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COUNTY of EASTLAND

RECEIVED
FEB 18 2000
OPINION COMMITTEE

RQ-0190-*JC*

February 15, 2000

Office of the Attorney General
Opinion Committee
P. O. Box 12548
Austin, Texas 78711-2548

FILE # ML41279-00

I.D. # 41279

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Ranger Hospital District, Eastland County, Texas. The Hospital District is in the process of being dissolved and has requested of me to resolve two matters of concern that they have in completing the dissolution. In accordance with Section 41.007 of the Government Code, I have secured an opinion from the district attorney, but there is disagreement with his opinion. A copy is enclosed.

I have also enclosed a copy of a letter from the Ranger Hospital District dated January 11, 2000 which requested me to secure an opinion on their behalf and details some history about the dissolution plan. It appears that the district has complied with the Bankruptcy Court instructions, ceased to offer health care services and is ready to dissolve according to House Bill 1889. It also appears that the County of Eastland will assume the liability for indigent health care for the residents of the former hospital district after dissolution.

Therefore, I formally request your opinion on the following questions.

- (1) May the Hospital District donate the funds it received from the tobacco settlement to the City of Ranger (a government entity) with the stipulation that these funds be applied to the purchase of an ambulance for the City without the City assuming any liabilities?



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- (2) If notice is given on the agenda of a regular meeting, an item of discussion is the dissolution of the hospital district, and if the Board resolves to dissolve the hospital district at that meeting, must an election be held to approve the dissolution of the hospital district?

If we can provide any information or clarify any question, do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Terry W. Langford
Eastland County Auditor

Enclosures

Cc: Ms. Marilyn A. Thomas, Ranger Hospital District
Mr. Brad Stephenson, Eastland County Judge
Mr. Mike Siebert, Eastland County Criminal District Attorney