



Sawyer Dyer awaits the start of his homecoming parade with his family and Knox County Sheriff's deputies.

Faith, family and community converge to celebrate a miracle

By Richie Beeler

Johnny Sawyer Dyer just wanted to go home. But even the imagination of a seven-year-old could not have envisioned what was waiting for him when he got

from leukemia.

Smiling faces lined both sides of Tazewell Pike all the way from Fairview Road to Harbison's Crossroads – a distance of nearly half a mile. Sawyer, his

Becky who came up with the idea and plan for the homecoming celebration.

"The inspiration for the parade came from Sawyer himself," she said. "His faith and that of his

has gone well beyond the borders of the Gibbs community, and is even touching people throughout the U.S. But in the end, she said, it was home that meant the most to Sawyer and his family.

The discussion last week pitted some commission members against each other and saw various representatives of AMR-Rural/Metro responding to questions about billing service, response time and company ownership brought up, initially, by Commissioner Charles Busler. Commissioners Evelyn Gill, Carson Dailey and Michelle Carringer also had some pointed comments about the matter.

Commissioner Busler said that he wants to know more about KKR, the possible new owners of the parent company AMR, how 911 calls are distributed, and why an EMS Cost Review Board hasn't been named to oversee the agreement. AMR-Rural/Metro provides ambulance service in Knox County and the parent company also provides fire response.

Busler made a motion to re-bid the contract instead of approving the renewal. Commissioner Brad Anderson