

**IREDELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BRIEFING MINUTES
OCTOBER 2, 2001**

The Iredell County Board of Commissioners met in Briefing Session on Tuesday, October 2, 2001, at 5:00 p.m., in the Iredell County Government Center, 200 South Center Street, Statesville, NC.

Present: Chairman Sara Haire Tice
Vice Chairman Steve D. Johnson
Tommy E. Bowles
Karen B. Ray
R. Godfrey Williams

Staff Present: County Manager Joel Mashburn, Finance Director Susan Blumenstein, Planning Supervisor Ron Smith, EMS Director Tracy Jackson, Fire Marshal Chuck Gallyon, Purchasing Agent Evie Caldwell, and Clerk to the Board Jean Moore.

CALL TO ORDER by Chairman Tice.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL FOR THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) DEPARTMENT: Dr. Steven G. Folstad, the medical director for the EMS Department, joined Tracy Jackson, the department head for EMS, to explain this request for additional personnel. Mr. Jackson said the medical community had concerns about out-of-county transports. He said the Iredell County Audit Review Committee met recently and agreed that a balance needed to be reached between dedicating enough EMS resources for out-of-county patient transfers while maintaining adequate coverage within the county. Jackson said the committee had made the following recommendations.

1. Refer non-emergency, routine patient transfers to other ambulance service providers. Utilize EMS for only life-or-death patient transfers.
2. Streamline the process for requesting an emergency patient transfer.
3. Institute a review process that will monitor policy compliance and reduce avoidable transfer delays.
4. Establish a minimum number of units that will be allowed out-of-county at any given time, but allow the on-duty EMS Operations Supervisor the discretion to send additional units out-of-county during non-peak hours.
5. Request additional personnel and resources for EMS so that more than one ambulance could be sent out-of-county without jeopardizing in-county EMS coverage.

Mr. Jackson said the following three options were being offered for consideration.

OPTION 1

Add six (6) full-time EMT-Paramedics and an additional ambulance in order to improve unit availability and response coverage.

Cost: \$285,037.

OPTION 2

Add three (3) full-time EMT-Paramedics in order to improve unit availability and response coverage.

Cost: \$91,081

OPTION 3

Provide enough part-time coverage to insure that a QRV will be staffed around the clock in order to improve unit availability and response coverage.

Cost: \$105,653

Commissioner Williams asked if any contracted services were available for the transports.

Jackson said there were some, however, they were located out of the county.

Commissioner Johnson asked if Options 2 and 3 were manageable.

Jackson said yes, especially if the rescue squads could assist.

Dr. Folstad said that Option 3 used part-time personnel, and this could create a scheduling “nightmare.”

Jackson recommended Option 2.

The commissioners agreed to place the matter on the consent agenda with approval of Option 2, at a cost of \$91,081.

ADDRESSING ORDINANCE REWRITE: Planning Supervisor Smith explained the various zoning requests from his department, the site plan requirement amendments, and the addressing ordinance rewrite. During his discussion on the rewrite, Commissioner Johnson asked Addressing Coordinator, Barry Whitesides, to review the signage for Reynolds Road and Bell Meade Avenue.

New Business

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE IREDELL-STATESVILLE SCHOOL SYSTEM TO REFRAIN FROM ANY FURTHER ADMINISTRATIVE SALARY INCREASES UNTIL PROGRAMS WERE RESTORED AND ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES WERE IMPLEMENTED: Commissioner Johnson said he recently had a visit from a school system employee. Johnson said the employee had told him that prior to the school system’s budget cuts, she had a net monthly take home pay of \$1221. Now, however, after the school system had made budget cuts, her net monthly pay was \$781. Johnson said the employee’s work responsibilities were basically the same. Mr. Johnson said the cuts had created a hardship on many people, and he had written a resolution to state that the decisions and actions taken by the school system did affect many people. He also said that at a recent meeting with the commissioners, the school officials would not guarantee against further budget cuts; however, a few days later a substantial administrative salary increase was authorized. Mr. Johnson then shared his resolution.

Commissioner Williams said he didn’t know whether the resolution would help or hurt. He mentioned the board of commissioners had eliminated the financing for a new Iredell-Statesville School Administrative Building. He said that by this action, the citizens knew the commissioners had concerns. Mr. Williams said he had learned the school system had balanced its budget.

Commissioner Ray also stated reservations about the resolution. Ray said she, too, was “appalled” when hearing about the pay increase, but there were different ways to express disapproval.

Commissioner Johnson requested to add the resolution to the agenda.

Commissioner Williams said he would be more inclined to vote for the resolution if it did not single out a specific administrative employee.

Commissioner Johnson agreed to modify the resolution.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Tice adjourned the briefing session at 6:39 p.m.

Approved: _____

Clerk to the Board