

Commissioners & County Council

Joint Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

5:00 p.m.

Pineview Government Center

Commissioner Meeting Room, Suite 104

2524 Corydon Pike

Al Knable called the meeting to order and led the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

Present: Commissioners – Full quorum

Council – Full Quorum

Also Present: Attorneys, Rick Fox and Steve Langdon; Auditor, Diana Topping and Sheriff, Steve Bush

- EMS Discussion Continued

Al Knable said there will be an additional amendment to the ordinance that was amended at the last Commissioner's meeting to allow for EMS Services within Highlander Fire Protection District. That's going to allow for mutual aid for them to leave their district in times of duress.

The Legacy Foundation check was received today. The Commissioners will approve a specific fund for EMS at their meeting following this one.

The contracts for Ameripro and Highlander Fire were sent out. The contracts follow the guidelines and bullet points on option 7 discussed at the last meeting.

Al Knable said the EMS Advisory Board is probably going to take on the primary task of quality assurance, data analysis as data comes in from the contracts and performance comes in that meet the expectation for them to report back to the Commissioners, at least quarterly, with regard to data that's been received, as well as, recommendations for how to improve performance or at least assure that we have standard care and how to exceed that going forward. As far as the EMS Task Force, he looks for it to be named by early June and the primary intent is to look for what we're going to be doing going forward with EMS and Floyd County.

Danny Short and Connie Moon stated they don't see a lot of safeguards on the Highlander Fire contract if they can't perform, ALS certification lapses or something else should happen that the County will continue to pay them through 2026 with no recourse.

Al Knable said this was the contract that they negotiated. He has more faith and trust in Highlander Fire because they are local people who live amongst the community.

Connie Moon said, "I appreciate the opportunity to participate in this process but is disappointed in the process. To question the authority of the Commissioners should be expected. However, to defy the authority is slightly disrespectful. I'm not confident that this is the most efficient or the most responsible option for our county. New Albany did away with fire-based EMS years ago because it didn't work. New Albany Township was surprised and upset that New Chapel was running a split model similar to that for their district at a meeting just last week. I also have issues with paying a taxing entity money to do something that they've already been doing for years, non-funded. We don't pay any other mutual aid agreement, nor do our Fire Departments get paid for mutual aid. And let's not forget that there's a Township in our county that doesn't even have a fire district.

Currently, Franklin Township is served by a different county altogether. That means 2 dispatches have to go out, one for Floyd County and one for Harrison County. Information is taken by one county. Information gets taken by the 2nd county. Sometimes Harrison County will Time gets lost in that process. Those are my major concerns. Also, I know last week I asked about GPS. That was one of the RFP issues. I see in the Highlander report that their monthly reports will be transports and locations. Is that going to be via GPS report or are we not going to require GPS on any of the vehicles?"

Al Knable said Ameripro has GPS available on all the vehicles 24/7 that can be seen by the dispatchers. As Highlander is assigned to their territory alone. He just didn't think it was a necessity to have a GPS locator. A Highlander unit would be out of their district if they're providing mutual aid.

Dale Bagshaw said, "As I've stated numerous times, I've opposed this process of selecting EMS from the beginning. The EMS committee put together a proposal of three ALS ambulances and a quick response vehicle. Then the commissioners put out RFPs. When the RFPs came back, there was only two respondents. New Chapel at \$960,000.00 per year, Ameripro \$1,535,340.00 per year for a difference of \$575,340.00 per year. Normally the commissioners would accept the low bid. However, we know the issues, so AmeriPro was chosen. Then, three or four weeks later, Highlander Fire submitted a proposal that would only cover Lafayette and Greenville townships, and then the process was taken hostage by members to only fund a contract that included Highlander Fire. So here we are splitting EMS coverage for the county into parts. I will state that there are those that have wanted this for at least a decade. I say bravo. It has been accomplished, but at what cost to the taxpayers? New Chapel is out of Floyd County. Ameripro is considerably higher than New Chapel, and now this hybrid EMS is higher as well. I can't recall when one taxing unit, Floyd County Government, has given another taxing unit, Highlander Fire, \$1.536 million. So therefore, in closing, I understand clearly what my role is on this body, which is to fund what the Commissioners contracts call for. And not compel the executive branch to bend to my wishes as some have done, and therefore I will reluctantly vote in the affirmative to uphold and fund the Commissioners contracts at this time."

Motion that the Council affirm the appropriation which is going to be a little bit north of \$809,000.00 for the remainder of this year, to give the Commissioners the cooperation they're looking for from the Council to fund the contract that they are going to sign this evening for Highlander Fire Protection District and AmeriPro. Moved by Brad Striegel. Seconded by Denise Konkle. Motion passed 5-2. Danny Short and Connie Moon opposed.

The Special County Council meeting to make the appropriation is scheduled Wednesday, May 29 3:00pm.

Public

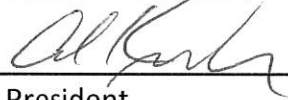
Diana Mayfield, Floyds Knobs, said she agrees with Mr. Bagshaw 100%. She feels like the whole proceeding has been held hostage by several of the Council to get to the tail end to push it through real fast. It's been a joke. Certain members of the boards need to do what's best for the County and not for their self-serving situation.

Dale Mann, Georgetown, said the reason New Albany's fire-based EMS failed was because the firemen weren't happy. He asked if Highlander will have separate EMS people.

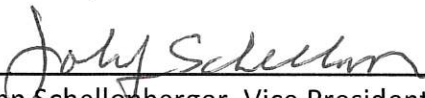
Motion to adjourn. Moved by John Schellenberger. Seconded by Denise Konkle. Motion passed unanimously.

Approved the 25th day of June, 2024

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Al Knable, President



John Schellenberger, Vice President

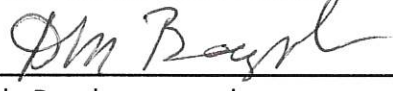


Jason Sharp, Commissioner

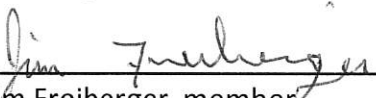
FLOYD COUNTY COUNCIL

Danny Short, President *virtual*

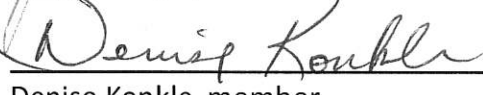
Connie Moon, Vice President *virtual*



Dale Bagshaw, member



Jim Freiberger, member



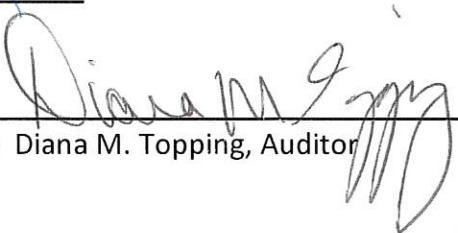
Denise Konkle, member



Brad Striegel, member



Tony Toran, member



Attest: Diana M. Topping, Auditor