

The Richlands Town Council held a "Special Called Meeting" in the Richlands Council Chambers on February 23, 2021 at 7:00pm with the following present:

Mayor:	Paul Crawford
Town Manager:	Tim Taylor
Town Clerk:	Connie Allen
Council Members:	Richard Brown, Mary Ann Strong, Doug Ratliff Rod Cury, Logan Plaster, Mike Street
Town Attorney :	K.W. McClanahan

Mayor Crawford opened the meeting.

Mayor Crawford - You have the agenda in front of you, it has been requested that we change items III and IV around, any other changes to the agenda?

Mayor Crawford – Do we have any other additions/deletions/corrections to the agenda?

Mayor Crawford - I will entertain a motion to accept the agenda as amended.

Rod- I make a motion to accept the agenda as amended, Mary Ann seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford- We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Roll Call – Logan- Yes, Mike, Yes, Doug-Yes, Mary Ann-Yes, Richard-Yes, Rod-Yes - Motion carries – 6/0.

Wayne - Mayor if you would entertain a motion to go into executive closed session per section 2.2-3711(A)(29), discussion of an award of a public contract regarding EMS & Fire and Rescue.

Doug - I make the motion to go into executive closed session, Mike seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford- We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Roll Call – Logan- Yes, Mike, Yes, Doug-Yes, Mary Ann-Yes, Richard-Yes, Rod-Yes - Motion carries – 6/0.

Jim Talbert - Mr. Mayor if I might speak sir. How does this qualify as a public contract? This matter has been discussed repeatedly in open session if you are talking about the 911 communication.

Richard - This is different.

Jim Talbert – OK

Mayor Crawford - Thank you for asking the question and thank you folks for answering because I had no idea.

Mayor Crawford - We need to entertain a motion that the Members of Council reconvene in open session and accept the certificate of executive session certifying that the matters discussed while in executive session were those both lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements and identified in the motion by which the closed session was convened.

Doug - I make the motion, Mary Ann seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford- We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Roll Call – Logan- Yes, Mike, Yes, Doug-Yes, Mary Ann-Yes, Richard-Yes, Rod-Yes - Motion carries – 6/0.

and I talk a lot and we discuss a lot of these issues. It is as important to his people; he has limited resources on this end of the county. If his people come to Richlands Police Department and process that person if they are released on bond, puts them back out on the road quickly. Same for ours, there is a lot of logistics that happen in our office that a lot of people don't realize. Being warrants, processing people, warming shelter there is a lot of things that go on because those doors are open. That all I have to say sir.

Mayor Crawford - Thank you Chief.

Travis Hackworth - May I say something.

Mayor Crawford - Yes

Travis - The County wants to make it clear that we are not talking about Police dispatch just dispatch with EMS and Fire & Rescue. We had the meeting in November we actually sat in this room and basically, I called the meeting because there were two (2) concerns that I had, and this is my district the north western district. One of the main reasons was we wanted to make sure that if someone was having an emergency and they called 911 and they transferred the call to Richlands if it was me having a heart attack and dispatch picked up the phone and then the Mayor had a heart attack simultaneously and there is only one (1) dispatch there to do that. The reason I called the meeting first was to make sure that was the case and I know that is rare and you have multiple things going on at one time but could theoretically happen so we ask the Sheriff and we ask the Chief will you stay on the line to make sure if that happen that someone that is trained to do that would take that call until dispatch got freed up or whatever and they worked that out. They said absolutely we will take care of that, said that was a miscommunication between previous administration and said they would take care of that. I said OK so now if there is multiple things going on and dispatch here in Richlands is busy that the dispatcher at Tazewell will take care of that. They are trained to handle choking, child delivery, heart attacks and different things of that nature. The other issue of course was to have that dispatch to work for Fire and EMS, that was just the two (2) we were talking about. Gordon was here and he spoke to it. At the end of the day I thought everybody agreed because the County is subsidizing the Town of Richlands for any cost that may incur above what the cost may be in the contract. Mr. Young and Mr. Taylor said let staff work thru this and no use for Board of Supervisors and Council went thru that, shortly after that Gordon Russ came down with COVID and I don't think he has been back and a lot of things have transpired. I agree with everything that Chief Gilbert said they have an internet shopping, basically a spot for if you were transacting if my wife was transacting with someone she can pull in front of the Police Department with cameras there I think that is very important. I know the dispatch there is very important to the Town of Richlands and the County don't want to get into that, honestly as far as the Town for the Police dispatch that is totally up to yall. That was never our intention in discussion and talking on taking Police dispatch. All we wanted to do was to say we are already paying the bill basically for the EMS and the Fire they said we were transitioning and we were trying to take the whole thing I thought really hard and ask Mr. Young did not like it. I thought really hard because I feel like Richlands EMS is the best EMS that we have here in Tazewell County I am sure Mr. Stacey and Mr. Hymes and different ones would probably take issue with that but I know the guys personally. I know Matt, Keith, and those guys they really take this to heart, and I said if it goes to the county, we will lose service. There is no way we could continue service the way Richlands does it. I thought for six (6) months and me and Mr. Young went head to head over this so finally we are going do this and then all of the sudden the dispatch comes up we had a meeting in November let's all be professional and work thru this I know there are things you know we don't want to be dispatched for a tree in the road, so fine let's let 911 do all the dispatching because the County is paying for it anyway the only people we can fuss at is our self. That was the intention it was never the intention to step on anybody's toes to take dispatch away from the Police Department. I really want the safety of my constituents here in the Northwestern District. Richlands serves more than just Richlands. Richlands serves all the way up to Cuz's down to the Russell County line and to the Buchanan County line. It is a big, big area that they do. I appreciate everybody that has concerns in this really, I am just asking for cooler heads to prevail and have some commonsense approach about this. To me I don't think it should be an issue. I think we should be able to work thru this I have talked to the Sheriff I have talked to Chief Gilbert and I really feel like they are on the same team in this it is just with

COVID and different things that have happened there has been a delay with work with the staff and different issues. Tim is retiring and I know that has been an issue trying to get thru that transition and a lot of things have happened . An issue with the power generation lost and I confirmed with Chief Gilbert as soon as that happened, I told a constituent that ask I guarantee you, things are going happen it is mechanically, I hate it but it is going to happen, what did we do back when we didn't have cell phones and the technology that we have now, guarantee if someone had called 911 Randy has Chief Gilbert's number and she has my number, she will call me. I confirmed with Chief Gilbert I said, immediately we called 911 , listen this is down we are working on it if there is an emergency call us we will get ahold of somebody I think there is a lot of unnecessary uproar that really don't have to be. Wish we could really work thru this and try to get this done.

Mayor Crawford - Thank you Travis.

Mayor Crawford - Fire Chief Keith Reynolds

Keith - I am in support of the Fire & Rescue of staying in Richlands. As a member of the E.S.C. for Tazewell County, the number one issue brought up at every meeting is radios & pagers throughout the county. The same issue is brought up at the Fire Chief's Association meetings as well. With that being said, there is no way I would recommend Richlands Fire & Rescue to go back to the Tazewell County 911 dispatch a third time. Our Motorola, multi-channel radios are "3 to 1" times better than that of the County issued radios to the rest of the departments in the County. With ours, I can talk to Russell & Buchanan County now but not Tazewell County. This is not because of our system we have in place, but due to the radio system they chose to go with in the past. Their radios do not have the state mutual aid channel and are isolated to one (1) County frequency. As long as the Richlands Police Department has a dispatch, it makes no sense to make or force the Richlands Fire & Rescue to leave our Town dispatch. This move would not save the Town any money by moving to the County 911 dispatch. The last year Richlands Fire Department was dispatched by Tazewell County 911 was in the early 2000's; we had a call volume of 510 calls annually. Since we have went back to RPD dispatch, our average annual call volume is 300. This is not due to a decrease of necessary calls or necessity of the Richlands Fire Department, but simply RPD mitigating the need for a Fire Department response. In the event the Richlands Police Department dispatch were to be closed and we were made to go to the County 911 dispatch, these are some of the recommendations I have, (1) New 100 watt Motorola radios in all trucks and stations, two portables for all trucks, portable for each officer of the department. (2) An independent Board representing the Town and County districts for running the operations & complaints. (3) More responsibility for 911's actions on paging of calls, for example, someone sees smoke in the air, and they page the Fire Departments with no specific origin of smoke, ends up being a controlled burn. (4) Vehicles accidents that end up being paged as unknown injury or spillage, units arrive and ends up being a very minor fender bender or no wreck to be found as the vehicles already exchanged information on their own and departed from the scene. (5) Paging Fire Departments for traffic control for broken down vehicles, hay in the road, etc. (6) Radio and pager tests when requested by the Fire Chief or OIC (Officer in Charge) (7) Paging of mutual aid needs to be arranged prior to incident/pre-planned. As of late, this happened near Tazewell area, pizza caught fire in an oven and five (5) departments were paged for this incident.

Mayor Crawford – Rescue – Matt Whited

Matt - I have a couple of things pretty much same as what Keith Reynolds talked about there are newer touch screen IP internet based consoles TC911 have how will that work along with our radios, paging if the IP internet service to those are lost and for large amount of time compared to our older console system that is button touch contact with radio system in the back room to the repeater site antenna no links in-between. Radio communication issues I work with both Richlands PD and Fire & Rescue, we don't have issues like other agencies/departments in this County we have with communications I hear it first hand on the radio, scanner and have friends from several departments in this County. This is kind of stuff that cannot happen in the public safety field of work that will get someone hurt or killed. Another big issue for several other agencies/departments that are dispatched by TC911 those agencies/departments seemed to be out on back burner as far as been answered on the radio quickly

TCSO Channel is priority over every other agencies/department. Fire & Rescue and EMS Division how will we get every call CFS# print out as much fax machine issues we have also daily rescue call logs I have to get printed to confirm EMS call sheets are into the EMS charts program for the State. If TC911 takes only the Fire & Rescue part to be dispatched and not the Police Department dispatch, the Town did not save any money year. You will still have four (4) full time dispatchers, console, and computer equipment to maintain 24/7 and as far as training of the Richlands Police Department dispatchers they are top of line, all are certified dispatchers thru VA DCJS, VCIN Operations and all are certified AHA CPR/First aid, Narcan Admin. They only need EMD training in which can be done, simply send one (1) to instructors' school and then train all the others and buy EMD file charts they will then be EMD certified and can give pre arrival instructions. I would ask if this switch over is going to happen we try this for two (2) to three (3) week trial run on calls dispatched, radio/page issues that may occur. This is a big step for the public safety employees of the Town. It is about lives it's not about saving that little bit of money. A couple items on my list dispatch controls are newer than the RPD and touch screen computer type deal.

Assistant Fire Chief, Rhudy Keith – I am just here to reiterate what the last two said I have been on this department for 26 years and all my dispatchers come out of the Town of Richlands except for 2 ½ months when 911 first went in. All the issues that took place in that short period of time. I can call on my cell phone if something can't be transmitted over there the guys/ladies at the RPD do an amazing job, I feel we need to keep our dispatch in house just the way it has been over the years.

Doug - I thought maybe the Sheriff could speak on those things could be addressed.

Sheriff - I know things happened 13 years ago, I was not there 13 years ago and 911 was not in the same location probably two or three people, I don't know who still working that was there. I can't talk about the past. What Chief Gilbert said about his dispatchers I have absolutely nothing bad to say about the dispatchers at the Richlands Police Department their dispatchers are very professional good people. We have never been turned down for help at any time when we ask for help. If I call down to dispatch to get an officer to help, they help. This has nothing to do with his dispatchers or saying he has done anything wrong or we are doing anything wrong, 911 is the current system. I did put a couple things together for you just to show you, Advantages: The Tazewell County 911 Center is an Accredited Emergency Dispatch Center through the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services (OMES). Virginia has 120 PSAP's with only 52 of those being State accredited. We have a staff of 23 people including a 911 Director, Warrants Clerk and Technical Specialist. All 23 members are certified through the Department of Criminal Justice Services and are Certified Emergency Medical Dispatchers (EMD). This includes EMD training in Fire, Rescue and Police. In January 2024 it will be mandatory in Virginia for Emergency Dispatchers to be certified EMD's. We are a Certified Dispatch Center by the national Center of Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) in Washington D.C. I know there has been some people come and look at our Dispatch Center and I appreciate that very much. If you have not we do have six (6) functioning Dispatch Consoles, we will have four (4) or five (5) dispatchers at a time if we have an emergency and six (6) if it was an large emergency in the County. Record all incoming and outgoing phone calls, record all radio transmissions, GIS mapping technology, Text to 911 capabilities, we can also patch different agencies together and that is important if you are having a large emergency and one agency needs to talk to the other we can patch those thru. If we have a chase going on and the Town of Tazewell Police Department, Richlands, and Bluefield we can patch all those together at the same time, same with the Fire Departments and Rescue Squads. If they don't have radios that they can communicate to the other agencies for a short time or however long that emergency is going on we can connect those. If you will look at the chart for 911 Call Process, when the 911 Operator answers call and asks what is the emergency, determines the need (collects multiple details – age, sickness, criminal activity, fire, etc., name and phone number after that the process of the western end of the county is on the left and if it is anywhere else in the County then it is what is going on on the right. When one dispatcher is taking information, the next console is dispatching whatever is needed, Fire Rescue whatever is needed that is going on simultaneously. It depends on where you live in the county if your house on one street or the other, is whether you go thru the process on the right or the left. This is what this has been about like I said it is absolutely nothing about the staff or anything with the Police Department. On the next page of the handout 2020 statistics, Emergency 911 Phone Calls 20,226, non-emergency phone calls 81,820, that is actually down I don't know if it is due to COVID, Radio

transmissions processed 840,869 , text to 911 calls 32, calls transferred to Richlands 2,727. I know the question has been ask well how would you take on this workload, how would the dispatchers be able to do this if you look at 2,727 comparted to 20,000 that is not a large number we are already doing part of the process rather it is a call that has to be transferred to Richlands or something else we are still answering and getting the information and things like that. Agencies that we dispatched by 911 throughout the County, Fire and Rescue, Sheriff's Office, Campus Police it is a lot. Agencies that 911 have radio communications with us are Virginia State Police, Tazewell County Public Schools, Virginia Forest Service, and others. We don't dispatch calls to them, but they do have communications with us. They all have radios and can call us. Steps to get started would be 1<sup>st</sup> – Meet with the Captain (Asst. Captain) of the Rescue Squad to look at the radios and begin testing 2<sup>nd</sup> – Meet with the Chief (Asst. Chief) of the Fire Department to look at the radios and begin testing. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Review the communications tests and possibility of radio connect-ability between the 911 Center and Fire and Rescue units and 4<sup>th</sup> look at any costs associated with merging services. I know these men run good agencies I have never heard of any problems with the Fire & Rescue services here in Richlands. They are great, very well-trained people They have helped us out many times. They are good men. With the communications we have to get together and look at both sides of the radio to see what can connect and what can't and see where we go from there. People have asked about funding and money. We don't know if there is any cost until we look at the system and see what kind of connecting ability there is between our 911 and the radios. We have to test at the locations. Radios are constantly changing. We were talking about Cedar Bluff radios, Cedar Bluff has a building and the antenna going up is covered by a pine tree the signal goes out but what you have in it, if it is a large well-built tower or if it is something in a pine tree. I am not talking about Cedar Bluff at all because they are good people but if you are talking about the communication it is not a 911 problem that the communication did not get up there. Richlands has their Tower, Town of Tazewell has theirs that is what is going up there. I don't think you can compare to what other Towns have based on the Cedar Bluff and their tower is not getting out as well. You can't do that. I brought my 911 Director in case you had any questions that I could not answer. I appreciate you looking at this. For those who came and looked at 911, the Mayor came and looked at 911, I appreciate it you are always welcome to come. We will let anyone come in and ask any questions that they want to.

Doug - On the page process what is the average wait time when you are transferring a call.

Sheriff - It varies, it depends on when that person initially calls and they are giving information and if they are yelling or screaming and it is hard to get them calmed down depends on how quick it goes it could be one minute or minute half .

Doug - I heard the average was around three (3) minutes.

Mary Ann - I thought this was not going to be questions and answers.

Doug - That is why we brought them here.

Sheriff - I apologize I ask if anyone had any questions.

Doug - That is why we brought them here to ask questions and concerns.

Mayor Crawford - You are not asking question you told him what he had been doing.

Doug - I didn't say that.

Mayor Crawford - Did I miss hear?

Doug - I ask what the average wait time was.

Mary Ann - He disagreed with three (3) minutes.

Sheriff - I said I didn't know

Doug - How important are minutes when someone is laying on side of the road.

Sheriff - I don't think that is a question, every second counts.

Doug - Mr. Gilbert I would like to ask you a question. The Sheriff has four (4) most of the time people on duty, what happens when they transfer to you, your dispatch can not give medical advice, but Sheriffs can.

Chief Gilbert - Mine are not EMD certified.

Doug - If someone is lying beside of the road and it is transferred to Richlands that by standing person needs some advice if someone is choking, compression or anything like that, can your dispatch do that?

Chief Gilbert – As the Sheriff said earlier, they can stay on the line while back up assistance and getting the ambulance on the way. We make sure that it is taken care of.

Travis - We made sure that is taken care in the November meeting that was a concern.

Doug – What happens if you have two (2) casualty or three (3) and you only have one (1) dispatch. What is your plan?

Chief Gilbert - Our dispatch has handled several emergencies at one time and do it quite well sir.

Doug - If your dispatch is concerned with one (1) person in need and you have another one, can they take care of two (2) or three (3) at the same time? That is what I am trying to ask. If you have four (4) dispatchers as the County does, they can take care of that, can you take care of that at the same time.

Chief Gilbert – If they can get the calls thru, they can stay on the line and assist us. That is what we have worked out.

Doug - If you only have one (1) dispatcher.

Mayor Crawford - That is enough.

Mike - Mayor, may I ask a question?

Mayor – Yes

Mike - Can you tell if there will be a big transition period and we have local dispatch, do you have any idea of the process if an emergency came thru on our regular line instead of 911, how would that process work?

Sheriff - It is something we can do a couple different ways; it is something the Chief and I could work out. If something came on a regular line and the dispatcher is there, they can still dispatch it out to get it out quick. We would be monitoring on the other side. We can look on the log and see they took a call on regular line and on the other hand they would log in and they would know Fire & Rescue is at this place right now, we would have to keep up with what each other is doing.

Mike - Board that would include the Chiefs and Rescue Captains are you open to that?

Sheriff - When we met here in November that was one of the things that was brought up and I said in November I am fine with an Advisory Board. If someone says something needs to be done differently or better, I think that is fine, creating a committee based on the meeting here in November.

Mike - Do we know exactly what that is going to look like?

Tom Lester - The Board of Supervisors, when the issue came up with the Advisory Board we wanted to be partners we thought that was a feasible idea and what we had asked was that Chase Collins will reach out to the Town and what we want is some parameters of what the Advisory Board would look

like not just the makeup of it but what's its authority would be and what the responsibilities would be. We have asked the Attorney of the County to come up with those terms and reach to the town and bring back to us to review and expect you to review it. We would go back and forth. We are very much in favor of the idea of the Board we just want to make sure it is clear what their responsibilities are.

Mike - The radios seem like a touchy subject, let me ask a hypothetical question what if we do have to do I am curious what that might look like, especially if you guys have questions for the Sheriff, our hands are pretty tied we are getting money from you guys to help pay for it 911 services the expense of it, we can't really foot the bill for all that right? It is unfortunate that is just the way things are, if there was an upgrade that had to happen, I am concerned that we would not have the money to pay for it. I am curious on how that would work from the county level to insure we could make that happen and not let radios be the reason why can't make the transition.

Travis - I can speak to that. I think that was what the initial staff went thru, because I don't expect this to happen tomorrow and I don't think it can happen tomorrow What the Sheriff has said this is a process it has been done like this for many years and I think that communication is a big concern and it is a concern for me, getting staff together like the Chief said and seeing what does work and what don't work and see if there are grants available when need upgrade. We understand the Town don't have the money to spend million dollars on radios and neither does the County. How do we work together? If I would recommend anything let staff and Doug and I appreciate your concerns is the safety. I think safety part is litigated with the 911 helping dispatch right now thru emergency situations. The last thing we want to do is the Town to flip the switch and say 911 you got it and then we have a bigger mess because you can't communicate, they don't know what is going on. I see this being a transition period and a trial period of course. It is up to the Council; we want to stay in our lane, and we don't want to force anybody to do anything. Safety is the main thing. We just want to make sure when that call comes in, they are taken care of with qualified individual and I think that has been taken care of even now as we speak. COVID has really played a part in this we have not been able to have face to face meetings, meetings where we could get Chief, Keith and Matt, Sheriff, Dave White and Barry and all the people together and say let's see what we need to do. My recommendation be lets at least explore what the cost will be and what it is going to take to do that. Let's have a transition of when it is smooth, and it is time to flip the switch of course this Board would have the authority to say we don't. I think at this time we don't know what those costs are going to be. We don't know what the radio situation is going to be. There are always work arounds and I think we could explore grants and what we could do to fix some of those issues because I think Richlands would say they would like to have some upgrades. There are some things we need to do. I think safety is the forefront and make sure everything is covered right now.

Mayor Crawford - Thank you Travis.

Mike - To follow up with what he said you did a transition at Bluefield what did that transition look like, that was a lot of money.

Sheriff - It took several months, warrants and things, radio procedures. We actual had our dispatchers go into their dispatch and work with them to see how they dispatched to their people and everything. It was a long process, few months from a year doing that. With the radios and I know in meetings there is a lot of complaints about radios and they are but a lot of times when we go and check out the radios it is not the problem with the radios but with the user. Once we demonstrate and show how the proper way is to work the radio the radio is working fine. Just because there is a complaint does not always mean there is a radio problem. Our desire is to just do the best for all our citizens and work with these gentlemen here and do what is best for them. We have looked at some different funding that is going on we recently applied for a grant for new radios for fire trucks and rescue squads. I don't know if we will get the two large grants that the County worked on, Mr. Brooks helped us a little bit, there is an opportunity out there.

Mayor Crawford - Do you have anyone from 911 you feel like would have something else to add?

Randy Davis - I am always positive so you will know where I am coming from, I am looking forward to this and I am looking forward to building better communication all around. We have never really sat

down with our different radio types and everyone knows there are two (2) different radio types there are radios called cross bands and there are all kinds out there that we could look at and explore. I think what is important with these meetings is to sit down and see what we can make work. As for me and sending my dispatchers in there, Fire & Rescue I am proud of our county I think we all strive to be the best we can be I really do . I do worry about the citizens, there is a standard of care that all citizens should have and I understand, they have CPR and First Aid that is fantastic if they can help on there but there are other things, child birth, controlling a bleeding I could go on and on but I am not going to go into all of that I really feel that all the County deserves an equal standard of care. I think we can work thru this communication with the radios and stuff if we want to.

Mary Ann - Ms. Davis I appreciate you positivity I am a very positive person too that is refreshing I think the meeting is where we start and Sheriff Hieatt talked this past week about how well the meeting went in November and because of COVID and other reasons it didn't get to continue. One thing I think was cleared up very well tonight that Sheriff Hieatt and Chief Gilbert do talk. That is a false rumor that these two guys are enemies, it is very obvious that they are not. They work very well together. I am glad that one issue has been cleared up.

Sheriff - We don't always agree on something but we have always been able to call each other and say I need to talk to you about this that is how you worked together whether you agree or disagree .

Mary Ann – Absolutely that is very professional . I think if I understood Travis and I really appreciate the time you took to explain the past and where we are now if I am correct appears to me you as the Supervisor for our district and Sheriff Hieatt both at this time your main concern is EMS and Fire and the Police could be left alone.

Travis – Absolutely

Mary Ann - I also want to make this clear, I live here, and I have a family. I have two (2) grandsons that mean more to me than any price tag on them. I would not want any citizen to think I would make a decision that would be adverse number one to the citizens that elected me and number two for my family. I will always make the best decision that is for the citizens. I appreciate the discussion and appears to me our EMS and our Fire are outstanding. I am not saying I am an opponent of changing that is where we start to study with Fire and EMS like you already said we already have a contract with the county any way. We would leave the Police alone to study at a later date.

Rod - I also will echo the positivity from everyone. I think everyone has the best interest at heart and you can't be a public servant if you don't, we agree and disagree ultimately, we are here for the best of the community, Tazewell County, and the region. Thank you for coming and I think we have a starting point we don't have a finishing point and we never will. We are always on this journey and we are trying to find the right path and that is a good thing.

Mayor Crawford - Seems to me we are ready to make a motion.

Mike - I have done a lot of research with this the biggest thing for me was as Travis mentioned the Police was not involved because they do a lot of different things as well as Police Department. I do echo the fact that I want the quickest response possibly. I have an eighteen month old daughter and what if she was choking I would not have a clue what to do, none of us are guaranteed tomorrow and I think that is extremely important and I think it is best thing for our citizen. That is what my focus. I think about the citizens of Richlands as a whole and the county there is a lot more. We are not just talking about Richlands we are talking about 19,000 people that use our services. That shows how wonderful the guys really are how good they are.

Travis - Services almost half of the County.

Mike - It is important to me to keep the Police on the Board it is important to me we do service half the county and I think we should have a say, not necessary a say, we want our voices to be heard as far as hey maybe we can do this better we can work together and come to an agreement. We go from being great to outstanding and that is what service we want especially when it comes to lives. We are not



talking about dollar signs but lives and that is what is important. Logan and Doug can say something, but I am ready to make a motion.

Logan - I would like to thank the County, Travis, and Tom for coming down. Hate to hear about Eric's father I am very sad about that he is in my prayers and I would like to thank my friend Sheriff Hieatt for coming down as well. I would like to echo the words pretty much as everyone the citizens of Richlands and other citizens we do not directly serve as Council members our decision does impact them. I think we should definitely take their safety and their wellbeing into the forefront of our minds and I think we should when we vote we should definitely put their safety and the safety of our families; we all live in this district. We should put ourselves, our neighbors, friends, and families in forefront of our mind. I think it is a great starting point I respect all our EMS, Firefighters and Chief of Police here in the Town and I respect our county officials as well I appreciate the professionalism brought to this meeting tonight and I look forward to working close with the county and look forward to whatever we decide to do.

Doug - My main concern as the rest of the Council and the County is the response time the quicker, we can get someone to the citizens to help is the better. If it is one (1) minute, two (2) minutes, three (3) minutes that matters. The second of course is technology there is no way that Richlands can keep up with technology we just don't have the money in the budget our biggest hope is to allow the County with their technology, 20 years ahead of Richlands as far as technology and equipment. I think for the sake of our citizens in response time, technology that we should work with the county and let them test the radios I am not talking about dispatch with the Police I am only talking about Fire and Rescue and EMS that we should try to transition to the County.

Mayor Crawford - Do we have a motion?

Mike - I have a motion if you are ready.

Mike - I make the motion that we start the process of discontinuing the dispatch services for Richlands Fire and Rescue and EMS only , Logan seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford- We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Roll Call - Logan- Yes, Mike, Yes, Doug-Yes, Mary Ann-Yes, Richard-Abstained , Rod-Yes - Motion carries - 5/1.

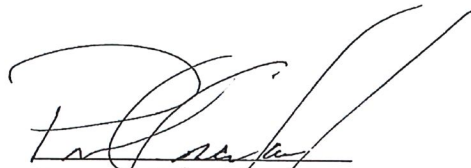
Richard - I make a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mike seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford- We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Roll Call - Logan- Yes, Mike, Yes, Doug-Yes, Mary Ann-Yes, Richard-Yes, Rod-Yes - Motion carries - 6/0.

Mayor Crawford - Tom, Travis, Sheriff thank you for coming down we appreciate it.

Adjourned

  
Connie Allen, Clerk

  
Mayor Paul Crawford

Note: Invited Guest: Sheriff Hieatt, Randy Davis, Tom Lester, Travis Hackworth, Eric Young, Chief Keith Reynolds, Matt Whited - Fire & Rescue, Assistant Fire Chief Rhudy Keith, Jr.