



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
BUDGET WORKSHOP
MARCH 23, 2011
3:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

OFFICIALS PRESENT: CHAIRMAN LEROY BLACKSHEAR, VICE CHAIRMAN SAMUEL GREGORY, COUNCILMAN HENRY ETHERIDGE, COUNCILMAN L. MARTIN SAULS IV. COUNCILMAN THEODUS L. DRAYTON ARRIVED WHILE THE COUNCIL WAS IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

STAFF PRESENT: ADMINISTRATOR-ANDREW FULGHUM, CLERK TO COUNCIL-JUDITH FRANK, COUNTY ATTORNEY - MARVIN JONES, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION - RONNIE MALPHRUS, DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES DIVISION - WILBUR DALEY, PROBATE JUDGE - JOSEPH MALPHRUS, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT- DIXIE FORD

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT THE ELECTRONIC AND PRINT MEDIA WERE NOTIFIED.

DURING PERIODS OF DISCUSSION AND/OR PRESENTATIONS MINUTES ARE TYPICALLY CONDENSED AND PARAPHRASED.

CALL TO ORDER- CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR CALLED THE BUDGET WORKSHOP TO ORDER AT 3:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR LED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

INVOCATION- COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE GAVE THE INVOCATION.

ANDREW FULGHUM – PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET – MR. FULGHUM EXPLAINED THAT BY LAW, THE ADMINISTRATOR MUST PROVIDE THE COUNCIL WITH A BALANCED BUDGET. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT MR. MALPHRUS SENT OUT BUDGET REQUESTS AND THOSE REQUESTS ARE INCORPORATED INTO THE BUDGET. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE DID NOT HAVE THE TRUE ASSESSMENT VALUE OR THE MILLAGE RATE AT THIS TIME. MR.

FULGHUM SAID HE WAS ALSO GOING TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION REGARDING THE FIRE CONTRACTS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE BUDGET IS A WORK IN PROGRESS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE ASSESSORS OFFICE IS CURRENTLY REASSESSING EVERY PROPERTY IN THE COUNTY. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE HOPED TO HAVE THE NUMBERS AT THE NEXT BUDGET WORKSHOP. MR. FULGHUM EXPLAINED SOME OF THE REVENUE FROM FEES IS DECREASED IN THE BUDGET. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT DUE TO AN ERROR, THE FEE IN LIEU REVENUE HAS BEEN REDUCED BY \$250,000. MR. FULGHUM EXPLAINED THAT THE AUDITOR WAS USING THE WRONG VERSION OF THE FILOT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED WHEN THE AGEEMENT WAS DONE AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID IN 2005 AND IT WAS REVISED AND THE AUDITOR'S OFFICE WAS BILLING OFF OF THE OLD CONTRACT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE \$250,000 WILL NOT BE RECEIVED THIS YEAR EITHER. COUNCILMAN SAULS ASKED WHO HAD THE AUTHORITY TO CHANGE THE CONTRACT. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE AUDITOR WAS WORKING FROM THE WRONG VERSION OF THE CONTRACT. MR FULGHUM SAID THE BUSINESS LICENSE FEES ARE DOWN, BUT THEY HAVE HAD SOME SMALL BUSINESSES OPEN. MR. FULGHUM SAID THEY ARE LOOKING FOR ABOUT \$90,000 LESS IN BUSINESS LICENSE FES. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT BUSINESS LICENSE REVENUE IS SHORT THIS YEAR TOO. MR. FULGHUM SAID THEY HAVE \$355,000 TO MAKE UP.

MR. FULGHUM DISCUSSED THE REASON FOR THE OVERTIME AT EMERGENCY SERVICES WAS BECAUSE THEY DO NOT ALWAYS HAVE ENOUGH PARAMEDICS AND SOMEONE HAS TO MAN THE AMBULANCES. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED IF THEY ADVERTISED FOR MORE PARAMEDICS AND MR. FULGHUM RESPONDED THAT THERE WERE NO OPENINGS. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED WHY THEY DON'T HIRE SOMEONE ON AN ON CALL BASIS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY COULD LOOK INTO HIRING ANOTHER PERSON. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE NUMBER OF HOURS A PARAMEDIC COULD BE WORKING IF CALLED BACK IN TO COVER FOR SOMEONE ELSE.

VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED WHO APPROVED THE CHANGE TO THE FEE IN LIEU CONTRACT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT IT WAS APPROVED SEVERAL YEARS AGO AND THE EXTRA FEE DID NOT KICK IN UNTIL THIS YEAR.

VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY DISCUSSED THE INCREASE IN GAS AND OIL AND ASKED IF IT WOULD SAVE MONEY FOR ALL EMPLOYEES TO PARK THE COUNTY CARS AT THE END OF THEIR SHIFT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID IT WOULD SAVE SOME MONEY, BUT NOT ON THE FIRE AND RESCUE SIDE. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID HE FELT ANYONE WHO DRIVES A COUNTY VEHICLE SHOULD PARK IT AFTER THEIR SHIFT IS OVER AND NOT DRIVE IT UNLESS THEY ARE WORKING.

MR. MALPHRUS DISCUSSED THE \$15,000 FOR NEW BUNKER GEAR AND EXPLAINED THAT WOULD COVER EQUIPPING 5 NEW VOLUNTEERS.

MR. FULGHUM AND MR. MALPHRUS DISCUSSED THE INCREASES AND DECREASES TO VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS.

VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED WHY HARDEEVILLE WAS BEING PAID OVER \$700,000 FOR CHERRY POINT FIRE PROTECTIONS. MR. FULGHUM

EXPLAINED THAT THE PROPERTY OWNERS IN THAT AREA PAY A SPECIAL TAX FOR FIRE COVERAGE AND THE COUNTY TURNS THAT MONEY OVER TO HARDEEVILLE SINCE THEY PROVIDE THE FIRE PROTECTION. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED WHAT DID THE COUNTY GAIN SELLING THE STATION AT CHERRY POINT TO HARDEEVILLE. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE COUNTY NO LONGER HAS TO PROVIDE THE FIRE SERVICE. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THE COUNTY SOLD IT, BUT THEY ARE STILL PAYING FOR IT. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT AS HARDEEVILLE ANNEXES THE PROPERTIES, THE TAX COMES OFF. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE COUNTY CAN REDUCE THE MILLAGE IN THAT TAX DISTRICT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS HE WAS TOLD THAT \$400,000 WAS COLLECTED IN TAXES IN THAT FIRE DISTRICT AND HE ASKED HOW MANY YEARS HAVE THEY ACTUALLY PAID HARDEEVILLE \$700,000. MR. ETHERIDGE SAID THE COUNTY IS PAYING HARDEEVILLE ABOUT \$1,000,000 PER YEAR TO PROVIDE FIRE PROTECTION IN RURAL HARDEEVILLE AND CHERRY POINT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID IT WOULD COST THE COUNTY MORE THAN THAT IF THE COUNTY PROVIDED THE FIRE PROTECTIONS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE COUNTY WOULD NEED 6 FIREMEN TO COVER THE STATION 24/7 AND IN THE BEGINNING THE TAX WAS NOT ENOUGH TO COVER THE COUNTY'S EXPENSES. MR. MALPHRUS SAID AS HARDEEVILLE ANNEXES MORE PROPERTY, THE TAXES WILL GO DOWN. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THEY NEEDED TO BE CAREFUL AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS DEPARTMENT BECAUSE SOME THINGS DO NOT JIVE. MR. FULGHUM AND MR. MALPHRUS COVERED THE OTHER AREAS WHERE THERE WILL BE INCREASES. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THE INCREASES TOTAL \$265,000 IN THE LINE ITEMS OF THE BUDGET AND THERE IS A \$355,000 DECREASE IN REVENUE. MR. FULGHUM TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT NONE OF THE COUNCILS GOALS OR RECOMMENDATIONS TOTALING \$197,000 WERE INCLUDED IN THIS VERSION OF THE BUDGET.

PROBATE JUDGE JOEY MALPHRUS - JUDGE MALPHRUS TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT STATE LAW REQUIRED THE COUNCIL TO PROVIDE THE PROBATE COURT WITH ENOUGH EMPLOYEES TO RUN THE OFFICE. JUDGE MALPHRUS SAID THAT CURRENTLY HE HAS ONE EMPLOYEE WHICH IS LESS THAN HE HAD 12 YEARS AGO. JUDGE MALPHRUS REQUESTED A PART TIME PERSON. JUDGE MALPHRUS SAID THAT MS. FORD, HIS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, WAS PRESENT AND THEREFORE THE DOOR TO HIS OFFICE WAS LOCKED. JUDGE MALPHRUS TOLD THE COUNCIL THEY WOULD BE VIOLATING THE LAW IF THEY DID NOT PROVIDE HIM WITH A PERSON TO COVER WHEN MS. FORD IS OUT FOR VACATION OR ON SICK LEAVE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED JUDGE MALPHRUS HOW MUCH MONEY HE WAS ASKING FOR. JUDGE MALPHRUS SAID ENOUGH TO COVER A PART-TIME EMPLOYEE TO COVER WHEN MS. FORD IS ON VACATION OR SICK LEAVE. JUDGE MALPHRUS ASSURED THE COUNCIL THAT HE WOULD NEVER HAVE MORE THAN ONE PERSON WORKING IN HIS OFFICE WITH HIM. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY STATED THAT PEOPLE COME TO GET MARRIED OR GET A MARRIAGE LICENSE AND THEY ARE TOLD THEY HAVE TO HAVE AN APPOINTMENT AND SOME HAVE HAD TO WAIT 2-3 WEEKS. PROBATE JUDGE

MALPHRUS RESPONDED THAT HE ONLY HAS ONE EMPLOYEE AND DOES THE BEST THAT HE CAN AND CHANGES HAD TO BE MADE. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED IF THE PROBATE COURT OFFICES ARE OPEN UNTIL 5:00 P.M. PROBATE JUDGE MALPHRUS SAID THAT HE IS DOING THE BEST WITHIN THE GOD GIVEN POWER HE HAS TO OBEY THE LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA. PROBATE JUDGE MALPHRUS SAID THAT SOMEONE COULD BE AT THIS OFFICE RIGHT NOW AND IT WOULD BE CLOSED BECAUSE HE AND MS. FORD WERE BOTH PRESENT AT THIS MEETING. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED WHY MS. FORD WAS AT THIS MEETING. PROBATE JUDGE MALPHRUS SAID HE WANTED FOR MS. FORD TO HEAR WHAT WAS SAID. PROBATE JUDGE MALPHRUS SAID THE LAW REQUIRES THE COUNTY TO PROVIDE HIM WITH ENOUGH STAFF TO OPERATE. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON ASKED IF HE WAS ASKING FOR \$10,000 FOR A PART-TIME PERSON. JUDGE MALPHRUS SAID HE THOUGHT THAT MAY BE ON THE HIGH SIDE. RONNIE MALPHRUS SAID THE ADMINISTRATION WAS NOT RECOMMENDING ANY INCREASE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE \$1,575 SALARY SUPPLEMENT AND MR. MALPHRUS EXPLAINED THAT IS MONEY FROM THE STATE THAT IS PART OF THE PROBATE JUDGE'S SALARY. JUDGE MALPHRUS ASKED HOW LONG DOES MS. FORD HAVE TO BE OUT BEFORE THEY ARE BREAKING THE LAW. PROBATE JUDGE MALPHRUS SAID THEY COULD SETTLE IT HERE OR IN COURT. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THEY CANNOT GIVE HIM AN ANSWER TODAY, BUT THE COUNCIL WOULD WORK ON IT. JUDGE MALPHRUS SAID AT NO TIME WOULD HE HAVE MORE THAN ONE PERSON WORKING WITH HIM IN HIS OFFICE.

BETH MCNEER – AHJ LIBRARY – MS. MCNEER SAID THAT WITH GRANT FUNDING THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO EXPAND THE SERVICES OFFERED AT THE LIBRARIES. MS. MCNEER TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT IN THE LAST 6 MONTHS THEY HAVE WORKED WITH 150 PEOPLE DOING TRAINING ON THE COMPUTER. MS. MCNEER SAID THE GRANT FUNDS ALSO PROVIDED MORE COMPUTERS AND REPLACED OLD COMPUTERS; EXPANDED THE SUMMER PROGRAM; SENT STAFF TO TRAINING; AND PURCHASED MORE BOOKS. MS. MCNEER SAID THEY WERE REQUESTING \$163,000 AND THESE FUNDS WOULD ALLOW RAISES FOR THE STAFF WHO HAS NOT RECEIVED A RAISE IN 3 YEARS AND IT WOULD KEEP THE LIBRARIES OPEN. MR. MCNEER SAID THE COUNTY'S APPROPRIATION PAYS FOR THE SALARIES AND BENEFITS FOR THE EMPLOYEES AND 39% OF THE REGIONAL COSTS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THE EXPENSES ARE BROKEN DOWN BETWEEN THE TWO LIBRARIES. MS. MCNEER SAID THEY OPERATED COUNTY BY COUNTY. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF EACH LIBRARY KNEW WHAT THEY HAD TO WORK WITH AND MS. MCNEER SAID THEY DID. MS. MCNEER SAID THEY PAY THE FEDERAL MINIMUM OF \$7.25 PER HOUR FOR PART-TIME EMPLOYEES AND ONE PERSON MAKES MORE BECAUSE OF LENGTH OF SERVICE. LASHAWN CAMPBELL SAID SHE WORKS PART TIME IN THE HARDEEVILLE LIBRARY AND THE TRAFFIC THERE HAS INCREASED. MS. CAMPBELL SAID SHE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO WORK MORE HOURS TO HELP THE PEOPLE.

THE COUNCIL TOOK A FIVE MINUTE BREAK.

MR. MALPHRUS DISCUSSED THE CUTS TO THE BUDGET AND EXPLAINED THAT THEY WOULD BE FOUND IN THE DEPARTMENT'S BUDGET. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE TOTAL CUTS AMOUNTED TO \$352,800 LESS THAN IS BUDGETED THIS YEAR. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY WERE RECOMMENDING CUTTING ALL FUNDING TO USCB AND TCL. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THEY DID NOT SEE HOW THEY CAN BE CUT FROM THE BUDGET. MR. FULGHUM SAID TCL IS ONE OF THE FASTING GROWING COLLEGES IN THE NATION AND DR. UPSHAW RECEIVES MORE LOCAL FUNDING THAN STATE FUNDING. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT HE BRINGS A BUDGET TO THE COUNCIL WITH HIS RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE COUNCIL CAN DO WHAT THEY WANT WITH IT. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THAT TCL IS A LOCAL COLLEGE AND THE STUDENTS IN THE AREA DEPEND ON IT. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR TOLD THE COUNCIL TO LET THE ADMINISTRATION PRESENT THEIR RECOMMENDED BUDGET AND THE COUNCIL CAN TAKE IT HOME AND REVIEW IT AND COME BACK WITH RECOMMENDATIONS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THERE IS A SHORTFALL OF \$620,000, BUT THAT DOES NOT INCLUDE THE COUNCIL'S GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF \$197,000. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY ARE LOOKING TO FIND THOSE FUNDS AND HE EXPECTED TO HAVE A FULL AND COMPLETE BUDGET FOR THE 1ST WORKSHOP IN APRIL. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE WAS GLAD TO HEAR THE DISCUSSIONS AND HE ENCOURAGED THE COUNCIL TO CONTINUE SO THAT THEY CAN GET A DRAFT BUDGET TOGETHER THAT EVERYONE CAN LIVE WITH.

MR. FULGHUM SAID HE DISCUSSED EMERGENCY SERVICES WITH THE FIRE CHIEFS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE THREE FIRE AGREEMENTS ARE ALL DIFFERENT AND THEY NEEDED TO BE LOOKED AT INDIVIDUALLY. MR. FULGHUM SAID THEY NEEDED TO GIVE HARDEEVILLE AND RIDGELAND AN INDICATION IF THEY PLANNED TO RENEW THE CONTRACTS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE LEVY CONTRACT DOES NOT EXPIRE UNTIL 2014. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT IF THE CONTRACTS WITH THE MUNICIPALITIES ARE NOT RENEWED, THE COUNTY WOULD HAVE TO PROVIDE THE FIRE COVERAGE. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE CONTRACTS PROVIDE FOR A HIGHER LEVEL OF SERVICE AND A LOWER ISO RATING FOR THE CITIZENS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE COUNTY WOULD EITHER HAVE TO RENEW THE CONTRACT OR PROVIDE THE SERVICE. MR. FULGHUM SAID IF THE CONTRACTS ARE NOT RENEWED, 3 FIREMEN AT EACH OF THE STATIONS WOULD BE LEFT GO. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE MILLAGE RATE COULD BE ADJUSTED FOR CHERRY POINT. COUNCILMAN SAULS SAID THAT SHOULD MAKE HARDEEVILLE HAPPY SINCE THEY WANT TO LOWER THE TAXES. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE PROPERTY AND VEHICLES ARE BOTH TAXED IN A FIRE DISTRICT. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THIS REALLY NEEDED TO BE STUDIED. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE COUNTY ALREADY ESTABLISHED FIRE DISTRICTS, BUT HE WAS TOLD BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL THAT HE CAN'T ESTABLISH A MILLAGE FOR EACH DISTRICT. MR. FULGHUM SAID THERE WAS A NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL AND ASKED THE COUNCIL IF THEY WANTED HIM TO REVISIT THIS OPTION. MR. FULGHUM

SAID HE RECOMMENDED RENEWING THE CONTRACTS FOR ONE YEAR AT THE SAME AMOUNT AND TO INSTRUCT HIM TO ESTABLISH MILLAGE RATES. MR. FULGHUM DISCUSSED HOW THE MILLAGE RATE IN THE MUNICIPALITIES WOULD BE REDUCED BECAUSE THE COUNTY DOES NOT PROVIDE FIRE SERVICE TO THEM. MR. MALPRHUS SAID THAT CURRENTLY EVERYONE IS PAYING ON THE TOTAL. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT EMS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE COUNTY HAS THE BURDEN TO PROVIDE EMS SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY AND THEY WOULD NEED LEGAL AUTHORITY TO CHANGE IT.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THE MILLAGE IN THE VARIOUS FIRE DISTRICT WOULD GO INTO EFFECT THIS YEAR. MR. MALPHRUS SAID IT WOULD NOT GO INTO EFFECT UNTIL FISCAL YEAR 2013, BUT THEY WILL HAVE THE INFORMATION. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE CURRENT LEGAL OPINION TO DO THE FIRE DISTRICT MILLAGE IS NO, BUT HE HAS GONE TO THE NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR AN OPINION AND IT GENERALLY TAKES ABOUT A MONTH TO GET A RESPONSE. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT FIRE SERVICE WILL COST NO MATTER WHAT WAY IT IS DONE. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SAID MR. DALEY SHOULD PROVIDE THE COUNCIL THE WAY IT SHOULD BE DONE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE WAS MORE WORRIED ABOUT THE JASPER FIRE DISTRICT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THERE WAS A FIRE ON THREE SIDES OF PINELAND ESTATES AND THERE WAS NO ONE IN GRAYS, MR. DALEY SAID THERE WAS SOMEONE IN ROBERTVILLE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT MORE FIRE PROTECTION WAS NEEDED IN AREAS OTHER THAN RIDGELAND, HARDEEVILLE AND LEVY. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THOSE THREE AREAS HAVE GOOD COVERAGE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE COUNTY IS NOT SERVING THE RURAL AREAS THE WAY THEY NEED TO. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THEY ARE FORTUNATE THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE MANY FIRES. MR. FULGHUM SAID IF THEY DO NOT RENEW THE CONTRACTS, THE COUNTY WILL HAVE TO PROVIDE COVERAGE WHERE THEY HAVE NO STATION OR EQUIPMENT. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SAID THE COUNTY PAYS THE FIRE CHIEF TO PROVIDE FIRE PROTECTION FOR THE CITIZENS OF JASPER COUNTY. MR. MALPHRUS SAID IT WOULD TAKE ABOUT A MILLION DOLLARS TO DO THAT. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SAID HE FELT THEY NEEDED TO PROVIDE THE MILLION DOLLARS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE COUNCIL NEEDED TO PLAN WHAT THEY WANTED TO DO NEXT YEAR, BUT NOT AT THIS POINT FOR THIS YEAR.

CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID HE RECEIVED A CALL FROM REPRESENTATIVE BRANTLEY REGARDING TAKING THE RIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM TO COLUMBIA ON APRIL 14, 2011. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID REPRESENTATIVE BRANTLEY HAD MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TEAM TO BE RECOGNIZED ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THAT REPRESENTATIVE BRANTLEY WANTED THE COUNTY TO PAY FOR THE BUSES AND MEALS FOR ALL THE PEOPLE WHO WANTED TO ATTEND. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THE DATE COULD BE CHANGED TO THE 27TH AS PLANNED BY COUNCIL. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID HE WAS TOLD IT COULD NOT BE ON THE

27TH. COUNCILMAN SAULS SAID THAT STATE HOUSE DAY WAS A PRESTEGIOUS DAY AND HAVING THE BASKETBALL TEAM ATTEND IT WOULD BE BETTER. COUNCILMAN SAULS SAID HE FELT THE REPRESENTATIVE COULD GET THE DATE CHANGED. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID HE FELT THE REPRESENTATIVE WENT TOO FAR WITHOUT CONSULTING THE COUNCIL. COUNCILMAN SAULS MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION NOT TO SPONSOR THE TRIP ON APRIL 14, 2011 AS REQUESTED. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR INSTRUCTED THE ADMINISTRATOR TO INFORM REPRESENTATIVE BRANTLEY THAT THE COUNTY WILL NOT SPONSOR OR PAY FOR THE APRIL 14, 2011 TRIP TO COLUMBIA.

ADJOURN: VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN SAULS SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADJOURN. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

JUDITH M. FRANK, ccc
CLERK TO COUNCIL

LEROY BLACKSHEAR
CHAIRMAN