



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS CONFERENCE ROOM
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 1, 2009
11:00 A.M.**

MINUTES

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

HENRY ETHERIDGE, COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
DR. GEORGE HOOD, COMMITTEE MEMBER

STAFF PRESENT:

ANDREW FULGHUM, ADMINISTRATOR
RONNIE MALPHRUS, DEP. ADM. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
JUDITH FRANK, CLERK TO COUNCIL

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:

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 2:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE LED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

INVOCATION:

RONNIE MALPHRUS OFFERED THE INVOCATION.

STIMULUS FUNDS:

MR. FULGHUM DISCUSSED THE GRANTS AND FUNDING THAT WAS APPLIED FOR BY THE COUNTY. MR. FULGHUM LISTED THE GRANTS THAT WERE APPLIED FOR AND RECEIVED AND HE ALSO LISTED THE

GRANTS AND FUNDING APPLIED FOR AND WERE NOT RECEIVED. MR. FULGHUM SAID A FEW APPLICATIONS WERE STILL PENDING. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE GRANTS APPLIED FOR IS \$84,855,075.59 AND THE TOTAL AMOUNT RECEIVED BY THE COUNTY IS \$13,661,698.04. MR. FULGHUM DISCUSSED THE CBDG GRANT FOR THE EXTENSION OF WATER AND SEWER IN HARDEEVILLE. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE WAS GOING TO REQUEST RDA FUNDS FROM EMBARQ FOR THE SPEC BUILDING AT CYPRESS RIDGE BUSINESS INDUSTRIAL PARK. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE LOW BID WAS \$625,000.00, AND HE WOULD LIKE A LITTLE CUSHION FOR THE SPEC BUILDING. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT THE INTERN WORKERS WERE FUNDED THROUGH THE LCOG AND THE COPS GRANT, FEMA GRANT, DHEC AND TRANSPORTATION GRANTS ARE ALL THE STIMULUS FUNDING RECEIVED BY JASPER COUNTY. COMMITTEE MEMBER HOOD SAID THAT SCDOT ALSO RECEIVED STIMULUS FUNDING THROUGH LCOG. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT HE FELT IN COMPARISON TO HAMPTON AND COLLECTON COUNTIES, PERCENTAGE WISE HE FELT THE COUNTY WAS IN GOOD SHAPE. MR. FULGHUM DISCUSSED THE \$7,984,924.76 IN STIMULUS FUNDING APPLIED FOR BY OTHERS THAT WILL AFFECT THE AREA. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THERE WERE NO LISTINGS REFLECTING THE NUMBER OF NEW JOBS THE STIMULUS FUNDING CREATED. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT AN INDIVIDUAL WAS NEEDED REGIONALLY TO COORDINATE THE INFORMATION. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE NUMBER OF JASPER COUNTY CITIZENS THAT HAVE JOBS CONNECTED TO STIMULUS FUNDING. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE COUNTY SHOULD BE ALERTED WHEN STIMULUS FUNDS ARE AWARDED TO ANYONE IN JASPER COUNTY. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE COMMENTED THAT THE COUNTY GOT VERY LITTLE OF THE STIMULUS MONEY THAT THE COUNTY APPLIED FOR. MR. FULGHUM TOLD THE COMMITTEE OF A FEW STATE RECYCLING GRANTS THAT HAVE BEEN CUT AND JASPER COUNTY'S CUT WAS \$2,500.00 AND RECYLING WASTE FUNDING WAS CUT. MR. FULGHUM DISCUSSED THE NEW HIRES, TERMINATIONS AND EMPLOYEES ON LEAVE. COMMITTEE MEMBER HOOD ASKED WHY MS. LEE WAS STILL ON LONG TERM DISABILITY AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID MS. LEE HAS NOT OFFICIALLY RESIGNED OR TERMINATED AND ANY FURTHER DISCUSSION SHOULD BE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION. THE COMMITTEE DECIDED TO DISCUSS EMPLOYMENT MATTERS IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE CURRENT BALANCE OF THE GENERAL FUND WAS \$856,620.00, HOWEVER, TAXES AND FEES WOULD NOT BE RECORDED AS THEY WERE JUST REPORTED AT THE END OF NOVEMBER. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT OUT OF THE \$5,000,000.00 BORROWED, THE COUNTY HAS DRAWN DOWN \$3,500,000.00, AND THEY WERE TRYING TO HOLD OFF DRAWING DOWN THE \$1,500,000.00.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE AUDIT. MR. MALPHRUS TOLD THE COMMITTEE THAT THE OUTSIDE AUDITORS COMPLETED THE FIELD WORK AND WERE CURRENTLY PUTTING THINGS TOGETHER. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THE AUDIT WOULD BE READY FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID IT WOULD NOT BE READY THAT SOON. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE COUNCIL NEEDED TO HAVE A SPECIAL WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS THE AUDIT. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHY IT TOOK SO LONG TO GET AN AUDIT DONE. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE STATED THAT HE FELT THE AUDIT SHOULD BE COMPLETE 90 DAYS AFTER THE FISCAL YEAR ENDS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID ALL THE BANKS HAVE TO BE CONTACTED AND THE AUDITORS HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE BANKS RESPOND. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THERE WAS NO WAY AN AUDIT CAN BE DONE IN 30 DAYS. MR. MALPHRUS EXPLAINED THAT IN JULY AND AUGUST, THEY ARE WAITING FOR ITEMS TO CLEAR THE BANK, AND THE LOCAL AUDITOR GOES THROUGH THINGS IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER AND FINALLY IN NOVEMBER THE OUTSIDE AUDITORS COME IN ORDER TO COMPLETE IT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID IF COUNCIL WANTED IT DONE QUICKER, HE COULD PUT OUT AN RFP TO HAVE IT DONE BY A CERTAIN DATE; HOWEVER, IT WOULD COST MORE. COMMITTEE MEMBER HOOD ASKED WHAT GOOD WOULD IT DO TO HAVE IT COMPLETED EARLIER. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE SAID IT WOULD LET THE COUNCIL KNOW WHERE THEY STAND FOR THE NEXT YEAR. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THEY HAD ALL THE NUMBERS, HOWEVER, THEY WERE NOT CERTIFIED. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE FUND BALANCE WAS ABOUT \$1,700,000.00. MR. FULGHUM SAID THEY HAD TO LOOK AND SEE IF THEY MISSED ANYTHING IN THE CURRENT BUDGET. MR. MALPHRUS STATED THAT THEY ARE ALWAYS A YEAR BEHIND AND IT IS TOO LATE FOR THE CURRENT BUDGET. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT COUNTY WILL HAVE THE AUDIT BY THE END OF DECEMBER AS IT HAS TO GO TO THE GFOA. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE WILL HAVE THE AUDIT TO THE COUNCIL, AS SOON AS HE RECEIVES IT AND THE COUNCIL CAN HAVE A WORKSHOP IN JANUARY TO REVIEW THE AUDIT.

MR. MALPHRUS DISCUSSED THE REVENUE FROM THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS AND COMPARED WHAT WAS BUDGETED AND HOW MUCH WAS ACTUALLY COLLECTED TO DATE.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE DISCUSSED THE WASTE TIRE ACCOUNT AND THAT IT WAS COSTING THE COUNTY MONEY. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT THE PEOPLE HAVE TO PAY A FEE WHERE THEY PURCHASE THEIR TIRES TO HAVE THEM DISPOSED. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT AL CLELAND WAS AN AUTO DISMANTLER AND THE COUNTY HAD TO PAY TO DISPOSE OF THOSE TIRES. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO TRY AND REDUCE THOSE COSTS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE COUNTY IS NOT LONGER PROVIDING A DUMPSTER AT MR. CLELAND'S BUSINESS AND MR. CLELAND MUST DELIVER THE WASTE TIRES TO PUBLIC WORKS. THE COMMITTEE DISCUSSED THE STATE A-TAX FUNDS AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE FUNDS ARE IN THE GENERAL FUND AND THINGS WILL EVEN OUT WHEN THE ENTRIES ARE COMPLETE. MR. MALPHRUS EXPLAINED THAT THE COUNTY HAD TO PAY SOME DEVELOPMENT SERVICES FEES BECAUSE STUDIES WERE REQUIRED BY THE COUNTY, AND THEY WERE NOT INCLUDED IN THE PDD AGREEMENT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT PDD FEES ARE ACTUALLY FEES PER STRUCTURE, AND THEY ARE ONLY COLLECTED WHEN THE STRUCTURE IS BUILT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THE COUNTY RECEIVED ONE CHECK TO DATE AND THAT CHECK WAS FROM TELFAIR.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED HOW THE SCHOOLS RECEIVE THE TAXES THAT THE COUNTY COLLECTS FOR THEM. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THEY ARE APPORTIONED EACH MONTH, AND THEY ARE PUT IN A SPECIAL ACCOUNT AND THE SCHOOL DRAWS THEM DOWN. COMMITTEE MEMBER HOOD SAID HE FELT THAT THE SCHOOLS SHOULD GET ALL THEIR FUNDS FROM THE STATE.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT MARRIAGE LICENSE FEES AND MARRIAGES. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THE PROBATE JUDGE DOES NOT DO VERY MANY MARRIAGES. COMMITTEE MEMBER HOOD SAID THAT THE COUNCIL CAN CUT HIS BUDGET IF HE IS NOT PERFORMING THE MARRIAGES AND COLLECTING THE FEES.

TIMBER:

MR. MALPHRUS REPORTED THAT MR. RICHARDSON IS IN THE PROCESS OF MARKING THE TREES AND ADVISED THE STAFF NOT TO DO ANYTHING AS THE PRICE FOR TIMBER IS AT ROCK BOTTOM. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THEY WERE GETTING APPROVAL FROM THE STATE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPT. AS THERE WERE CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON THE LAND WHEN THE COUNTY PURCHASED IT FROM THE STATE.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE:

MR. MALPHRUS REPORTED THAT THERE WERE 115 APPEALS TO DATE AND MOST ARE STILL ON-GOING. MR. MALPHRUS DISCUSSED THE LEGISLATURE RULING THAT HAS A VERY NEGATIVE AFFECT ON THE COUNTY IS THAT WHEN PRICES GO BACK UP, THE VALUE CANNOT GO BACK UP FOR FIVE YEARS UNTIL REASSESSMENT.

DELINQUENT TAXES AND ROD:

MR. MALPHRUS REVIEWED THE DELIQUENT TAXES THAT WERE COLLECTED IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER. MR. MALPHRUS TOLD THE COMMITTEE THAT THE COUNTY COLLECTS THE TAXES FOR HARDEEVILLE, HOWEVER, THE COUNTY ONLY COLLECTS VEHICLE TAXES FOR THE TOWN OF RIDGELAND. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT SMITH DATA CHARGES HARDEEVILLE DIRECT FOR THEIR EXPENSES. MR. FULGHUM ASKED ABOUT THE INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS AND MR. MALPHRUS RESPONDED THAT HE WAS WORKING WITH SMITH DATA AND MR. FULGHUM SAID A PUBLIC NOTICE WILL BE DONE BY THE END OF DECEMBER. THE COMMITTEE REVIEWED THE ROD REPORT.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

THE COMMITTEE WENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS EMPLOYMENT MATTERS.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION:

THE COMMITTEE RETURNED FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION.

ADJOURN:

THE COMMITTEE ADJOURNED AT 1:40 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

JUDITH M. FRANK, ccc
CLERK TO COUNCIL

HENRY ETHERIDGE
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN