

**MOTION: STIRRUP**

**January 16, 2009  
Regular Meeting  
Res. No. 09-52**

**SECOND: PRINCIPI**

**RE: DISSOLUTION OF THE GAINESVILLE DISTRICT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND DIRECTION FOR LONG TERM PROPOSALS REGARDING THE FUTURE OF THE FIRE AND RESCUE SYSTEM IN PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY**

**ACTION: APPROVED**

**WHEREAS**, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors, in recognizing the important governmental function provided by the volunteers in the provision of fire and rescue services in Prince William County, and out of respect for the fact that fire and rescue services had been provided efficiently and reliably by volunteer companies for many years, established the Fire and Rescue Association by Ord. No. 91-137 on December 10, 1991, after public hearing and receiving the final report of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Fire and Rescue Services, in such a way that it provided for volunteer companies' demand for self regulation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fire and Rescue Association was charged by the Prince William Board of County Supervisors with the coordination of the efforts of volunteer fire and rescue companies with the County's career Department of Fire and Rescue to create a cohesive fire and rescue system, to be governed by policies and procedures to be established by the Association; and

**WHEREAS**, since the establishment of the Fire and Rescue Association, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors has relied upon the Volunteer companies, through their membership in the Association, to regulate the activities of the member companies, including the Gainesville District Volunteer Fire Department; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 16, 2008, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors was apprised by the County Executive of concerns regarding the operation and administration of the Gainesville District Volunteer Fire Department, and as a consequence of receiving this information, directed the County's Chief Auditor to conduct an audit of the Gainesville District Volunteer Fire Department pursuant to §9-104 (d) of the Prince William County Code; and

**WHEREAS**, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors has received the final Audit Report and considered the findings, conclusions and recommendations of that Report; and

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**WHEREAS**, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors finds that the efficiency and effectiveness of the system of internal control for the Gainesville District Volunteer Fire Department is unsatisfactory and unacceptable, and that an effective control structure has not been established to support the achievement of business objectives; and

**WHEREAS**, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors finds that based upon the previous finding, there exists a condition which makes the Company unable to provide adequate fire and/or rescue services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors has plenary authority pursuant to §27-10 Virginia Code Ann. to dissolve a volunteer fire department;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors does hereby dissolve the Gainesville District Volunteer Fire Department and terminate the 1997 Agreement between the County and the Gainesville District Volunteer Fire Department;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that in view of the fact that any title currently held by the Gainesville District Volunteer Fire Department to any and all real and personal property purchased, maintained, or repaired in whole or in part with public funds, vests in the County upon dissolution of the Company, the current leadership of the Gainesville District Volunteer Fire Department is hereby directed to cooperate to effectuate the immediate transfer of all such property to the County, and the Prince William Board of County Supervisors does hereby accept title to the same;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors directs the Chief of the Department of Fire and Rescue to immediately assume all responsibilities for providing services in the affected area, and to effect a seamless transition which provides for the future participation of willing and able volunteers;

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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Executive, the County Attorney, the Chief of the Department Fire and Rescue, and the Fire and Rescue Association are directed to review the current Article VI, Chapter 9, of the Prince William County Code, and propose amendments to that ordinance and improvements to any other policies, procedures, or documents deemed advisable and appropriate to the County's management and oversight of the current fire and rescue system, consistent with the recommendations of the Audit and the County's Strategic Plan, with a final report due to the Prince William Board of County Supervisors on May 1, 2009, and monthly updates to the Prince William Board of County Supervisors during the interim.

**Votes:**

**Ayes:** Caddigan, Covington, Jenkins, May, Nohe, Principi, Stewart, Stirrup

**Nays:** None

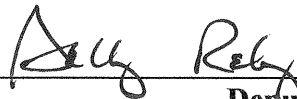
**Absent from Vote:** None

**Absent from Meeting:** None

**For Information:**

County Attorney

**CERTIFIED COPY**



Deputy Clerk to the Board