



WASHINGTON COUNTY

PLYMOUTH, NORTH CAROLINA

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Public Service Announcement For Immediate Release

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in an emergency session at 5:30PM on February 18th, 2019 to consult with legal counsel regarding the county's limited options available in the aftermath of the recent announcement by the Washington County Hospital on February 14th, 2019 that all hospital medical services including its emergency department were suspended that evening until further notice.

After careful thought and consideration of the information available to the county at this time, the Board voted unanimously to transmit a letter to the hospital ownership declaring its position that its legal right of reverter interest retained by the county in the hospital property when it was sold to CAH Acquisition Company #1, LLC in 2007 has been automatically triggered as a result of recent events, and the county will seek immediate possession of the facility.

The Board also voted unanimously to approve the filing of a Petition for Chapter 7 Involuntary Bankruptcy as an unpaid creditor of the hospital. In light of the present circumstances, pursuing this legal remedy was determined to be the most appropriate course of action at this time, and the remedy under which the county anticipates being able to bring about a permanent and positive stabilizing resolution to this unprecedented situation as quickly as possible.

Over the coming days and weeks, the county will continue to work closely with its legal counsel, other hospital creditors, and interested outside agencies and partners to pursue the appointment of a Bankruptcy Trustee with authority to exercise legal control over the assets and liabilities of the hospital.

The county will simultaneously continue to work closely with state and federal regulatory agencies and officials, medical facility consultants, and other interested parties to look deeper into the recent performance issues surrounding the Washington County Hospital, and to analyze the feasibility of continuing or rebuilding operations at the hospital facility under different available service models and scenarios. Washington County is committed to facilitating the restoration of medical services at the hospital facility as quickly as possible.

Additional information will be forthcoming as this fluid situation continues to develop on a day to day basis.

Washington County would also like to remind our citizens and the public at large that the Washington County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is independently owned and controlled by the county itself and is not directly impacted as a result of the hospital's suspension of services. The county does not anticipate a significant change in EMS services as a result of the hospital diversion. We will continue to carefully monitor any impacts of this diversion, and take any necessary steps to insure the level of EMS services provided in both Washington and Tyrrell counties remains strong and capable of providing full service.

Additional EMS information will be forthcoming soon about the locations of alternative emergency department facilities, and the manner in which EMS will continue to handle calls for service which will continue to be provided at the Paramedic level throughout both Washington and Tyrrell Counties.

If you have a medical emergency, please dial 911.