



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES MEETING JASPER COUNTY GOVERNMENT BUILDING COUNCIL CHAMBERS

JULY 7, 2009

11:00 A.M.

MINUTES

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

HENRY ETHERIDGE, COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

DR. GEORGE HOOD, COMMITTEE MEMBER

STAFF PRESENT:

RONNIE MALPHRUS, DEP. ADM. ADM. 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 11:04 A.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE LED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

INVOCATION:

RONNIE MALPHRUS GAVE THE INVOCATION.

MONTHLY REPORTS:

ASSESSOR:

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED WHEN THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE WAS GOING TO START REASSESSMENT AND MR. MALPHRUS RESPONDED THAT THEY ARE GETTING STARTED NOW AND THEY WILL HAVE THREE TEAMS WORKING ON THE REASSESSMENT. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT PROPERTY VALUES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES ARE DOWN 16% AND HE ASKED HOW THE CHANGE IN VALUES WOULD AFFECT THE TAXES. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THE CHANGE WOULD BE ABOUT 30% OF \$14,000,000.00. COM-

MITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE NEW PUBLIX. COMMITTEE MEMBER HOOD SAID IT WAS MOVING RIGHT ALONG AND THE INFRASTRUCTURE IS BEING PUT IN. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT ONLY PERMIT THAT HAS BEEN ISSUED IS THE PERMIT TO CLEAR THE PROPERTY.

DELINQUENT TAXES:

THE COMMITTEE DISCUSSED THE NUMBER OF PROPERTIES THAT HAVE NOT HAD THE TAXES PAID. MR. MALPHRUS PRESENTED THE COMMITTEE WITH A REPORT THAT AS OF JUNE 30, 2009 THERE WERE 653 NOTICES FROM 2006, 744 NOTICES FROM 2007 AND 3,319 NOTICES FROM 2008 THAT HAVE NOT BEEN PAID. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT A LOT OF THE ONES FROM 2006-2008 WERE MOBILE HOMES. MR. MALPHRUS REPORTED THAT \$1,306,727.73 IN DELINQUENT TAXES WERE COLLECT IN APRIL, MAY, JUNE.

FINANCE:

MR. MALPHRUS PROVIDED THE COMMITTEE WITH A BUDGET PERFORMANCE REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2009. MR. MALPHRUS TOLD THE COMMITTEE THAT MANY OF THE SALARY LINES WERE OVERDRAWN, HOWEVER, THEY WOULD BE ADJUSTED DURING THE AUDIT BECAUSE THE LAST PAYROLL FOR THE NEW YEAR WAS INCLUDED. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THERE ARE 26 PAY PERIODS AND THE REPORT REFLECTS 27 AND THE AUDITOR WILL REVERSE IT OUT WHEN THE JOURNAL ENTRIES ARE MADE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THERE WAS A PROBLEM WITH THE SHERIFF'S PAYROLL LINE BECAUSE IN FEBRUARY AN OFFICER WAS MOVED TO BE A SRO OFFICER AND THE SHERIFF HIRED ANOTHER DEPUTY FOR THE OPEN SPOT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TOLD THE SHERIFF THAT THEY WOULD PAY FOR THE SRO OFFICER. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE WAS GOING TO BILL THE SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE SRO OFFICER, BUT THE SHERIFF DID NOT HAVE IT IN WRITING THAT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WOULD PAY FOR THAT SRO OFFICER. MR. MALPHRUS SAID ANOTHER REASON THAT THE SHERIFF'S PAYROLL LINE IS OVER IS BECAUSE THE DEPUTIES WORK A FOUR DAY WEEK AND THEY WERE PAID FOR THE 4 DAY WEEK PLUS THE HOLIDAY WHICH EQUATES TO AN ADDITIONAL DAY'S PAY. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE SHERIFF'S PAYROLL LINE IS OVER \$121,000.00, BUT HE THOUGHT THAT AMOUNT WOULD GO DOWN TO ABOUT \$50,000.00 IF THEY GET REIMBURSED FROM THE SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE SRO OFFICER. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE DETENTION CENTER. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THE SALARY LINE IS OKAY, BUT THEY ARE OVERBUDGET \$274,000.00 DUE TO THE NUMBER OF INMATES THAT WENT TO JUST CARE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE IS

WORKING WITH SOLICITOR TO GET THE PEOPLE OUT OF THERE QUICKLY. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE HOPED IT WOULD BE BETTER THIS YEAR.

MR. MALPHRUS ASKED IF THE COMMITTEE WANTED HIM TO BRING THE BUDGET TRANSFERS TO THE COUNCIL TO APPROVE. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE AND COMMITTEE MEMBER HOOD SAID TO BRING THE TRANSFERS TO THE COUNCIL AS THE COUNCIL NEEDS TO BE AWARE OF WHAT LINE ITEMS ARE OVER SPENT AND WHERE THE MONEY TO COVER THEM IS COMING FROM.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE \$53,000.00 IN THE DELIQUENT TAX COLLECTOR'S BUDGET AND MR. MALPHRUS EXPLAINED THAT IS FOR A COMPANY THAT DOES ALL THE POSTING OF PROPERTY FOR DELIQUENT TAXES. MR. MALPHRUS TOLD THE COMMITTEE THAT THE COUNTY GETS THAT MONEY BACK BECAUSE IT IS CHARGED TO THE PROPERTY THAT IS BEING POSTED.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE \$118,000.00 OVERAGE FOR THE HARDEEVILLE FIRE CONTRACT. MR. MALPHRUS EXPLAINED THAT THE COUNTY COLLECTED MORE TAXES IN THE CHERRY POINT FIRE DISTRICT THAN EXPECTED AND THAT OVERAGE HAD TO BE PAID OUT TO HARDEEVILLE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT IN THE NEW YEAR, THE TREASURER WILL APPROPRIATE THOSE FUNDS TO HARDEEVILLE AND THEY WILL NOT BE PART OF THE BUDGET.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE \$12,000.00 OVERAGE IN THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT WAS BECAUSE OF THE PAYROLL. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE MEDICAL INSURANCE AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT BECAUSE OF GASB, \$275,000.00 WAS FOR THE MEDICAL INSURANCE FOR THE RETIREES. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE WANTED TO SHOW IT OUT OF MEDICAL INSURANCE TO KEEP TRACK OF HOW MUCH WAS BEING PAID. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE TRANSFERS.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED HOW THE OVERALL BUDGET STOOD AS OF JUNE 30, 2009. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THEY WERE \$2,000,000.00 TO THE GOOD. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED WHAT WILL BE DONE WITH THE \$2,000,000.00 AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID IT WOULD BE USED TO OFFSET THE SHORTAGE IN REVENUE. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE ANNUAL AUDIT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID IT WOULD BE COMPLETED BY DECEMBER.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

THE COMMITTEE DISCUSSED THE EMPLOYEES THAT WERE ON LEAVE AND THE EMPLOYEES WITH WORKERS' COMPENSATION INJURIES.

COMMITTEE MEMBER HOOD ASKED IF ANY OF THE EMPLOYEES FILED FOR COMPENSATION. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE COUNTY HAS NOT PAID ANY MONETARY CLAIMS, ONLY MEDICAL CLAIMS. COMMITTEE MEMBER HOOD ASKED WHY EVELYN LEE WAS ON A LEAVE OF ABSENCE AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT ATTORNEY CHRIS JOHNSON TOLD THEM TO WAIT AND SEE HOW THE CLAIM TURNED OUT.

FINANCE REPORT QUESTIONS:

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED WHY \$60,000.00 FOR CONTRACT WORK WAS LEFT IN THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT BUDGET. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT WAS LEFT IN THE BUDGET IN CASE THE CURRENT INSPECTORS CAN'T HANDLE SOMETHING OR IF THEY GET OVERWHELMED. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE SAID IF THE INSPECTORS GET OVERWHELMED, THE COUNTY WILL NEED TO HIRE ANOTHER INSPECTOR.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE LEGAL FEES. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THEY SPENT \$37,000.00. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THE COUNTY USES CHRIS JOHNSON FOR LABOR ISSUES. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED WHY THEY WERE NOT USING MARVIN JONES AND MR. MALPHRUS RESPONDED THAT MR. JONES WAS NOT AS UP TO SPEED AS CHRIS JOHNSON IN LABOR AND EMPLOYEE ISSUES. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT IN THE PAST, THE COUNTY BUDGETED \$140,000.00 FOR LEGAL FEES PRIOR TO HIRING MR. JONES. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT ANY OUTSIDE LEGAL FEES ARE PAID FROM THAT LINE ITEM, HOWEVER, THE MAJORITY OF EXPENSES ARE FOR CHRIS JOHNSON. COMMITTEE MEMBER HOOD COMMENTED THAT MR. JOHNSON DID THE EMPLOYEE SURVEY.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE FARMERS' MARKET SALARY LINE. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE SALARY LINE WAS NOT A LOT, BUT HE FELT SOMEONE ON THE COUNTY PAYROLL COULD HANDLE IT AND THEY COULD SAVE THAT MONEY. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE GROWING SEASON IS ALMOST OVER. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THE MERCHANTS WILL BE THERE UNTIL OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE CELL PHONES. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT ALL CELL PHONE ALLOWANCES HAVE BEEN ADJUSTED TO \$35.00 AND HE HAS GIVEN THE EMPLOYEES WITH BLACKBERRY PHONES UNTIL AUGUST 1, 2009 TO TURN THEM IN OR TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH HR TO PAY THE DIFFERENCE. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE COUNTY VEHICLES. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED WHY WILBUR DALEY WAS DRIVING THE EXCURSION AND MR. MALPHRUS TOLD THE COMMITTEE THAT MR. FULGHUM ALLOWED MR. DALEY TO DRIVE IT.

COMMITTEE MEMBER HOOD SAID THAT MR. DALEY HAD A FAIRLY NEW CROWN VICTORIA TO DRIVE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE THOUGHT MR. DALEY JUST TRADED IT FOR THE EXCURSION. COMMITTEE MEMBER HOOD SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WAS TOLD NOT TO DRIVE THE EXCURSION AND THAT IT WAS FOR THE COUNCIL'S USE AND HE DID NOT THINK ANYBODY NEEDED TO BE DRIVING IT AROUND. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT MR. FULGHUM TOLD MR. DALEY THAT IF THE COUNCIL NEEDED IT, THEN HE WOULD HAVE TO GIVE IT BACK. COMMITTEE MEMBER HOOD SAID THAT IT SHOULD COME BACK AND MR. DALEY SHOULD USE HIS CROWN VICTORIA. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE AGREED AND STATED THAT THE EXCURSION DOES NOT GET GOOD GAS MILEAGE. COMMITTEE MEMBER HOOD ASKED THE CLERK TO INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF THE EXCURSION ON THE AGENDA. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED HOW MUCH THE VEHICLES SOLD FOR AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT SOME VEHICLES WERE SOLD. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED WHERE THE PROCEEDS FROM THE SALES GO AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY GO INTO THE GENERAL FUND. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED WHY ALL THE VEHICLES HAVE NOT BEEN SOLD AND MR. MALPHRUS EXPLAINED THAT IT TOOK A LONG TIME BEFORE THEY WERE TURNED OVER FROM THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT. COMMITTEE MEMBER HOOD SAID THAT ALL COUNTY VEHICLES SHOULD HAVE A DECAL ON THEM.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED MR. MALPHRUS ABOUT AN EMPLOYEE FOR WHOM THE COUNCIL APPROVED AN INCREASE AND CHANGE OF TITLE PRIOR TO THE BUDGET BEING APPROVED AND HE ASKED IF THAT HAD BEEN HANDLED. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY TALKED ABOUT IT AND CONDREY'S RECOMMENDATION WAS TO CHANGE HER TITLE AND CONDREY PROVIDED THE RANGE TO PLACE IT IN. MR. MALPHRUS SAID WHEN THEY DISCUSSED INCREASES DURING THE BUDGET, THE COUNCIL SAID NO INCREASES. COMMITTEE MEMBER HOOD SAID HE FELT THE INDIVIDUALS SALARY SHOULD BE ADJUSTED BECAUSE IT WAS APPROVED PRIOR TO THE BUDGET DISCUSSIONS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE INDIVIDUAL MET WITH MR. FULGHUM AND HE TOLD HER THAT HER TITLE WAS GOING TO BE CHANGED, BUT THE COUNCIL SAID NO RAISES. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT CONDREY RECOMMENDED THAT THE RANGE SHOULD BE EITHER 20-21. COMMITTEE MEMBER HOOD ASKED THE CLERK AND MR. MALPHRUS TO CHECK ON SIMILAR SALARIES AND TO HAVE THE INFORMATION READY FOR THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT COUNTY SALARIES NEED TO BE COMPARED TO OTHER SALARIES IN THIS AREA, NOT COUNTIES OF LIKE SIZE,

BECAUSE THE SURROUNDING AREA IS WHERE THE COUNTY COMPETES.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF ANYONE HEARD FROM THE SENATOR AND MR. MALPHRUS RESPONDED THAT HE HAS NOT HEARD FROM THE SENATOR. COMMITTEE MEMBER HOOD SAID HE DID NOT HEAR FROM HIM EITHER.

MR. MALPHRUS TOLD THE COMMITTEE HE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE PUBLIC DEFENDER STATING THAT ACCORDING TO THE LAW HIS APPROPRIATION CANNOT BE CUT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE COUNTY WILL HAVE TO ADD THE \$6,000.00 BACK INTO THE BUDGET.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

THE COMMITTEE WENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS EMPLOYMENT MATTERS.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION:

THE COMMITTEE RETURNED TO REGULAR SESSION.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

ADJOURN:

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 12:15 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

JUDITH M. FRANK, CCC
CLERK TO COUNCIL

HENRY ETHERIDGE
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN