



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
BUDGET CONTINGENCY PLANNING WORKSHOP
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
JANUARY 7, 2010
3:30 P.M.**

MINUTES

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

LEROY BLACKSHEAR, VICE CHAIRMAN
HENRY ETHERIDGE, COUNCILMAN
REV. SAMUEL GREGORY, COUNCILMAN
HUBERT TYLER, COUNCILMAN

OFFICIALS ABSENT:

GEORGE HOOD, CHAIRMAN

STAFF PRESENT:

ANDREW FULGHUM, ADMINISTRATOR
RONNIE MALPHRUS, DEP. ADM. ADM. SERVICES
DALE TERRY, DEP. ADM. ENG. 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:

VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 3:30 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR LED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

INVOCATION:

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE GAVE THE INVOCATION.

HEADLINE UPDATES:

MR. FULGHUM UPDATED THE COUNCIL ON THE ECONOMIC STATUS AROUND THE COUNTY BY READING HEADLINES FROM VARIOUS NEWS SOURCES.

ENGINEERING SERVICES:

MR. FULGHUM DISCUSSED THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS WITHIN ENGINEERING SERVICES AS LISTED IN THE BUDGET. MR. FULGHUM SAID THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 34 EMPLOYEES IN THE ENGINEERING SERVICES DIVISION. MR. FULGHUM DISCUSSED THE DUTIES OF THE DIVISION WHICH INCLUDED VEHICLE MAINTENANCE, BUILDING MAINTENANCE, SOLID WASTE, LITTER CONTROL, MOSQUITO CONTROL, ROADS AND BRIDGES AND ENGINEERING SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.

MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THERE ARE 400 MILES OF ROADS AND 91 MILES OF DRAINAGE CANALS THAT THE ENGINEERING SERVICES DIVISION MAINTAINS. COUNCILMAN TYLER ASKED IF THEY WERE DOING A GOOD JOB. MR. FULGHUM RESPONDED THAT HE FELT THEY WERE DOING A GOOD JOB WITH THE RESOURCES THEY HAVE AVAILABLE. MR. TERRY SAID THE ROADS WERE MAINTAINED ON A ROTATION BASIS. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE FELT THAT COMMUNICATION WITH THE CITIZENS HAS IMPROVED. MR. TERRY STATED THAT THERE WERE DRAINAGE CANALS IN PINELAND, HARDEEVILLE, AND THE WAGON BRANCH AREAS. MR. TERRY SAID HE HAD A MAP WITH ALL THE COUNTY ROADS, AND HE WAS WORKING ON A MAP OF ALL THE DRAINAGE CANALS. MR. TERRY SAID THAT IT TAKES AN AVERAGE OF SEVEN SWIPES TO DO A CANAL. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR COMMENTED THAT THERE MAY ONLY BE 91 MILES OF CANALS, HOWEVER THE TRACTOR HAS TO DO MORE MILES TO CUT IT.

MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT SOLID WASTE HAS 6 SITES AND HAULS ABOUT 3,000 TONS RECYCLABLES AND ABOUT 8,500 TONS OF SOLID WASTE ANNUALLY. THE LITTER CONTROL OFFICER OVERSEES THE 6 SITES AND ISSUES CITATIONS IF THEY HAVE EVIDENCE WHO IS DROPPING THE LITTER. MR. TERRY SAID THE LITTER CONTROL OFFICER ALSO DEALS WITH CITIZEN'S COMPLAINTS. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THE CITIZENS HAVE TO BE INVOLVED. MR. FULGHUM STATED IF THE CITIZENS DO NOT CONSIDER LITTER A PRIORITY, SHOULD THE COUNTY.

MR. FULGHUM EXPLAINED THAT THE CENTRAL GARAGE HAS TWO EMPLOYEES AND THEY MAINTAIN THE VEHICLES, ROAD CALLS AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED ABOUT THE EMS VEHICLES AND MR. TERRY SAID THE MAINTENANCE OF EMS VEHICLES WAS CONTRACTED OUT BECAUSE THE COUNTY DID NOT HAVE THE EQUIPMENT. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE CENTRAL GARAGE HANDLED ROUTINE MAINTENANCE AND ANYTHING THAT NEEDS SPECIALIZED TRAINING IS CONTRACTED OUT. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED IF THE MECHANICS WERE QUALIFIED TO WORK ON EMS VEHICLES AND MR. TERRY SAID THEY CAN HANDLE SOME OF THE THINGS, BUT NOT ALL OF REPAIRS SINCE THE COUNTY DID NOT HAVE THE COMPUTERS TO CHECK THEM. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED ABOUT THE SHERIFF'S CARS AND MR. TERRY SAID THEY DO ROUTINE MAINTENANCE ON THEM, AND THEY ARE NOT SENT OUT UNLESS THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG THAT THE SHOP CANNOT HANDLE. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED THE AMOUNT OF THE EMS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE WOULD GET THE COUNCIL THE INFORMATION.

MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT BUILDING MAINTENANCE HAS 3 EMPLOYEES AND THEY MAINTAIN ALL THE COUNTY'S BUILDINGS.

MR. FULGHUM SAID THE MOSQUITO CONTROL DIVISION HAS NO EMPLOYEES, BUT IS HANDLED BY THE EMPLOYEES OF PUBLIC WORK AND THEY ARE PAID OVERTIME. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE RESIDENTS CALL AND REQUEST

THE SERVICE. MR. TERRY SAID MOSQUITO CONTROL GETS MOST OF THE CALLS BETWEEN APRIL AND OCTOBER.

MR. FULGHUM TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE ENGINEERING SERVICE DIVISION COSTS THE CITIZENS \$2,380,900.00 WHICH IS 10% OF THE COUNTY'S OPERATING BUDGET. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED WHY THE ADMINISTRATION COSTS WERE SO HIGH. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT IT INCLUDED UTILITIES AND INSURANCE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS VEHICLES. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE PER CAPITA EXPENSE IS \$106.62 GROSS AND \$103.93 NET. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED WHY THE COUNTY WAS ONLY PAID ON TRASH FOR THE LANDFILL THAT COMES FROM OUT OF STATE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE COUNTY GETS A DISCOUNTED RATE OF \$10.00 PER TON AND \$1.00 PER TON FROM TRASH FROM OUT OF STATE. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE THOUGHT THE LANDFILL WAS A GREAT TOPIC FOR A WORKSHOP. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE COUNTY GETS A DISCOUNTED RATE, BUT A TREMENDOUS PERCENTAGE OF WASTE COMES FROM BEAUFORT COUNTY. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT HE HAS NEGOTIATED THE FEES OVER THE YEARS FOR TIPPING FEES, MR. FULGHUM CONTINUED THAT IT DID NOT START THAT WAY AND IT DOESN'T HAVE TO STAY THAT WAY. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE ADMINISTRATION WILL CONTINUE TO WORK ON IT. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT DHEC DOES A REPORT AS TO WHAT EVERYONE PAYS FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED WHERE THE RECYCLING FUNDS ARE LISTED. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE SAID THE INCOME IS CREDITED AS REVENUE. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE COUNTY HAD A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH WASTE MANAGEMENT.

MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT CURRENTLY THE ENGINEERING SERVICES DIVISION WAS WORKING ON A ROAD PAVING PROGRAM, A SCRAP TIRE PROGRAM, MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE, LANDFILL HOST AGREEMENT AND A ROAD MAINTENANCE POLICY. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE SOFTWARE WILL HELP TRACK REPAIRS AND FUEL CONSUMPTION. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE LANDFILL HOST AGREEMENT IS CURRENTLY ON THE SHELF, BUT HE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK ON IT. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE ROAD MAINTENANCE POLICY IS A BIG PROBLEM AND NEEDS TO BE TAKEN CARE OF.

CLOVER CIRCLE:

DALE TERRY DISCUSSED CLOVER CIRCLE AND HE SAID THE ROAD IS IN VERY BAD CONDITION. MR. TERRY SAID THAT MR. OWENS FROM THE SCHOOL DISTRICT ASKED FOR THE COUNTY TO WORK THE ROAD BECAUSE THE VAN CANNOT GO DOWN IT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED HOW MUCH WOULD IT COST SO THE VAN CAN GET DOWN IT. MR. TERRY SAID THAT A FIRETRUCK WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GO DOWN A COUPLE ROADS IN THAT AREA. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE COUNTY CANNOT GO IN AND WORK A PRIVATE ROAD. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED THAT A COST ESTIMATE BE DONE TO MAKE THE ROAD PASSABLE. MR. TERRY SAID IT WOULD TAKE ONE DAYS TIME ON THE MOTOR GRADER. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED HOW LONG WOULD THAT LAST AND ADDED THAT IF IT IS NOT A COUNTY ROAD IT NEEDS TO MADE PASSABLE FOR AT LEAST SIX MONTHS. MR. TERRY SAID HE COULD NOT DO THAT BECAUSE HE CANNOT PREDICT THE SITUATION AND THE WEATHER. MR. TERRY SAID IF HE WAS TO PULL THE DITCHES TOO, IT WOULD TAKE A COUPLE OF WEEKS. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THE DITCHES WOULD HAVE TO BE PULLED. MR. TERRY AGREED, BUT HE WOULD NEED TO GO OUT AND CHECK WITH EACH PROPERTY OWNER SINCE IT IS NOT A

COUNTY ROAD. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THE ROAD BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE, NOT THE COUNTY. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID TO GET A STATEMENT IN WRITING FROM EVERY LAND OWNER AGREEING TO ALLOWING THE COUNTY TO FIX THE ROAD. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THAT THEY WERE ASKING FOR BIG PROBLEMS IF THEY PULL THE DITCHES ON A PRIVATE ROAD. MR. TERRY SAID THE DITCHES WERE FULL AND THE PIPES WERE HALF FULL. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID IF ALL THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE, IT IS GOING TO TAKE MORE THAN A DAY AND THE ROAD IS A MESS, BUT THE COUNCIL IS NOT RESPONSIBLE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID IF IT WAS GOING TO TAKE 2 WEEKS, AND IF THE WEATHER IS BAD, THE MAINTENANCE OF THE REGULAR COUNTY ROADS WILL FALL BEHIND. COUNCILMAN TYLER SAID THE PEOPLE NEED FOR IT TO BE FIXED. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THE COUNTY POLICY IS NOT TO WORK PRIVATE ROADS EXCEPT FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY REASON AND THAT WOULD BE ON A ONE TIME BASIS. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THE PEOPLE NEEDED TO DO THE LEG WORK TO GET THE ROAD INTO THE COUNTY SYSTEM. MR. TERRY SAID HE COULD MAKE IT PASSABLE AND TELL THE PEOPLE THEY WOULD NOT BE BACK TO WORK THE ROAD AGAIN UNTIL IT WAS IN THE COUNTY SYSTEM. COUNCILMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION TO WORK CLOVER CIRCLE SO THAT IT IS PASSABLE AND THE PEOPLE NEED TO DO WHAT IS NECESSARY TO BRING THE ROAD UP TO COUNTY STANDARDS TO COME INTO THE COUNTY SYSTEM. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH COUNCILMEN TYLER, ETHERIDGE AND GREGORY VOTING FOR. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR DID NOT VOTE. MR. TERRY ASKED ABOUT THE OTHER ROADS. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THE COUNCIL WILL DEAL WITH EACH ONE INDIVIDUALLY AND COUNTY COUNCIL NEEDS TO AUTHORIZE WORKING ANY PRIVATE ROAD. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE PEOPLE NEED TO GO AFTER ROY WALKER.

FORESTRY FUNDS:

COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THE ATTORNEY INFORMED THE COUNCIL THAT THEY CAN SPECIFY HOW THE FORESETRY FUNDS ARE DISTRIBUTED. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID IT CANNOT GO TO THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB BECAUSE IT MUST BE USED FOR EDUCATION. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE FUNDS HAVE ALREADY BEEN DEPOSITED IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS GENERAL FUND. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE WAS TOLD THAT THE COUNCIL WAS CHECKING INTO HOW THE MONEY COULD BE HANDLED AND THE COUNCIL CAN HAVE THE TREASURER DIRECT THEM AS TO WHERE THE FUNDS CAN BE SPENT OR HAVE THEM RETURN THE MONEY AND THE COUNTY COULD WRITE A CHECK TO THE PROGRAM. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THE FUNDS WERE TO BE USED FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES, COULD SOME OF THE FUNDS GO TO THE PRIVATE SCHOOLS. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THEY NEEDED TO CHECK ON THAT. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID IF IT WAS GIVEN BY A PUBLIC ENTITY, IT HAD TO GO TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE WOULD CHECK INTO IT. COUNCILMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION TO GIVE \$2,500.00 OF THE FORESTY FUNDS TO THE STAR PROGRAM AT RIDGELAND MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR CLASSROOM EQUIPMENT AND \$1,000.00 TO THE HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE CHEERLEADERS UNIFORMS. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID ONLY THE CHEERLEADERS WOULD BENEFIT FROM THE \$1,000.00 NOT ALL THE STUDENTS. COUNCILMAN GREGORY AMENDED HIS MOTION AND COUNCILMAN

ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE AMENDED MOTION TO GIVE \$2,500.00 TO THE RIDGELAND MIDDLE SCHOOL STAR PROGRAM FOR CLASSROOM EQUIPMENT. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH COUNCILMEN GREGORY AND ETHERIDGE VOTING FOR. COUNCILMAN TYLER DID NOT VOTE AND VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR DID NOT VOTE BECAUSE THERE WAS NOT A TIE.

ADJOURN:

VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR ADJOURNED THE WORKSHOP AT 4:50 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

JUDITH M. FRANK, CCC
CLERK TO COUNCIL

LEROY BLACKSHEAR
VICE CHAIRMAN