SPECIAL CALLED COUNCIL MEETING OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON JULY 9, 2019

At the special called Council meeting of the Farmville Town Council held on Tuesday, July 9, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) of the Town Hall, located at 116 North Main Street, Farmville, Virginia.

Mayor Whitus called the Farmville Town Council special meeting to order, and the Town Manager read the below meeting notice:

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL

CALLED BY THE HONORABLE
DAVID E. WHITUS, MAYOR

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH VA CODE § 15.2-1418, ON TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2019 AT 4:00 P.M., A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL WILL BE HELD IN THE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC) AT THE TOWN HALL, 116 NORTH MAIN STREET, FARMVILLE, VA, FOR THE PURPOSE OF MEETING WITH THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY, ALONG WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY, HAMPDEN SYDNEY COLLEGE AND CENTRA SOUTH SIDE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL TO DISCUSS THE PRINCE EDWARD VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD, INC.

NOTICE GIVEN BY LISA M. HRICKO, TOWN CLERK

The Clerk called the roll, there present were Mayor D.E. Whitus, presiding, D.E. Dwyer, D.L. Hunter, T.M. Pairet, A.D. Reid, J. J. Davis, and G.C. Cole. B.R Vincent was absent.

Staff present on behalf of the Town of Farmville were G.Spates, Town Manager, S. Davis, Assistant Town Manager, and L. Hricko, Town Clerk.

Mr. Wilck, Chairman of the Prince Edward Board of Supervisors, called the Supervisors reconvened meeting to order. Supervisors present were J. Davis Emmert, Gene Southall, Robert Jones, Jerry Townsend, Odessa Pride, Llewllen Gilliam, Jr., and Pattie Cooper – Jones arrived at 4:04. Also present was Wade Bartlett, County Administrator of Prince Edward and K. Everhart, Deputy Clerk to the Board of Supervisors.

In attendance on behalf of Longwood University was Dr. John Miller, representing Hampden Sydney College was Mr. Ken Copeland and on behalf of Centra Health was Ms. Claudia Meinhart.
Also in attendance were members of the Prince Edward Volunteer Rescue Squad.

Mr. Wilck stated the reason he requested the meeting was to discuss the financial condition of the Prince Edward Volunteer Rescue Squad and expressed concern that there had not been any activity since this came to light at a meeting that took place in December. He spoke of the recent resignations of key leadership volunteers and the agency’s need for financial assistance. From a recent meeting with Mrs. Carol Broadwater, Treasurer of the Prince Edward Volunteer Rescue, Mr. Wilck stated the agency needs $200,000 to $300,000 if they are to continue to provide EMS services to the community. $256,000 for a new ambulance that is under construction and requires a 50% cash deposit on July 18, 2019, and $100,000 for a full-time EMS Administrator, which would cover an annual salary, plus benefits. Mr. Wilck suggested that the Town of Farmville and Prince Edward County provide the funds for the ambulance and Longwood University, Hampden Sydney College, and Centra Southside Hospital contribute the $100,000 for the Administrator position. Mr. Wilck stated that from conversations with Mr. Angelo, Centra Health may be more interested once the new CEO comes on board. However, the hospital has other financial obligations.

Ms. Claudia Meinhart, with Centra Southside Hospital, read a letter from Mr. Angelo, which stated that Centra would like to be part of the solution and would request monetary support from Centra Foundation.

Mr. Cole said he, Mayor Whitus and John Miller have been attending meetings with the Executive Board. The issue is more than just writing a check. He spoke in support of helping the squad but said there needs to be changes to the organization's structure, so it is better equipped to operate in today’s environment. The squad’s bylaws need to be amended. The request is for a sizable amount of taxpayers money, and there needs to be accountability. Mr. Cole stated he would not support the Town paying half the cost for an ambulance and disagreed with Mr. Wilck’s statement of “lack of activity since December,” saying that Farmville Town Council has allocated $30,000 in the 2019-2020 Town budget.

Mr. Wilck stated 58 percent of the EMS calls that the squad responded to were within the Town of Farmville. The Town Manager disagreed and provided the group with a report from the Farmville 911 Communications Center for 2018, the report reflected that 44 percent of the calls were within the corporate limits of the Town of Farmville. Conversations continued on call volume and call locations.
Dr. Miller stated many options can be explored which would provide financial assistant to the Squad. He agreed with Mr. Cole that the Administrator position is essential as it will offer a much-needed leadership role for the agency. Dr. Miller said from conversations with the university he felt that Longwood would also contribute $30,000 towards the administrator position. Mr. Copeland too expressed support of the Squad but said he would rather see the college contribute toward the cost of a vehicle, stating the salary would be perpetual. But he added that the college would contribute. Mr. Cole noted the contribution to the salary of the administrator is a one-year commitment by the town. Within two years, the person should be able to build the revenue that gives the Squad a solid financial foundation. He mentioned efficiency savings, increase in donations, squad care for residents, and businesses and grants. Mr. Copeland supported contributing to the funding of the position.

Mr. Spates suggested that the Town mechanics may be able to assist with the maintenance of the Squad vehicles. He also indicated that the Squad may want to consider amortization of the loan on the building. Mayor Whitus said there has been a commitment of $90,000 and stressed the need to move forward with advertising the Director position.

Conversations returned to the $128,000 needed by July 18, 2019, for the cash deposit on the ambulance, and the need to purchase equipment every other year. Mrs. Boardwater asked the County to consider forgiving the loan for the defibrillators, which has a balance of approximately $76,000.

There being no other business, the Farmville Town Council adjourned, followed by the Prince Edward Board of Supervisors adjourning.

APPROVED:                       ATTEST:

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David E. Whitus, Mayor     Lisa M. Hricko, Clerk