

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES
OCTOBER 24, 2006**

The Health & Human Services Committee met on Tuesday, October 24, 2006 in the Committee Room, located on the second floor of the Administration Building beginning at 2:10 p.m. Ms. Summers, Committee Vice Chairman presided.

Members Attending:

Debra B. Summers, V Chairman	Joseph W. Owens
Bobby C. Keisler	Johnny W. Jeffcoat
M. Todd Cullum	

Absent: John W. Carrigg, Jr., Chairman*

*Mr. Carrigg was absent due to family illness.

Also attending: Katherine Doucett, County Administrator; Larry Porth, Finance Director/Deputy County Administrator; other staff members, citizens of the county and representatives of the media.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda was sent to radio and TV stations, newspapers, and posted on the bulletin board located in the lobby of the County Administration Building.

Public Safety Recruitment Update - (Goal #1) - Public Safety - Wayne Freeman, Recruiter - Mr. Freeman provided information on recruiting for the Public Safety Department as of June 1, 2006, as requested by the Committee. Mr. Freeman indicated that he has been in contact with 1300-1500 people regarding employment with the Public Safety Department with approximately 500 of those in follow-ups, of those 100 represent applicants. Mr. Freeman could not specify the number of actual hires from these numbers based on his influence. The Committee requested the actual number of employees who have been hired through Mr. Freeman's recruitment efforts and to provide a monthly report to the County Administrator with recruiting figures. Information only. No action taken.

JET (Joint Emergency Team) Update - (Goal #1) - Public Safety - Major George Brothers, Homeland Security Coordinator - Major Brothers provided information on the purpose of the (JET) Joint Emergency Team. This team was consolidated of special operation functions from Fire Service, Sheriff's Department and EMS representing nine members to respond quicker to calls relating to Hazardous Material, Bloodhound Tracking, Command Post requests, Fire Service Manpower requests, Aviation, and Air and Ground Searches. The team has had to deal with EMS personnel shortages, insufficient personnel at the Pelion Fire Service Station and the Sheriff's Office tracking team who are made up of the same personnel that became the JET

causing a significant increase in calls. The Committee requested more specific information on the number and type of calls for JET as well as where EMS fits in with JET. Members of the Committee will plan to meet with Chief Rucker to get questions answered and find what direction the JET is headed and report back to the next Committee meeting on November 14, 2006. Information only. No action taken.

EMS Staffing and Training Issue - (Goal #1) - Public Safety/EMS - Brian Hood, EMS Coordinator - Deferred to next Committee meeting of November 14, 2006.

Approval of Minutes - Meeting of September 26, 2006 - A motion was made by Mr. Cullum, seconded by Mr. Owens to approve the September 26, 2006 minutes as submitted.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Review of the Outdoor Burning Ordinance - (Goal #2) - Public Safety/Fire Service - Chief Bruce Rucker, Assistant Sheriff/Director of Public Safety and Homeland Security and John Fechtel, Director of Public Works - Mr. Fechtel advised the Committee that the Outdoor Burning Ordinance is an environmental issue, and his staff worked with Public Safety/Fire Service to submit recommendations on an outdoor burning ordinance for Lexington County. Ms. Synthia Williams, Public Works' Environmental Coordinator, and Mr. Robert Brown, DHEC Director of the Air Planning Development and Outreach with the Bureau of Air Quality, were present to answer any questions from the Committee. The recommendations presented are to help reduce emissions from outdoor burning and assist with meeting the national ambient air quality standards for ground level ozone. Chief Rucker indicated the Ordinance does not deal with air quality or ozone, the intent is to use it as a safety and notification device for local and state government. He briefly described the exemptions listed; fires in residential subdivisions, fires prohibited by the ban, and proposed open burning bans that would be submitted in the Ordinance. The recommendation to eliminate the burning of debris on site by licensed contractors during new construction of a home or other building led to arranging a meeting with contractors to discuss further. Chief Rucker plans to talk with all the municipalities in the county, and if necessary, to meet with licenced contractors to talk about the air quality problems. Ms. Doucett offered to meet with the Home Builders Association and discuss what the very serious air quality non-attainment issues are that the County is facing and ask them for suggestions on how we can accomplish reducing some of the air burden while still allowing them to meet their needs and report back to Committee. Information only. No action taken.

Old Business/New Business - None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy R. Busbee
Assistant to Clerk

Debra B. Summers
V Chairman

Diana W. Burnett
Clerk