

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES

JUNE 11, 2024

At a Worksession of the Orange County Board of Supervisors held on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, beginning at 3:30 p.m., in the Meeting Room of the Public Safety Building, 11282 Government Center Drive, Orange, Virginia. Present: R. Mark Johnson, Chairman; Keith F. Marshall, Vice Chairman; Eduward M. Van Hoven; Crystal D. Hale; and J. Bryan Nicol. Also present: Theodore L. Voorhees, County Administrator; and Alyson A. Simpson, Chief Deputy Clerk.

RE: REVIEW OF THE COMPASSIONATE BILLING POLICY FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES (AMBULANCE) TRANSPORTS

Mike Throckmorton, Assistant Chief of Administration, Fire and EMS, stated that Orange County had billed for ambulance transports since 2005 and a Compassionate Billing Policy had been adopted to eliminate or minimize out-of-pocket costs for County residents. He indicated this policy had not been updated since March 2014. Chief Throckmorton explained that, since the County had recently entered into a contract with a new ambulance billing vendor, there had been questions regarding the policy. As such, he presented five specific issues to the Board for which staff was seeking direction. These included when to send statements; how to address uninsured County residents; how to address insured out-of-County transports; how to address uninsured out-of-County transports; and the Hardship Waiver Program.

Discussion ensued among the Board regarding: the purpose of the "statement of value" mailed to patients when transported; whether this statement was required to be provided by law; the fact that the transport rates had not been adjusted since 2014; the need to include policy language that required the transport rates to be reviewed and/or adjusted at specific intervals of time; and direction on how to address the five specific issues that were presented for discussion.

By consensus, the Board provided general direction to staff on the specific issues that were presented for discussion, understanding that the necessary revisions to the Compassionate Billing Policy and the necessary amendments to the Cost Reimbursement for Emergency Medical Transport Services Ordinance would be presented for consideration by the Board at a future meeting.

RE: HEALTH, DENTAL, AND OPTIONAL INSURANCE RENEWALS AND BENEFITS PROPOSALS

Jenny Carpenter, Human Resources Director, presented information to the Board on the proposed renewal of the health, dental, and optional insurances offered to County employees for the Plan Year beginning October 1, 2024. Additionally, she presented proposals for the Board's consideration to authorize a Lifestyle Spending Account (LSA) wellness benefit pilot program and to authorize participation in the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) program that allowed sick leave to be used to purchase service credit.

Discussion ensued among the Board regarding: an update on the stop loss coverage; confirmation that the LSA pilot program was already funded and no additional funding was requested; the idea that an LSA pilot program would allow the opportunity to gauge use or interest from County employees; the potential to include public safety volunteers in the LSA pilot program; the location of the LSA program funds in the budget and how the funds were appropriated; and the benefit to attracting and retaining employees.

By consensus, the Board accepted the three recommendations, as presented, which included renewal of the health, dental, and optional insurances; authorization of the LSA pilot program; and authorization of the VRS program that allowed sick leave to be used to purchase service credit.

RE: ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the Board concluded its Worksession at 4:45 p.m.

R. Mark Johnson, Chairman

Theodore L. Voorhees, County Administrator