

**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE
JASPER COUNTY GOVERNMENT BUILDING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS' CONFERENCE ROOM
APRIL 13, 2009
10:00 A.M.**

COUNCIL OFFICIALS PRESENT:

VICE CHAIRMAN LEROY BLACKSHEAR, COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
HENRY ETHERIDGE, MEMBER

STAFF PRESENT:

ANDREW FULGHUM, ADMINISTRATOR
RONNIE MALPHRUS, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
MARVIN JONES, ATTORNEY
JUDITH FRANK, CLERK TO COUNCIL

STAFF ABSENT:

WILBUR DALEY, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR EMERGENCY SERVICES

ALSO PRESENT:

DOUG GRAHAM, LEVY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF
NELVIN GRAHAM, LEVY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEER

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 MEETING TO ORDER AT 10:00 A.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR LED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

INVOCATION:

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE GAVE THE INVOCATION.

EMERGENCY SERVICES MONTHLY REPORTS:

DEP. ADMINISTRATOR DALEY WAS NOT PRESENT AND THE MONTHLY
REPORTS WERE NOT PROVIDED.

DISCUSSION OF CONTRACT:

ATTORNEY JONES STATED THAT THE COMMITTEE REQUESTED THAT HE PREPARE A LETTER AND LEASE AGREEMENT AND THAT IT BE HAND DELIVERED TO CHIEF GRAHAM. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS. CHIEF GRAHAM STATED THE COUNCIL HAS HAD EXECUTIVE SESSIONS ABOUT WHAT THEY WANTED TO POKE DOWN THE PEOPLE OF LEVY'S THROAT AND YES, THE LETTER WAS HAND DELIVERED TO HIM ON THURSDAY BY WILBUR DALEY. CHIEF GRAHAM SAID THE ANSWER TO THE REGARDING THE LEASE WAS NO.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE REQUESTED THAT THE LETTER BE HAND DELIVERED AND THAT CHIEF GRAHAM BE PRESENT AT THIS MEETING TO ASK QUESTIONS AND DISCUSS WHAT OTHER OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED CHIEF GRAHAM IF HE PRESENTED ANY FIGURES REGARDING A CONTRACT FOR SERVICE FROM THE LEVY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT. CHIEF GRAHAM SAID HE PROVIDED THE FIGURES LAST MONDAY.

CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THAT CHIEF GRAHAM'S ANSWER TO THE LEASE WAS NO AND HE ASKED IF THE STAFF HAD ANYTHING TO ADD. THE STAFF DID NOT HAVE ANY REMARKS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID IF THE LEASE DID NOT WORK, HE RECOMMENDED GOING BACK TO A FIRE SERVICE CONTRACT. CHIEF GRAHAM STATED THAT COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF A CONTRACT WAS POSSIBLE AND FOR HIM TO PROVIDE THE COUNCIL WITH THE LOWEST POSSIBLE AMOUNT THE LEVY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT COULD DO A CONTRACT WITH THE COUNTY. CHIEF GRAHAM SAID THAT THEY CUT \$50,000.00 FROM LAST YEAR'S CONTRACT AND HE SAID IT WOULD BE HARD, BUT HE FELT THEY COULD DO IT. CHIEF GRAHAM SAID THAT THE CURRENT CONTRACT STATES THAT HE WAS TO BE NOTIFIED BY MARCH 1, 2009 IF THE COUNTY WAS GOING TO CONTINUE THE CONTRACT. CHIEF GRAHAM SAID HE PROVIDED THE ADMINISTRATION THE FIGURES FOR A NEW CONTRACT AND HE HAS STILL NOT BEEN NOTIFIED BY THE ADMINISTRATION. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE CONTRACT SAID CHIEF GRAHAM WAS TO BE NOTIFIED IF THE COUNTY WAS GOING TO RENEW THE CONTRACT AND MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT HE STILL DID NOT KNOW IF THE CONTRACT WAS GOING TO BE RENEWED; MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT HE STILL COULD NOT DO THAT TODAY. CHIEF GRAHAM SAID THAT WHEN MR. DALEY GAVE HIM THE LEASE, HE ASKED MR. DALEY HOW MUCH WAS IT GOING TO COST THE COUNTY TO MAN THE STATION. MR. DALEY SAID THAT IT WOULD COST ABOUT \$440,000.00 JUST FOR SALARIES. CHIEF GRAHAM SAID THAT THE LEVY VOLUNTEER'S PROPOSAL WAS FOR \$280,000.00. CHIEF GRAHAM SAID HE FELT THIS LEASE WAS BEING OFFERED TO GET RID OF HIM, BUT HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE COUNTY WOULD WANT TO SPEND THAT KIND OF MONEY WHEN THE ECONOMY IS IN SUCH BAD SHAPE. CHIEF GRAHAM SAID HE MET WITH THE VOUNTEERS LAST TUESDAY AND THEY WILL NOT VOLUTEER IF THE COUNTY TAKES OVER THE FIRE SERVICE IN LEVY. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID IT IS THE

COUNTY'S RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE FIRE SERVICE FOR ALL THE CITIZENS OF JASPER COUNTY AND THE PEOPLE OF LEVY DON'T MAKE THE DECISIONS. CHIEF GRAHAM ASKED HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE FOR THE SEVEN FIRE STATIONS RUN BY THE COUNTY TO RESPOND TO LEVY. CHIEF GRAHAM SAID HE KNOWS THE PEOPLE OF LEVY DID NOT MATTER TO CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR, BUT HE IS COMMITTED TO THE PEOPLE OF LEVY AND THE FIRE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT PUT ONE CENT IN HIS POCKET. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THAT IF CHIEF GRAHAM WAS GOING TO QUOTE HIM TO DO IT RIGHT. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR DID NOT SAY HE DIDN'T CARE ABOUT THE PEOPLE IN LEVY, CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID HE CARES ABOUT THE CITIZENS IN ALL AREAS OF JASPER COUNTY AND THE COUNTY HAS TO FURNISH FIRE SERVICE TO EVERYONE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED CHIEF GRAHAM IF MR. DALEY EXPLAINED ANYTHING WHEN HE DROPPED OFF THE LETTER. CHIEF GRAHAM SAID MR. DALEY DID NOT EXPLAIN ANYTHING. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE HAD A FEW QUESTIONS REGARDING THE FIRE AND EMS BUDGET. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THE \$20,000.00 FOR BUILDING REPAIRS IN THE FIRE AND EMS BUDGET WAS FOR ALL THE FIRE STATIONS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID IT COULD BE, BUT MOST OF IT WAS TO COMPLETE THE FIRE STATION BEHIND THE EMERGENCY SERVICES BUILDING. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF ALL STATIONS WERE COVERED UNDER THE VEHICLE INSURANCE LINE AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY WERE AND THAT LEVY VEHICLES WERE ALSO INCLUDED. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE MEMBERSHIP DUES AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE DUES ARE FOR ALL THE FIRE STATIONS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THE COUNTY PAID FOR INSURANCE FOR LEVY AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE COUNTY DOES NOT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THE TRAVEL AND TRAINING IN THE EMERGENCY SERVICES BUDGET COVERED LEVY FIRE DEPARTMENT AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID IT DID NOT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THE COUNTY IS MAKING ANY VEHICLE PAYMENTS FOR THE LEVY FIRE DEPARTMENT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE WAS NOT SURE, HE SAID THE COUNTY MAY STILL HAVE PAYMENT FOR SOMETHING AT LEVY AND IT WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE QUARTERLY REPORT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID NONE OF LEVY EXPENSES ARE IN THE EMERGENCY SERVICES BUDGET. CHIEF GRAHAM SAID THAT DUES WERE INCLUDED, BUT THE LEVY FIRE DEPARTMENT WAS GOING TO PULL OUT OF THE GREENVILLE PHYSICALS AND JUST HAVE PHYSICALS DONE LOCALLY. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE COUNTY ALSO PROVIDES THE MEDICAL CONTROL OFFICER FOR THE STATIONS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF EMERGENCY SERVICES PAID FOR THE MAINTAINANCE AND UTILITIES AT THE LEVY FIRE DEPARTMENT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE COUNTY DOES NOT PAY FOR THE MAINTAINANCE OR THE UTILITIES AT THE LEVY FIRE DEPARTMENT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF ALL THE VOLUNTEERS IN LEVY WERE CERTIFIED AND CHIEF GRAHAM SAID THEY ALL HAVE COMPLETED 1152 EXCEPT FOR ONE INDIVIDUAL AND HE DOES

NOT DO INTERIOR FIRE FIGHTING. CHIEF GRAHAM SAID SEVERAL OF THE VOLUNTEERS TOOK PHASE I AND PHASE II IN THE PAST.

ADJOURN:

CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 10:20 A.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

JUDITH M. FRANK, CCC
CLERK TO COUNCIL

LEROY BLACKSHEAR
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN