

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 30, 2023
TO: York County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Neil A. Morgan, County Administrator
SUBJECT: Potential 911 Center Consolidation



I received the attached letter from the James City County (JCC) Administrator Scott Stevens subsequent to a James City County Board of Supervisors Work Session on March 29. It would appear that there is the real potential for James City County to merge its 911 Center with our existing York-Poquoson-Williamsburg Center.

As you are aware, the theoretical advantages of such a consolidation have been discussed for many years, and the recent electrical fire damage at the JCC Center has triggered a de facto temporary consolidation at our facility and brought into focus some of the potential advantages to all parties should a permanent consolidation be achieved.

If we are able to reach an agreement that all parties consider fair, the obvious advantages to JCC would be a significant reduction in capital equipment expenditures and reduced operating costs without any diminution in 911 service. There would be substantial theoretical benefits for York, Poquoson, and Williamsburg as well. Given the nationwide and regional shortage of 911 personnel, a new staffing arrangement merging both existing teams would minimize staff shortages and achieve economies of scale that should at least marginally reduce the costs of our existing partners.

The merger would come with specific challenges for York County because the larger operation would require support services from many York County departments, including Emergency Communications, Human Resources, Finance, Information Technology, and County Administration. Our negotiations with JCC would need to take into account many practical issues, such as different pay scales, different employee benefits, different job classifications, and in some cases, different protocols. Although our center is largely configured to permanently absorb JCC staff, some equipment purchases and small building upgrades would likely be needed. Additionally, our centers have long functioned as each other's backup location, so there would still need to be an investment either in the existing JCC 911 Center or some alternate location.

Quantifying all of the considerations described above represents a major undertaking. I have authorized the staff to participate in exploratory meetings to better define costs, benefits, needed actions, and timelines. At this time, I do not believe our FY 2024 budget

York County Board of Supervisors

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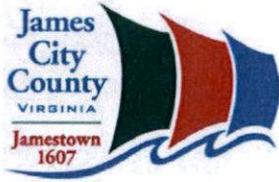
should be altered by the possibility of consolidation. Should our negotiations with JCC be fruitful, I would likely present the Board of Supervisors with a proposed consolidation resolution much like the one approved by JCC. If consolidation proceeds, it would clearly need to be factored into the FY 25 budget process.

Morgan/3322

Attachments:

- Letter from Scott Stevens, James City County
- James City County BOS Resolution

Copy to: Scott Stevens, James City County Administrator
Randy Wheeler, Poquoson City Manager
Andrew Trivette, Williamsburg City Manager



Administration
P.O. Box 8784
101-D Mounts Bay Rd.
Williamsburg, VA 23187-8784
P: 757-253-6602
jamescitycountyva.gov

March 30, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY TO NEIL.MORGAN@YORKCOUNTY.GOV

Neil Morgan
County Administrator
County of York
224 Ballard Street
Yorktown, VA 23690

911 Emergency Communications Consolidation Agreement

Mr. Morgan,

As you are aware, there have been previous efforts to consolidate our 911 Emergency Communications Center with the York-Williamsburg-Poquoson Emergency Communications/911 Center. At the March 28th Board of Supervisors work session, the Board approved the attached resolution which authorizes me to negotiate an agreement with York County to consolidate our 911 centers.

Staffing concerns are the primary driver for our desire to consider consolidation, but the recent electrical issue at our 911 Emergency Communications Center has forced us to relocate James City County emergency communications personnel to the York County center. This has been an efficient transition and it is continuing to meet all needs regarding emergency communications. We strive to work through all the details involved in such an agreement, focusing not only on citizen service but also on personnel matters, salaries, benefits, equipment, and all other aspects necessary to consolidate centers. I recognize that there are many details involved in such endeavor, but I am confident that we can come to a mutual agreement that is necessary to consolidate.

Historically, we have had very good results in all shared services as is evident in both our shared radio system and phone/911 system. I believe a consolidation of our Emergency Communication Center with York County and the cities of Williamsburg and Poquoson could be very valuable to our localities and benefit all involved. Some of those benefits includes efficiency and configuration, adequate staff coverage, system maintenance and increase in institutional experience and regional diversity.

I greatly appreciate your willingness to consider and work through the details associated with this request.

Sincerely,

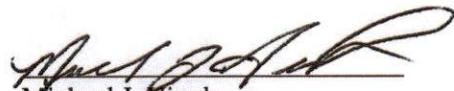
Scott A. Stevens
County Administrator

RESOLUTION

CONSOLIDATION OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE

YORK-POQUOSON-WILLIAMSBURG EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION CENTER

- WHEREAS, Sec. 15.2-1300 of the Code of Virginia (1950, as amended allows any two or more political subdivisions to enter into agreements with one another for joint action pursuant to the provision of such Code Section); and
- WHEREAS, James City County desires to consolidate Emergency Communications services with the York-Poquoson-Williamsburg Emergency Communications Center; and
- WHEREAS, James City County is committed to negotiate with York County for equivalent employment opportunities for existing Emergency Communications staff, including salary and benefits to the extent possible; and
- WHEREAS, James City County will offer existing Emergency Communications staff preference for employment opportunities with James City County, should they not desire employment with York County; and
- WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors authorizes the County Administrator to utilize up to \$1,500,000 in funding previously allocated for Computer-Aided Dispatch replacement for necessary licensing, equipment, and facilities upgrades.
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of James City County, Virginia, does hereby authorize the County Administrator to negotiate an agreement with York County for consolidation of Emergency Communications.


Michael J. Hipple
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:


Teresa J. Saeed
Deputy Clerk to the Board

SADLER
ICENHOUR
MCGLENNON
LARSON
HIPPLE

VOTES			
<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
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Adopted by the Board of Supervisors of James City County, Virginia, this 28th day of March, 2023.