

RESOLUTION
DISSOLVING SCOTTSVILLE VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD, INC.

WHEREAS, Scottsville Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc. (SVRS) is a volunteer company providing emergency medical services in the southern Albemarle County and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, SVRS volunteers have served the citizens of Albemarle County since 1974; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Albemarle, Virginia (the Board) has been advised by SVRS and independently become aware of a recently distressingly precipitous decline in volunteer members of SVRS who are available to provide service delivery; and

WHEREAS, Albemarle County Fire and Rescue Department (ACFR) received notification from SVRS Chair of the Board of Directors S. John Waits (Waits) by letter, dated December 9, 2018, that SVRS has been “unable to attract sufficient membership to be able to provide a level of service that is anywhere near the equivalent of the service received by the balance of the County” and “formally request[ed] that ACFR take over the day-to-day operation of our squad with effect immediately”; and

WHEREAS, ACFR began emergency staffing of SVRS shifts after receipt of the December 9, 2018 letter, and the Albemarle County staff initiated discussions with SVRS regarding an agreement to outline the terms and conditions of ACFR’s assistance; and

WHEREAS, SVRS was unwilling to agree to the County’s proposed agreement after negotiation; and

WHEREAS, the dramatic decline in SVRS membership has continued since delivery of the December 9, 2018 letter requesting operational assistance, such that ACFR is currently providing virtually all of the emergency medical services in the SVRS response area; and

WHEREAS, the crisis in active membership and service delivery is a continuation of a trend since at least 2004, when SVRS requested that ACFR assume responsibility for daylight shifts on Mondays through Fridays, and, more recently acknowledged by the SVRS chief in January 2018, at which time, he cited “problems maintaining minimum staffing” and requested 24/7 staffing assistance from ACFR; and

WHEREAS, SVRS and County efforts to recruit and train new volunteers have not been able to reverse the trend of critically low SVRS membership and participation in emergency medical service delivery; and

WHEREAS, SVRS has not been able to demonstrate or propose a means of recruiting sufficient membership to resume effective levels of operation in the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, the County through ACFR is, in practice, assuming responsibility for emergency medical services in the SVRS service area because Virginia Code § 15.2-955(B) requires the County “to ensure that emergency medical services are maintained throughout the entire locality”; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, even with available emergency staffing from ACFR on some nights and weekends, SVRS is the first arriving unit in its own first due area for only 36% of dispatched calls; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Code § 32.1-111.4:7 authorizes the Board to dissolve a nongovernmental emergency medical services agency “when the governing body of the county . . . for any reason deems it advisable”; and

WHEREAS, the Board regrettably finds that SVRS does not have and cannot reasonably be expected to recruit membership sufficient to justify its continued existence in the Albemarle County Coordinated Fire and Rescue System; and

WHEREAS, the Board also finds that ACFR is providing necessary emergency medical services in the southern Albemarle area and requires use of the real property located at 805 Irish Road, which is titled in the names of both SVRS and the County, and equipment provided either directly by the County or through public funds donated by the County; and

WHEREAS, for the reasons outlined herein, the Board finds it is advisable to dissolve SVRS.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board that SVRS is hereby dissolved pursuant to Virginia Code § 32.1-111.4:7 and its existence terminated, effective immediately, and it is therefore removed as a participant in the Albemarle County Coordinated Fire and Rescue System and declared unauthorized to provide emergency medical services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board that the historical services of SVRS volunteers be acknowledged publicly and with grateful hearts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board directs the Albemarle County Fire and Rescue Chief to assume responsibilities for emergency medical service delivery in the affected area, to make provision for now-former SVRS volunteers to be adopted as ACFR volunteers if they are able and qualify and if they are so advised, and to take all necessary action consistent with this Resolution. The Board also gives authorization for one temporary over-hire position to be filled to support these efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, pursuant to and in acknowledgement of the terms of the deed executed on the 5th day of February 1996, by which the title of the real property commonly described as 805 Irish Road vests in fee simple in the County upon dissolution of SVRS, the County claims its exclusive ownership of said property and directs the County Executive to assume proper control and maintenance of the same with all speed; likewise, the Board directs staff to identify and take possession over other property to which it has legal title or claim.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Attorney is directed to pursue action, if necessary, to effectuate the direction of the Board consistent with this Resolution.

I, Claudette K. Borgersen, do hereby certify that the foregoing writing is a true, correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Albemarle County, Virginia, by a vote of six to zero, as recorded below, at a meeting held on April 17, 2019.


Clerk, Board of County Supervisors

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Mr. Dill	<u>Y</u>	_____
Mr. Gallaway	<u>Y</u>	_____
Ms. Mallek	<u>Y</u>	_____
Ms. McKeel	<u>Y</u>	_____
Ms. Palmer	<u>Y</u>	_____
Mr. Randolph	<u>Y</u>	_____