

At a Sussex County Finance Committee Meeting
Held in the Sussex Courthouse Volunteer Fire Department on
Wednesday, October 25, 2023 – 6 p.m.

Committee Members Present

C. Eric Fly, Sr.
Wayne O. Jones
Rufus E. Tyler, Sr.

Others Present

Alfred G. Futrell
Susan B. Seward
Chief Wells

Staff Present

Richard Douglas, County Administrator
Nick Sheffield, Emergency Services Chief
Deste J. Cox, Treasurer

1. Call to Order (6:10 p.m.)

Finance Committee Chairman Fly called the Sussex County Finance Committee meeting to order.

2. The Invocation

There was no Invocation.

3. The Pledge of Allegiance

There was no Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Agenda Amendment

There were no agenda amendments.

5. Approval of Agenda

By general consensus, the October 25, 2023 Finance Committee meeting agenda was approved.

6. & 7. Proposed 24-Month EMS Plan/Rescue Squad Operational Questions

Chairman Fly requested the committee to consider the 24-month EMS plan presented by Chief Sheffield at the October regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors that would provide for county EMS staff by January 2026 and addresses needs related to county license, facilities, apparatus/equipment, staffing/training, and service delivery. In addition he expressed concern about MOUs not being in place between Sussex County and the Waverly Rescue Squad and the Stony Creek Volunteer Rescue Squad to ensure continuity in county-wide EMS service over the next two years, as well as EMS response delays within the Stony Creek side of the county during weeknights.

County Administrator Douglas indicated that board adoption of the 24-month plan will provide guidance and direction to county staff, the volunteer rescue squads and fire departments, county residents, and neighboring fire/rescue organizations.

Supervisor Tyler expressed the need to address EMS coverage for the more remote areas of the county, which Chief Sheffield and Administrator Douglas indicated that these gaps in existing coverage will be addressed as part of the process over the next 24 months.

8. Recommendation(s) to Board of Supervisors

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR TYLER, seconded by SUPERVISOR W. JONES and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors Finance Committee hereby recommends to the Sussex County Board of Supervisors to request the County Attorney to work with the attorneys representing each rescue squad to develop a MOU with each rescue squad that will address EMS operations over the next 24 months (through December 2025). All Finance Committee members present voted aye.

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR W. JONES, seconded by SUPERVISOR TYLER and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County of Supervisors hereby recommend to the Sussex County Board of Supervisors at the November 16, 2023 regular meeting, the adoption of the 24-month EMS plan to address the steps necessary to operate EMS with county paid staff by January 2026. All Finance Committee members present voted aye.

9. Adjournment

By general consensus, adjourned the October 25, 2023 Finance Committee meeting at 7:00 p.m.