.

IO Power Driver: 299.99
 EZ-IO Case: 39.95
 Halo Chest Seal: 26.59
 Triage Belt: 38.49
 Oral Glucose: 16.99
 Oral Thermometer: 454.99
 KED: 749.99
 Scoop Stretcher: 729.00
 Pedi Board: 205.99
 OB kits x2: 19.49 ea.
 Pedi Mate: 458.99
 Intubation bag: 74.99
 Padded Splint boards with case: 80.99
 Adult Traction Splint: 583.99
 Pediatric Traction Splint: 592.99
 IV mini bag: 48.99
 Portable Suction Unit: 1,199.99
 CPR Pocket Mask x4: 4.28 ea.
 Adult Defibrillation Pads x3: 46.49 ea.
 Pediatric Defibrillation Pads x2: 46.49 ea.
 Burn Sheets x2: 4.69 ea.
 12FR OG Tubes x3: 3.89 ea.
 10FR OG Tubes x3: 3.89 ea.

Total: 5,924.18 + 8,656.26 (Original Email) = \$14,580.44

Mrs. Botkin advised the Board that Four for Life funds could be used to purchase this equipment.

Supervisor Tribble question the status of 701 as paid staff has been marking volunteer units up at 701, which he feels causes confusion within the agencies. This process was explained by Chief Fialo.

Vice-Chairman Sponaugle made to motion to allow the Chief to purchase said items using four for life funds. Chairman Budzinski seconded the motion and the motion carried with the following vote:

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
Chairman Budzinski	Yes
Vice-Chairman Sponaugle	Yes
Supervisor Tribble	No

Resolution Bath/Highland Radio Project, County Attorney Dowd went over the Resolution with the Board. Vice-Chairman Sponaugle made to motion to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Tribble and the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
Chairman Budzinski	Yes
Vice-Chairman Sponaugle	Yes
Supervisor Tribble	Yes

Old Business

EMS Comprehensive Plan- Vice Chairman Sponaugle made a motion to deny the EMS Proposal presented by the EMS Advisory Board and asked for a new proposal. Supervisor Tribble Seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
Chairman Budzinski	Yes
Vice-Chairman Sponaugle	Yes
Supervisor Tribble	Yes

Mrs. Botkin provided each of the Board members a copy of the RFP that Bath county would like to send out to start the process in looking for a radio provider. County Attorney Dowd has not had a chance to review the RFP. Item tabled until work session on April 23, 2024, Supervisor Tribble made the motion to table this review until April 23, 2024, the motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Sponaugle and the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
Chairman Budzinski	Yes
Vice-Chairman Sponaugle	Yes
Supervisor Tribble	Yes

County Administrator's Reports, Requests and Recommendations

Website update, Mrs. Botkin reported to the Board that with the help of Teresa Morris they have been working diligently to get minutes online, please allow some time for our office to get caught up on this task.

VDOT 6-year plan update –Typically Highland County Board of Supervisors have a public hearing in May to review the 6-year plan. Alvin Trout with VDOT contacted my office last week to let me know that there are currently no changes from what was presented last year, with that being said the county has the option to forgo the public hearing this year. Supervisor Tribble made the motion to forgo the public hearing for this year. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Sponaugle and the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
Chairman Budzinski	Yes
Vice-Chairman Sponaugle	Yes
Supervisor Tribble	Yes

General Fund-Mrs. Botkin provided the Board with updates to the general fund budget and advised the Board that for the Treasurer and the Commissioner to have the information necessary to print the tax tickets the county is on a tight deadline to adopt and approve the budget. Revenues were reviewed at different rates with transfers. Supervisor Tribble made the motion to advertise the tax levy at .45 per \$100 and to advertise personal property at the rate at the same amount set for FY 24, the EMS Fee at \$180 per year and the Enterprise fee at \$150 per year. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Sponaugle and the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
Chairman Budzinski	Yes
Vice-Chairman Sponaugle	Yes
Supervisor Tribble	Yes

Letter of Support- Rick Gillispie with Pendleton County is requesting a letter of support for a grant they are working on. This does not have a financial burden on the county but may assist the count in additional grants through the Radio project and upgrades. Supervisor Tribble made the motion to provide a letter of support for Rick Gillispie and Pendleton County's grant project. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Sponaugle and the motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
Chairman Budzinski	Yes

Vice-Chairman Sponaugle
Supervisor Tribble

Yes
Yes

Board Comments

Chairman Budzinski- Thanked the volunteers for working on EMS options for the county.

Supervisor Tribble- Thank you to Tabithia Ulmer and John Montgomery for their assistance on calls in the past week.

Vice-Chairmans Sponaugle- would like to know why the Girls Softball team is not being recognized as much as baseball.

Consent Agenda

Vice Chairman Sponaugle made the motion to approve the warrants and adopt a resolution to set the appropriations for April 2024. This motion was seconded by Supervisor Tribble and the motion carried with the following vote:

PRESENT

Chairman Budzinski
Vice-Chairman Sponaugle
Supervisor Tribble

VOTE

Yes
Yes
Yes

Open Public Comments

Leo Swartz- Would like to see the county go back to an all-volunteer rescue squad and the County to support the volunteers more. Apologized to the Chief for previous comments made.

Scott Wells- Please mark up volunteer units by the number on the side of the vehicle not the crew that is responding.

Jason Rexrode- Would like a report on ALS calls for the county. Also reviewed the state average of EMS salaries and the current salaries that are being paid in Highland County.

Supervisor Tribble moved to continue the Board meeting until the Work Session on April 11, 2024, at 7:30pm at the Highland County Courthouse, Vice-Chairman Sponaugle seconded the motion, and it passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted:



Jerri Botkin, Interim County Administrator

Minutes of the April 2, 2024, meeting are approved:

5/7/2024
Date



Chairman Henry A. Budzinski, Jr.

