

STATE OF TEXAS :

APRIL 26, 1979

COUNTY OF JOHNSON :

BE IT REMEMBERED AT A SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT IN AND FOR JOHNSON COUNTY, TEXAS, on the above-mentioned date at the Courthouse in Cleburne, Johnson County, Texas, for the consideration of ambulance service to the rural residents in the Burleson area.

Court convened at 9:00 A.M. with the following members present: C.W. Atwood, Commissioner of Precinct No.1, A.J. Lambert, Commissioner of Precinct No.2, Loyd H. Reese, Commissioner of Precinct No.3, and B.B. Aldridge, Commissioner of Precinct No.4 and Judge Altaras, County Judge and Joe L. Townes, County Clerk.

The meeting was opened with a welcoming address by the County Judge.

Dr. Arthur L. Raines, Co-Coordinator of the Trinity Emergency Medical Service, which was formed with a Federal Grant in 1973, presented the training level of ambulance personnel for each of the eight (8) counties covered which includes Johnson County, also the fatality rate in injury accidents since 1972, and the Emergency Medical Services equipment in Johnson County furnished by Federal grant money in the amount of \$116,871.74, as follows:

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Mr. Bryan Bledsoe, Training Co-Ordinator for Tarrant County Emergency Medical Services, presented a research on cost figures of subsidy payments to private ambulance companies in Tarrant County.

Jack Browder, Administrator Johnson County Memorial Hospital, stated that the Hospital ambulance service is losing money each year in providing county-wide ambulance service.

Lost \$10,678.00 in 1976

Lost \$14,168.00 in 1977

Lost \$23,928.00 in 1978

Projected loss for 1979 \$30,000.00, which is absorbed by the hospital

authority. He also emphasized that the Johnson County Memorial Hospital Ambulance Service will answer calls anywhere in the County twenty four (24) hours per day.

Mr. John Flecher, manager of Radio Station K.C.L.E. ran a survey on the following questions in regard to ambulance service in Johnson County:

1. Raise taxes to provide a County wide ambulance system.

- 2. Subscription services from people.
- 3. Create ambulance districts.
- 4. Leave service as is.
- 5. Present own plan.

Mr. Fletcher stated that there was very little, if any, interest as only two (2) people responded.

Mr. Joe Barret, acting City Manager, for the City of Burleson, presented the following resolution from the Burleson City Council.

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Revered Leon Johnson presented the following petition supporting the proposal of S.O.S (Save Our Service) for the appointment of a county wide committee to investigate the feasibility of a county wide ambulance service. Mr. Johnson also pointed out the need of emergency medical service ambulance for the northern part of Johnson County since response time from Johnson County Memorial Hospital is about 15 minutes, which in the opinion of the petitioners is too long and felt that the County should subsidize the E.M.S. since approximately 714 citizens donated \$10,000.00 toward maintaining the service for the remainder of 1979.

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Michael Shelton, Manager of Mobile Life Support Services, for the Burleson area ambulance service, stated that the amount needed to subsidize his services per month is \$8,000.00 - broken down as follows:

Burleson	\$4,800.00
County Clerk	3,000.00
Briaroaks	200.00

Total subsidy amounts to \$96,000.00 per year as of this date.

Upon questioning by the court Mr. Shelton stated that Mr. Jones of the Jones Funeral Home of Burleson in fact was the owner of the Mobile Life Support services and paid all salaries and all debts, and that he was only the manager. At the present time Burleson is paying \$5,500.00 per month subsidy, which is the only amount being paid by anyone.

J.W. Dickey from the Bono Area stated that he could understand the position pressing the people of the northern portion of the County in regard to their need for Emergency Medical Ambulance Service, but what is good for one part of the county is good for the whole county, and that he was not for a

tax raise for the entire county to pay emergency medical ambulance service that would serve only a small part of the county, and that the Johnson County Memorial Hospital Ambulance service is serving the rest of the County which is equally as far away as the northern part of the county, and that the Johnson County Memorial Hospital Ambulance service is serving the rest of the County which is equally as far away as the northern part of the county.

Mr. Wayne Neely, an Arlington Fireman, living in Grandview stated that the Grandview area was served by a volunteer rescue unit with E.M.S. trained personnel, and that the entire operation was supported by donations that there was no set charge for the service-only what the patient wished to pay, if any. That fund raising was held once a year to obtain needed funds.

Mr. Orval VanZandt, from the Freeland-Highland Community, stated that he lived 16 miles in the opposite direction from Burleson, and agreed with Mr. Dickey that the County does not need any more taxes, that everyone should pay their own way. Each person chooses where he wishes to live and must accept the services available to them.

John Clements, Rock Creek Community, stated that his family had lived in the Northwest part of the County since 1876, that the ambulance service in the County presented a complex situation, that the seventy (70) families in his community are served by the Crowley Ambulance Service and such is provided by each family making a yearly donation, and there is no subsidy made by the County.

Mr. W.B. Stribling, Superintendent of Burleson Independent School District, was concerned about the response time for ambulance service, if needed, by a school bus accident and recommended that the County subsidize the necessary funds to assure ambulance service with a minimum response time.

A motion was made by Commissioner Aldridge and seconded by Commissioner Atwood not to subsidize emergency medical ambulance service as requested by Mr. Michael Shelton.

All voted aye.

JUDGE: Due to the divergent views, I now call for the motion "that the Texas Legislature pass enabling Legislation allowing a County wide Referendum for County wide Ambulance Service in Johnson County, Texas."

Mr. Lambert: I make the motion.

Mr. Reese: I second it.

Judge: All in favor say "Aye"

All Commissioners: "Aye"

Judge: Motion Carries.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lambert and seconded by Commissioner Aldridge to adjourn.

All voted aye.

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COUNTY CLERK

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COUNTY JUDGE