

**COUNTY COUNCIL & BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
JOINT SESSION**

January 22, 2003, 5:30 P.M., E.S.T., Assembly Room of the Fulton County Office Building.

**Meeting Called to Order:**

Those present for this Joint Session were the following: Council Members, Judy Devries, Earl Gaerte, Christopher Sailors, David Helt, Harry Richter, James Widman and Gary Sriver; also, Commissioners, Richard Powell, Leslie Walters and County Auditor, Denise J. Bonnell. Commissioner Roger Rose arrived later.

Also in attendance were James O'Keefe, Hospital, Administrator, Rochester Fire Chief, Mike Gearhart, Greg Gearhart, Larry Kimball, Joe Day, Larry Baldwin, and Pat Wildermuth. A number of Township Trustees were also in attendance.

Council President, Chris Sailors presiding began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

**Purpose of Meeting:**

Chris said the purpose of this meeting is to discuss EMS Costs & distribution costs in and around Fulton County. Chris said for the benefit of those that previously have not been involved; a meeting was held last summer regarding this with 1<sup>st</sup> Responders, Fireman, etc. Chris stated we wanted to facilitate some discussion, air some differences and bring things to light and work with the Task Force, altogether as a unit and everybody be mutually satisfied.

Chris said the Fire Departments started the 1st Responders' Program. The Fire Departments and Townships have taken care of most of the costs of the equipment, personnel, etc. The EMS Service and hospital provides the advance medical care. There was a discussion as to how many times people call 911 and do not actually need an ambulance. Maybe there are some communication problems and this was discussed.

Chris asked Jim to speak about the recent meeting of the Task Force. Jim said the 1<sup>st</sup> Responders set their own standards, the Task Force does not tell them what to do. The EMS is a corporation by itself and is not the hospital and he proceeded to explain. Jim said the agreement with the EMS Corporation is the County funds the shortfall. All the revenue that is taken in from the ambulances goes right into the EMS Corporation. He proceeded to explain the costs, etc; also, by being a separate Corporation they do not have to accept Medicare Assignments, therefore, are not governed on their charge. In other words we can make our own charges, and he explained how that worked. The ER is not associated with the EMS as far as the Task Force is concerned.

Jim said in all the townships except Rochester and Kewanna, the one who would respond to an ambulance/911 call? The answer would be, Woodlawn and 1<sup>st</sup> Responders, would respond to the call. He continued to clarify this situation. Discussion continued.

As the discussion continued, it was noted if each Township would come up with the amount they spend on 1<sup>st</sup> Responders; perhaps with some figures to work with the County could better determine, how it could be of assistance. There was a question as to whether or not each Township is satisfied with the quality of service they provide.

As the discussion continued and, at this time discussing the Kewanna Area, it was note that the ability of the volunteers is not as much a problem, as their availability. There was a discussion as to whether or not being compensated for their services would help the situation. This was thoroughly discussed.

Chris asked if anyone had any other questions? He thanked all for coming and hoped this brought about helpful information. It was a fact some of the trustees were running out of funds. Chris was thanked, as well, for trying to work with everybody. This was a good discussion and hopeful with everyone working together, coming up with costs, etc., a means of funding may become available.

This concluded the discussion. Judy DeVries made a motion to adjourn this Special Joint Session. David Helt seconded this motion. Motion passed 10-0.

Fulton County Council

Board of County Commissioners

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Christopher Sailors

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Richard A. Powell

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Davit Helt

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Roger D. Rose

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Gary Sriver

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Leslie R. Walters

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Harry Richter

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James Widman

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Earl Gaerte

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Judy DeVries

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Denise J. Bonnell, Fulton County Auditor