



RESOLUTION 26-666

OPPOSING THE COST SHARE FUNDING PROPOSAL FROM THE HAWKINS COUNTY-EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION DISTRICT

BEFORE THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF MOUNT CARMEL,
TENNESSEE

WHEREAS, pursuant to the establishment of the "Emergency Communications District Law-Tennessee Code Annotated Title 7, Chapter 86" Hawkins County-Emergency Communication District was established in 1993, at the sole discretion of Hawkins County, to provide a regional 9-1-1 enhanced service to the users of emergency telephone services in Hawkins County: Residents and visitors, primarily owners of taxable property in Hawkins County; and,

WHEREAS, in the sole discretion of the HC-ECD adopted the direct dispatch method of emergency communication service, and a central dispatch for Hawkins County was formed to provide emergency communication services to residents and visitors, primarily owners of taxable property in Hawkins County; and,

WHEREAS, residents, visitors, and users of emergency telephone services pay a statewide service charge which is used to primarily finance 9-1-1 central dispatch operations in Hawkins County; and,

WHEREAS, Hawkins County is the only authority that has taxing authority for every resident in both the unincorporated and incorporated areas of Hawkins County, with a current tax rate approximately 61% higher than the Town of Mount Carmel's tax rate (\$.96490 more per \$100 valuation), which should primarily be for regional essential service initiatives such as schools, law enforcement, emergency management, emergency medical services, and enhanced 9-1-1 emergency communications; and,

WHEREAS, HC-ECD has created and managed a deficit budget in the previous two fiscal years and is subject to state intervention if they go to a third year in deficit budgeting. Their actions and initiatives, which were solely decided on and chosen by them and codified by their Board of Directors, have brought them to their deficit; and,

WHEREAS, HC-ECD Board of Director members are appointed by the County Mayor, within legislative guidelines at his sole discretion, upon recommendations from the HC-ECD Director. A board of which we currently have no representation, has proposed again to charge

a cost share for the municipalities, which results in a “taxation without representation” situation and “double taxation” on the municipal resident taxpayers; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Mount Carmel believe that the HC-ECD and the County have created an acceptable solution for regional 9-1-1 dispatching the funding mechanism as proposed is flawed; and,

WHEREAS, the HC-ECD and Hawkins County have a spending priority problem, not necessarily a revenue problem, and should look to an economy of scale solution for this issue, funded by countywide tax dollars; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN, as follows,

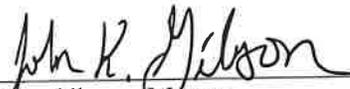
- 1. That the Mount Carmel Board of Mayor and Aldermen go on record vehemently opposing any additional charges to the municipalities, and by extension their residents, of funding for any regional service initiatives of Hawkins County.**
- 2. That if HC-ECD denies 9-1-1 central dispatch services, and Hawkins County refuses to fund the operation to Town of Mount Carmel residents and visitors, and by extension service fee payers and taxpaying citizens, those same residents shall receive a pro-rated credit and/or refund towards their annual Hawkins County General Tax Levy upon all taxable property in the Town of Mount Carmel of Hawkins County.**
- 3. That if HC-ECD denies 9-1-1 central dispatch services to the citizens, owners of taxable property, and users of emergency telephone services who reside in the Town of Mount Carmel, that they shall receive a pro-rated reduction of that portion of their emergency telephone service charge that finances the direct dispatch method of emergency communication service.**
- 4. That a copy of this resolution be given to the members of the Hawkins County Commission representing the citizens, owners of taxable property, and users of emergency telephone services in Hawkins County who reside in the Town of Mount Carmel.**
- 5. That the members of the Hawkins County Commission representing the citizens, owners of taxable property, and users of emergency telephone services in Hawkins County who reside in Mount Carmel express to the full commission that a fair, equitable and economy of scale solution requires that taxes and telephone service charges have uniform application and should be enacted and imposed throughout the entire jurisdiction to the greatest extent possible in conformity with the availability of services within the jurisdiction. To the extent central dispatch is paid for by a general tax levy, the service should be available to all citizens, owners of taxable property, and users of emergency telephone services in Hawkins County**

without regard to whether they reside inside or outside of any municipality in Hawkins County.

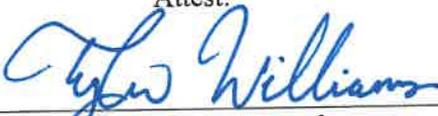
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

1. That a copy of this resolution be given to our state legislators representing our area, and to further request their attention and help in addressing this issue through enhanced legislation that allows for proper funding of all emergency communications districts, but more specifically the HC-ECD. The states narrow focus on 9-1-1 call taking requires broadening to address the complete 9-1-1 process from call initiation through dispatching appropriate resources and providing necessary data closeout.
2. With a copy to be sent to the Hawkins County Mayor and all Hawkins County Commissioners.

This Resolution was duly considered and adopted by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, in and for the Town of Mount Carmel, Tennessee, this 22nd day of January 2026.

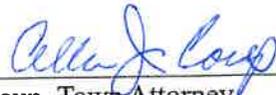


John Gibson, Mayor

Attest:


Tyler Williams, Town Recorder





Allen Coup, Town Attorney approved as to form