

ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ACTION AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT
Meeting Date: February 2, 2010

Action Agenda
Item No. 5-6

SUBJECT: Public Hearing for EMS Franchise

DEPARTMENTS: Emergency Services
County Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: (Y/N)

Yes

ATTACHMENT(S):

INFORMATION CONTACT:

Frank Montes de Oca, Emergency
Services, 245-6100
Annette M. Moore, Staff Attorney,
245-2317

PURPOSE: To conduct a public hearing on the need for ambulance services.

BACKGROUND: North Carolina General Statute § 153A-250 provides that before a County may by ordinance franchise ambulance services in the County, "the Board of Commissioners must first hold a public hearing on the need for ambulance services." Notice must be published once a week for two successive weeks before the hearing. "After the hearing the Board may adopt an ordinance if it finds that to do so is necessary to assure the provision of adequate and continuing services and to preserve protect, the promote the public health, safety, and welfare." Notice has been published as provided in the statute.

If the Board determines a need for ambulance service exists it may permit a franchise by Ordinance. Any franchise ordinance granted by the Board cannot, in accordance with N.C. Gen. Stat. § 153A-46, be adopted "until it has been passed at two regular meetings of the Board of Commissioners."

FINANCIAL IMPACT: None

RECOMMENDATION(S): The Manager recommends that the Board:

- (1) Receive public comments;
- (2) Deliberate on the need for ambulance services;
- (3) Make a determination as to whether a need exists to permit by franchise an ambulance service; and
- (4) If the Board determines a need exists, direct staff to negotiate with franchise applicants on a Franchise Agreement to bring to the Board.