

As President of the Cooper Landing Emergency Services (CLES) Board, I would like to offer my support of **Resolution 2017-021**. My reasoning:

- For years our ambulance service has been stretched thin. There have been times when there have been no volunteers to answer the call, putting pressure on the other EMS providers on the Peninsula.
- Twice in the last three years, the CLES board has voted on whether or not we should reduce the area we serve to the Cooper Landing area alone, thinking that if we reduced our area, we might reduce our EMT burnout. This essentially would have left the area from the “Y” to Ingram Creek without any EMS response. Both times, with the support of our volunteers, we chose to continue offering emergency services outside of our community, as we have done since 1983.
- We presently have NO local EMTs. Zero. CLES is paying someone to be an on call EMT for 40 hours a week with housing being donated by a local business. The weekend is being covered by volunteers who live elsewhere on the Peninsula who come to Cooper Landing and bunk up at the CLES hall.
- CLES is an all-volunteer organization that is predominately funded through donations from the community. This year we are budgeted to run at a deficit reaching over \$40,000. We cannot sustain this for very long. Somehow, the system needs to change.

While this resolution does not address “how” EMS on the Peninsula will evolve, making funds available is the key cog in getting adequate EMS care. CLES is making significant strides as a volunteer service, but it cannot endure as is. We await the outcome of the Assembly meeting and look forward to working with the Mayor’s office in creating a plan for long term EMS coverage on the Northern part of the Peninsula.

I was unable to attend the Assembly meeting, but there will be representatives of CLES in attendance. They should be able to answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Dan Michels
President
Cooper Landing Emergency Services