

**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
BUDGET WORKSHOP
MARY GORDON ELLIS EXECUTIVE BUILDING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MAY 14, 2008
1:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

DR. GEORGE HOOD, CHAIRMAN
FRED TUTEN, COUNCILMAN
GLADYS JONES, COUNCILWOMAN
LEROY BLACKSHEAR, COUNCILMAN
HUBERT TYLER, COUNCILMAN

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.

JASPER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT:

DR. SANDFORD INTRODUCED STAFF MEMBERS AND SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS. DR. SANFORD PRESENTED THE COUNCIL WITH THE FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WHICH REFLECTED A DEFICIT OF \$3,925,716.00. DR. SANDFORD DISCUSSED THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND GOALS FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND HE SAID THAT THEY HAVE ESTABLISHED TIMELINES FOR THE SCHOOLS TO MEET THE GOALS AND THEY HAVE ALSO DEVELOPED A SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTABILITY. DR. SANDFORD SAID ONE OF THE REASONS FOR THE DEFICIT IS BECAUSE THEY INCREASED THE TEACHERS' PAY. DR. SANDFORD ALSO DISCUSSED THE AREAS OF CONCERN AND SAID THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO FORGE A BOND WITH COUNTY COUNCIL TO WORK TOWARDS ACHIEVING THEIR GOALS. DR. SANDFORD SAID THE MONEY THEY ARE ASKING FOR IS AN INVESTMENT IN THE CHILDREN SO THEY CAN MAKE A WAY FOR THEMSELVES IN THE FUTURE. DR. SANDFORD REQUESTED \$878,410.00 FOR THE SCHOOLS. DR. SANDFORD DISCUSSED THE MEDIA CENTER AND HOW IT NEEDS TO MEET ACCREDITATION. COUNCILWOMAN JONES ASKED IF THEY COULD USE THE MEDIA CENTER AT USCB AND DR. SANDFORD RESPONDED THE MATERIALS MUST BE IN THE SCHOOLS TO MEET

ACCREDITATION. VICE CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED HOW MUCH WERE THE TEACHERS UNDERPAID. MS. MACK-HUFF SAID THEY WERE ON THE SAME LEVEL AS BEAUFORT COUNTY, BUT BEAUFORT TEACHERS ARE PAID \$500.00-\$600.00 MORE, COUNCILMAN TYLER ASKED IF THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS HAVE INCREASED OR DECREASED. DR. SANDFORD RESPONDED THAT THEY WILL NOT KNOW UNTIL THE TEST SCORES ARE REPORTED. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED IF THE TEACHERS HAVE MASTER'S DEGREES. DR. SANDFORD RESPONDED THE TEACHERS HAVE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREES AND THEY ARE CERTIFIED. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED IF ANY IN HOUSE TRAINING WAS AVAILABLE. DR. SANDFORD SAID THE PARA PROFESSIONALS ARE ENCOURAGED TO GO TO SCHOOL AND THE SCHOOL SYSTEM HELPS PAY FOR THEIR CLASSES AND THEY HAVE TEACHERS AS MENTORS. COUNCILMAN TUTEN SAID HE TOURED THE SCHOOL IN RIDGELAND AND HE WAS VERY PLEASED WITH WHAT HE SAW. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID HE WAS WORKING WTH THE BEAUFORT JASPER ECONOMIC ALLIANCE AND THEY ARE INTERESTED IN WHAT CAN BE DONE TO MAKE THE SCHOOLS BETTER. CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED ABOUT THE SHORTFALL. MS. MACK-HUFF SAID THE 1% TAX FUNDING IS NOT RECEIVED IN A TIMELY MANNER, THE EIA FUNDING WAS CUT. MS. MACK-HUFF SAID THAT THEY WILL NOT RECEIVE LESS MONEY FROM THE STATE THAN THEY DID LAST YEAR, BUT THEY WERE NOT SURE IF THEY WOULD RECEIVE ANY ADDITIONAL FUNDING. MS. MACK-HUFF SAID THAT JASPER'S WEALTH HAS GONE UP AND IT COSTS MONEY TO OPERATE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND WHEN THE VALUE GOES UP, THE STATE WILL GIVE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT LESS FUNDING. MS. MACK-HUFF SAID THAT SHE WAS STILL WORKING ON THE SCHOOL'S BUDGET. COUNCILWOMAN JONES ASKED ABOUT THE PROGRAM WITH USCB AND WHY WAS IT CUT. DR. SANDFORD SAID THEY HAD NO REQUESTS FOR IT. COUNCILWOMAN JONES SAID DR. UPSHAW FROM USCB SAID THEY WOULD LOVE TO WORK WITH THE SCHOOL DISTRICT. DR. SANDFORD SAID HE WOULD CONTACT DR. UPSHAW. CHAIRMAN HOOD THANKED THE SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THEIR PRESENTATION AND SAID THE COUNCIL WOULD DO THE BEST THAT THEY CAN.

MILTON WOODS – WILDLANDS URBAN INTERFACE COUNCIL:

MR. WOODS EXPLAINED THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE ORGANIZATION AND THAT THEY HAVE HELD WORKSHOPS THAT HAVE BEEN VERY BENEFICIAL TO THE CITIZENS. MR. WOODS SAID THE MUNICIPALITIES HAVE BEEN VERY COOPERATIVE. MR. MINGLEDORF, RIDGELAND FIRE CHIEF, ADDRESSED THE COUNCIL AND SAID THAT THEY HAVE RECEIVED A GRANT FOR TRAINING. COUNCILWOMAN JONES ASKED IF THE COUNTY FIREMEN ATTENDED THE TRAINING. MR. MINGLEDORF SAID THEY WERE INVITED, BUT DID NOT ATTEND. MR. MINGLEDORF SAID THEY HAVE A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE OTHER FIRE DEPARTMENTS. MR. WOODS REQUESTED \$1,500.00.

STAFF PRESENTATION OF BUDGET:

MR. MALPHRUS PRESENTED A NEW DRAFT AND EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS ONLY THE EXPENDITURES AND HE WAS STILL WORKING ON THE REVENUE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT HE MADE SOME CUTS AND THE BUDGET IS STILL \$3,500,000.00 HIGHER THAN THE CURRENT BUDGET. MR. MALPHRUS DISCUSSED THE BUDGET INCREASES WITH TOTAL ABOUT \$2,500,000.00. COUNCILWOMAN JONES ASKED ABOUT THE MILLAGE INCREASE AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT IT WAS 5.2 MILLS AND A MILL WAS WORTH ABOUT \$112,000.00 WHICH MEANS THE BUDGET CAN ONLY GO UP ABOUT \$600,000.00 FROM THE TAX REVENUE ASSUMING THE TAX REVENUE WILL BE THE SAME AS LAST YEAR. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE WILL BE MAKING ADDITIONAL CUTS AND WILL HAVE THE BUDGET WITH THE REVENUE READY FOR THE MEETING ON MONDAY, MAY 19, 2008. COUNCILWOMAN JONES ASKED ABOUT THE VEHICLE FOR ADMINISTRATION AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT CURRENTLY THERE WAS ONLY ONE RELIABLE VEHICLE AND IT WAS USED BY MOST OF THE DEPARTMENTS FOR OUT OF TOWN TRAVEL. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THIS NEW VEHICLE WOULD REPLACE THE GRAY JEEP. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED MR. MALPHRUS TO COMPARE THE COST OF A NEW VEHICLE TO MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT IF THE EMPLOYEES USED THEIR OWN VEHICLE. COUNCILWOMAN JONES ASKED ABOUT NEW EMPLOYEES AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID ONLY THREE WERE IN HIS REVISED BUDGET – RECEPTIONIST FOR THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, AN *IT DIRECTOR* AND AN ADDITIONAL PERSON FOR HR. COUNCILMAN TUTEN ASKED ABOUT FIREMEN, MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY WERE CUT FROM THE BUDGET. COUNCILWOMAN JONES ASKED ABOUT THE 3 FIREMEN FROM CHERRY POINT AND SHE ASKED FOR A BREAKDOWN OF THE NUMBER OF CALLS FOR EACH FIRE DEPARTMENT. COUNCILWOMAN JONES ALSO ASKED MR. MALPHRUS FOR A LIST OF WHAT POSITIONS WERE COVERED IN THE SALARY LINES AND WHAT THE POSITION PAID. COUNCILWOMAN JONES ASKED WHY THE DIFFERENCE IN THE SHERIFF VEHICLE LINE AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE SHERIFF REQUESTED ALL VEHICLES BE REPLACED AND LAST TIME ONLY THE ROAD DEPUTIES VEHICLES WERE REPLACED. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED HOW OLD THE VEHICLES WERE AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE ROAD VEHICLES NEEDED TO BE ROTATED EVERY THREE YEARS. COUNCILWOMAN JONES ASKED IF THE CARS BEING REPLACED COULD BE USED BY OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND MR. FULGHUM SAID THEY HAVE NOT LOOKED INTO THAT YET. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED ABOUT THE NEW VEHICLE FOR THE CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER IN THE AUDITOR'S OFFICE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE WAS USING THE GREY JEEP. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THE CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER COULD USE ONE OF THE SHERIFF'S CARS THAT IS BEING TURNED IN. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE AUDITOR REQUESTED AN ADDITIONAL CODE ENFORCEMENT POSITION, BUT THAT POSITION WAS CUT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THE SHERIFF'S VEHICLE

WOULD BE GOOD FOR THE CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER AND THE BUSINESS LICENSE DEPT., BUT NOT GOOD FOR ADMINISTRATION AS THAT VEHICLE IS USED FOR TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE COUNTY.

COUNCILWOMAN JONES ASKED IF THE PERSON HIRED AS A TEMPORARY IN HR KNOWS THAT THE POSITION IS NOT APPROVED. COUNCILWOMAN JONES ASKED IF MS. LUCAS WAS TAKING FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE TIME.

MR. FULGHUM SAID MS. LUCAS IS NOT TAKING FAMILY LEAVE AS FAMILY LEAVE IS UNPAID AND MS. LUCAS WILL BE PAID FOR PART OF THE TIME THAT SHE IS OFF. COUNCILWOMAN JONES ASKED HOW MUCH LEAVE TIME SHE HAD. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE WAS NOT SURE.

MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT HE DID NOT INCREASE ANY OF THE APPROPRIATIONS EXCEPT FOR COUNCIL ON AGING FOR THE FURNITURE AT THE HARDEEVILLE SENIOR CENTER.

COUNCILMAN TUTEN ASKED ABOUT THE PROPERTY THAT WAS ANNEXED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES AND SHOULD NOT THE FIRE CONTRACTS BE LESS.

MR. FULGHUM RESPONDED THAT THERE IS STILL THE SAME NUMBER OF DWELLINGS, IN HARDEEVILLE, AND RIDGELAND AND HARDEEVILLE HAVE FIVE YEAR CONTRACTS, HOWEVER, THE LEVY CONTRACT IS AN ANNUAL CONTRACT AND MR. GRAHAM HAS SUBMITTED A REQUEST. MR.

FULGHUM SAID THAT MR. GRAHAM HAS TO COME BACK IF HE WANTS HIS CONTRACT CHANGED. COUNCILMAN TYLER ASKED WHY THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS ARE TREATED DIFFERENTLY AND COUNCILMAN

BLACKSHEAR SAID IT DEPENDS ON WHO THEY ARE. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE TWO MUNICIPALITIES ARE THE SAME AND LEVY IS NOT BECAUSE THEY COULD NOT GET WORKERS COMPENSATION PACKAGES AND THEY ARE JUST GETTING STARTED. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE TOWNS GET

\$195,000.00 AND THAT IS IT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE TRUCKS AT LEVY ARE OWNED BY THE COUNTY AND THE COUNTY PAYS FOR THE REPAIRS AND THE COUNTY ALSO PAYS FOR THE INFECTIOUS CONTROL POLICIES FOR LEVY. COUNCILWOMAN JONES SAID THE COUNCIL NEEDED TO KNOW

IF THE STATIONS WERE BEING FULLY STAFFED. COUNCILMAN TUTEN ASKED HOW THE CHANGES IN HARDEEVILLE WILL AFFECT THE CONTRACT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID LEVY WANTS 24 HOUR COVERAGE.

MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THE 2% COST OF LIVING INCREASE IS LESS THAN THE INFLATION FACTOR. COUNCILWOMAN JONES SAID SHE

WANTED A LIST OF WHO WAS REPRESENTED IN EACH SALARY LINE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE WOULD BREAK IT DOWN BY POSITION.

MR. MALPHRUS PRESENTED A REQUEST FROM A LOCAL BUSINESS THAT WAS TRYING TO SELL THE BUSINESS AND ASKED IF THE COUNTY WOULD WAIVE THE PENALTIES AND INTEREST IT OWED ON BACK TAXES WHICH AMOUNTED TO \$23,227.48. THE COUNCIL ASKED THE ATTORNEY TO SEE IF THE COUNCIL HAD THE AUTHORITY TO WAIVE THE PENALTIES AND INTEREST.

MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT A NEW DEPARTMENT FOR FIRE AND RESCUE WAS INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET. COUNCILWOMAN JONES COMMENTED THAT THE TOTALS ASKED FOR BY THIS DEPARTMENT WAS A LOT MORE

THAN WHAT THEY GOT LAST YEAR WHEN THEY WERE PART OF ANOTHER DEPARTMENT. COUNCILWOMAN JONES ASKED ABOUT THE SALARY FOR 6 EMS PEOPLE COSTING \$500,000.00 AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT INCLUDED THE BUILT IN OVERTIME. COUNCILMAN TUTEN ASKED WHY IT TAKES SO LONG TO GET SOMETHING DONE, LIKE THE PERSONNEL POLICY

ADJOURN:

COUNCILMAN TUTEN MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MEETING ENDED AT 3:15 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

JUDITH M. FRANK, CCC
CLERK TO COUNCIL

DR. GEORGE M. HOOD
CHAIRMAN