

MINUTES
Public Safety Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 19, 1997
11:30 a.m. -- Council Conference Room

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by its Chairman, Councilman Burr.

Committee Members Present: Carol Burr, Chairman of the Committee; all committee members were present (Burr, Williams, and Fleming) and Councilman Baker, near the end of the meeting, other Council person can to the meeting due to a bond sale scheduled at 12:30 p.m.

Staff Members Present: William Noonan, Vic Jones, and Mary W. Lewis.

Media Present: The Item.

2. **Invocation:** The invocation was given by Councilman Louis Fleming.

3. **Items to Discuss:**

A. EMS: The County Administrator, Bill Noonan, gave the following report with input from the Director of Public Safety, Vic Jones:

- **Relocation:** The EMS operations must be moved from the Tuomey Regional Medical Center by July 1, 1997.
- **Organizational Set-up:** It is suggested that the EMS section be organizationally listed under the Public Safety Department of the County with the head of EMS answering directly to the Public Safety Director. There are presently 27 staff members in EMS.
- **Operations Housing:** The EMS operations will be housed in the existing City of Sumter operated Fire Stations. There will be no rent charged by the City for this operation to be housed in the Fire Station. The City will work jointly with the County on this project. Additionally, as housing needs arise for EMS services in rural areas, volunteer fire stations could be used to house EMS.
- **Fire Captain:** The Fire Captain at each station (not the volunteer fire stations) will route all concerns through the Public Safety Director.
- **Revenue Concerns:**
 - Review the differences between contracting out the billing process for EMS services versus hiring in-house staff to provide billing.
 - The County needs to review the rate fees at the time of making the change over. Fees need to be increased.
 - Emphasis should be placed on improved collection of fees.

- **Indebtedness:** The County will still owe Tuomey Regional Medical Center \$300,000 at the time of the change over for last year's reimbursement of non-collectible fees.
- **Budget Line Item:** The EMS operation will be added as a line item in the County's budget.

EMS Personnel Information

It was suggested by one of the Committee members that the following information be provided to them regarding the present staff of the EMS Service.

- Certification/Training
- Length of Service/Seniority
- Organizational Chart
- Performance
- Qualifications

Tuomey Regional Medical Center -- Chairman Burr stated that additional research will be conducted regarding the collection of property taxes as it relates to Tuomey Regional Medical Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary W. Lewis