

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL

"CALLED" MEETING

MARLBORO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2013

5:30 PM

CHAIR	DR. CAROLYN PRINCE
VICE-CHAIR	RON MUNNERLYN
ADMINISTRATOR	JIM HAYNES
COUNTY ATTORNEY	HARRY EASTERLING, JR.

COUNCIL:

JASON STEEN,
RON MUNNERLYN,
DR. CAROLYN PRINCE,
STEVE BLACKMON, AND

WILLIE GLADDEN,
CORRIE H. PLATO,
KEN ALLEN,
ANTHONY WOODS

*

* Absent

INVOCATION – Dr. Carolyn Prince

DISCUSSION OF AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN MARLBORO COUNTY AND THE CITY OF BENNETTSVILLE

Dr. Carolyn Prince, Chair, asked Mr. Jim Haynes, Interim Administrator, to update Council on the process and the main problems with the proposed agreement by and between Marlboro County and the City of Bennettsville.

Mr. Jim Haynes, Interim Administrator, stated that the process began a couple of months ago when he began pulling numbers together for the planning of a renewal contract between Marlboro County and the City of Bennettsville to show the terms of costs for the contract. Mr. Haynes stated that he determined that the total of 911 calls which had been dispatched for the entire year were 32,209 and the cost of each call which was \$10.68. He stated that he determined that Bennettsville 911 calls represented 42% of all calls (or 13,386 calls) and stated that the cost of 911 Bennettsville calls were \$142,965.75. He stated that there were 352 fire calls and the rural area fire calls were removed from these total calls and there were

178 fire calls made from rural areas and outside City limits. He stated that if the fire calls to the rural areas were removed, the cost of dispatching for Bennettsville was \$141,061.44.

Mr. Haynes stated that with regard to Detention Center services, the cost to operate the Detention Center is \$1,251,500.00 and this amount represents the soft costs. The total number of inmate days is 23,074 and the daily cost per inmate was \$54.24. Bennettsville inmate days equal 6,367 and stated that the total Bennettsville inmate daily cost at \$54.24 was \$345,336.00.

Mr. Haynes advised that he had written to Mr. Max Alderman, City Administrator, and provided these numbers with a proposed contract with no city numbers included and that he expected Mr. Alderman to call and set a meeting to discuss the contract. Mr. Haynes stated that he did recall that Mr. Alderman called one Friday but stated that he did not get the call because he does not work on Fridays. He stated that in any event, during the meantime, the City Council met and signed the contract and included numbers to simply match the County numbers and provided no background to support their numbers. Mr. Haynes stated that the contract had been handled this way for many years between the City and the County and Mr. Alderman's position is that things would continue in this fashion. Mr. Haynes stated that the one item that he missed was the credit for 911 for city residents which is paid on the phone bill. He did not calculate that amount in his numbers but the City did include this credit in its numbers.

Mr. Haynes stated that he began to question in his mind the amount of the actual cost to provide fire services outside the city limits for the five mile radius. He stated that he asked Keith Hughes to work up some numbers as to what it would cost the County to provide fire services to the citizens outside the city limit and within the five mile radius. Mr. Haynes stated that Mr. Hughes had worked up some numbers for this service and was available to share this information with the Council.

Dr. Prince questioned the cost value of providing inmates for housing versus the value of the costs for fire service in that five mile radius area and stated that it appeared that the County is in the red on its figures for housing inmates. Mr. Haynes stated that the Bennettsville costs for Bennettsville was \$345,336. He stated that the City advised that the fire protection costs provided the County is \$416,694.48.

Mr. Steve Blackmon asked Mr. Haynes if the City had given him any numbers to support the numbers contained in the contract and Mr. Haynes stated they did not but stated that the City did provide an email that stated that the updated costs to provide fire service in the Bennettsville Fire Protection District was the product of the current Fire Department Budget and is estimated to be 51%.

Dr. Prince stated that according to those numbers, the County is paying one-half of the City's fire protection.

Mr. Willie Gladden questioned Attorney Harry Easterling, Jr. as to what type of an agreement did the City and County have when he represented the City as attorney. Mr.

Easterling advised that it was basically the same type of agreement but as best as he could remember the amount was somewhere around \$206,000.00 but it was trade for trade. He stated that if his recollection was correct from back in 2000, that the numbers were estimated and that he never saw actual numbers but the part was the Detention and 911 trade was for fire services.

Mr. Gladden inquired as to whether the inmate numbers included Clio and McColl. Mr. Haynes advised that the numbers are broken down and the numbers that were being discussed were Bennettsville numbers only.

Mr. Ken Allen stated that the 51% of the costs as a whole was from Bennettsville.

Mr. Gladden stated that we should have looked at these numbers months ago rather than at this late time.

Mr. Ron Munnerlyn stated that they had had discussion on this for about a year.

Mr. Gladden stated that the City's position is that they do not have a problem with this contract. He stated that the City is saying it has been done it this way for 15-20 years and now Council feels that the County is owed actually somewhere around \$200,000.00 but there is no real way of knowing without the City providing true numbers.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that Council was looking down the barrel at a tax increase. He stated that the City was using the same funding formula as the County.

Mr. Haynes confirmed Mr. Munnerlyn's view to be correct.

Mr. Munnerlyn inquired of Mr. Haynes as to whether or not the County included the debt. Mr. Haynes confirmed that the City included the debt on their end but the County did not.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that in looking at what the County pays out now even if it is not fair, he did not believe that the City would write the County a check for \$450,000.00. He stated that the County needed to figure it out but that he thought the County's numbers were right to some extent. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the County should include the debt in its numbers as the City has the debt included in theirs.

Dr. Prince recommended that Mr. Haynes schedule a meeting with Mr. Alderman to discuss true numbers and that someone should attend the meeting with Mr. Haynes.

Mr. Allen stated that this needed to be reviewed and stated that the County is trying to work out what the best situation is and what is most advantageous to the County. He stated that Council should look at all areas to create revenue and stated that this talk needed to begin as quickly as possible. He stated that if the numbers were unfair that the County needed to get them in check.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that it was unfair for the City to just match the County's numbers. He stated that if the County owed the City, they would want to be paid. He stated that it is just business.

Mr. Blackmon stated that the County should be able to know what the true numbers are every year.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the County is looking at adding more fire millage. He stated that the County should add our debt services to the contract.

Mr. Jason Steen stated that the County needed to use actual numbers from City and County.

Mr. Allen stated that \$180,000.00 would be tremendous to the County's budget.

Dr. Prince stated that it appeared that numbers needed to be reviewed and County needed to add our debt service into the contract. She suggested the meeting with Mr. Alderman needed to be scheduled and confirmed that she would be available to be included in the meeting anytime this week or next week.

Dr. Prince questioned that if the Detention Center had inmates which were arrested by the City and were given additional time after going to Court and sent back to the Detention Center, would the City be responsible for this costs or does the County pay the costs of the inmate. Mr. Haynes stated that he thought the City would be responsible for these additional services. Mr. Easterling stated that Warden Hood should be able to confirm how this works. Mr. Gladden stated that the Solicitor would be involved at that time if Court had taken place and questioned if those cost would pass to the County with that being the case. Dr. Prince stated that we should confirm how this is handled.

Mr. Munnerlyn expressed concern that the existing contract with the City would expire on May 9 and questioned what would happen if a fire occurred within the five mile radius. Mr. Allen stated that he assumed all would continue to keep things as they are until an agreement could be agreed upon because the City would still need to have inmates housed and the County would still have fires to be put out. He stated that things should continue to go as they are until a new contract is signed. Dr. Prince stated that maybe a meeting could be scheduled with Mr. Alderman and something could be presented to Council at the May 6 Budget meeting. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that City does not hold a lot of meetings and hoped that something could be worked out.

Dr. Prince asked Council for questions or comments.

Mr. Haynes stated that he felt that he did not know what could be negotiated. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the public needs to know how this contract has been handled in the past so that all would listen and not use the numbers provided by the City.

Mr. Blackmon stated that the County simply needed to do what was fair and that if anyone had problems with doing what is fair, then it is obvious they are doing things they should not

be doing. He stated that this needed to be worked out and that it seemed that we had a mess like this every year.

Mr. Steen stated that the County needed numbers from the City and needed to work out a fair contract. Mr. Allen stated that he hoped all parties would be fair and stated that all should act like adults and keep housing inmates and putting out fires. Mr. Steen stated that he did not want the County to have this same problem next year and this needed to be resolved now.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that we are getting ready to raise taxes.

Mr. Steen stated that he wanted to hear the numbers which had been worked up by Keith Hughes. He stated that Mr. Hughes had put a lot of time and effort into getting numbers to bring to Council and that they should at least hear what he has to say. Mr. Munnerlyn asked Mr. Hughes if he needed additional time to review the numbers he had come up with. Mr. Hughes stated that no numbers were concrete at this time but stated that he could give Council something to at least review and think about.

Dr. Prince recommended a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss the numbers which Mr. Hughes had drawn up which is a contractual matter.

Motion made by Ms. Corrie Plato, seconded by Mr. Steve Blackmon, to enter into executive session for the discussion of a contractual matter. Vote in favor. Unanimous.

Motion made by Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, seconded by Mr. Jason Steen to leave executive session and re-enter open session. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Dr. Prince, Chair, advised no votes had been taken and no decisions were made during the Executive Session.

Dr. Prince thanked Mr. Keith Hughes and Mr. Haynes for the services provided.

Motion made by Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, seconded by Mr. Willie Gladden to renew the Agreement by and between Marlboro County and the City of Bennettsville for one (1) year with the recommendation that staff shall provide Council information on what it would cost the County to provide fire services within the five (6) mile radius. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

NON AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Willie Gladden inquired of Council as to what could be done with dogs visiting properties with owners having other dogs. He mentioned that the cost to feed these dogs was tremendous and that the Humane Society had been contacted but that the citizen was advised that there was no room for the dogs. Dr. Prince advised Mr. Gladden that unless the dogs were vicious, the County could not help with this. She stated that the County is out of

the dog business and unless the dogs were vicious that there was nothing the County could do.

Mr. Ron Munnerlyn suggested that the Tower Ordinance be placed on the May 6, 2013 agenda for third reading. Dr. Prince agreed to have this third reading of the Tower Ordinance added to the agenda for the May 6, 2013 meeting.

Dr. Prince announced that Harbor Freight would have their ground breaking in Dillon County on Wednesday, May 1, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. and all were invited to attend.

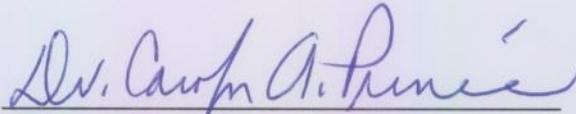
Dr. Prince announced that as of 4:15 p.m. that day, no action had been taken on the solid waste bill H.3290 and stated that the Senate would be convening earlier than usual on Wednesday morning. She advised that if no decision is made on this bill this week, she would prepare a letter and would recommend that all Council members sign in opposition of this bill.

ADJOURN

No further discussion was heard. The meeting was adjourned.

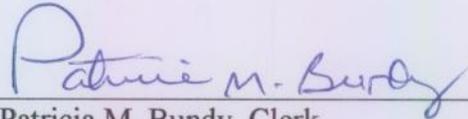
Motion made by Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, seconded by Mr. Jason Steen, to adjourn the meeting. Vote in favor. Unanimous. Motion carried.

(SEAL)



Dr. Carolyn A. Prince, Chair
Marlboro County Council

ATTEST:



Patricia M. Bundy, Clerk
Marlboro County Council

Date Adopted: May 14, 2013