

**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
FIRE COMMITTEE
MARY GORDON ELLIS EXECUTIVE BUILDING
CONFERENCE ROOM
10:00 A.M.**

MINUTES

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

COUNCILMEN TUTEN AND BLACKSHEAR, DEP. ADM. TOM WATSON,
CLERK TO COUNCIL, JUDY FRANK

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT THE
ELECTRONIC AND PRINT MEDIA WERE NOTIFIED.

DURING PERIODS OF DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATIONS MINUTES
ARE TYPICALLY CONDENSED AND PARAPHRASED.

**COUNCILMAN TUTEN IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THIS COMMITTEE.
THE COMMITTEE AGREED TO CONTINUE TO MEET ON THE FIRST
THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT 10:00 A.M.**

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION:

CHAIRMAN TUTEN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AND
COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR GAVE THE INVOCATION.

CHAIRMAN TUTEN SAID THAT HE VISITED THE NEW PINELAND FIRE
STATION AND IT LOOKED VERY GOOD. CHAIRMAN TUTEN SAID HE
WOULD ATTEND THE ROBERTVILLE MEETING WITH MR. WATSON AND
GIVE THEM THE UPDATE THEY REQUESTED. SINCE COUNCILMAN
TYLER WAS ON THE AGENDA, COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID HE
WILL NOT ATTEND THAT MEETING BECAUSE IF HE DID ATTEND
THERE WOULD BE A QUORAM OF COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT.
MR. WATSON SAID HE WILL BE REQUESTING MORE FIREMEN IN THE
COMING BUDGET AND HE WOULD BE ASSIGNING SOMEONE TO THE
ROBERTVILLE FIRE DEPT. AND HE WILL BE SUGGESTING THAT THE
AREA BE A SPECIAL FIRE DISTRICT.

MR. WATSON SAID THE PINELAND FIRE STATION WAS UP AND
RUNNING AND THERE WAS A FIRETRUCK THERE, AND THE SIGN HAS
BEEN ORDERED, BUT NO PERSONNEL AND THIS STATION WILL BE
KNOWN AS STATION 16. CHAIRMAN TUTEN SAID THIS FIRE STATION
DOES NOT WATER OR SEPTIC.

MONTHLY REPORTS:

MR. WATSON SAID THAT EMS RAN 3,800 CALLS IN 2006 WHICH IS A LOT OF CALLS WITH 3 AMBULANCES. CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED HOW MANY WERE ACTUAL RESPONSE CALLS AND MR. WATSON SAID THEY ALL WERE RESPONSE CALLS.

MR. WATSON SAID THE TOTAL COUNTY- WIDE FIRE AND RESCUE HAD 6,049 CALLS AND THE BREAKDOWN OF THOSE CALLS IS INCLUDED IN THE ATTACHED REPORT PROVIDED BY MR. WATSON. MR. WATSON SAID LAW ENFORCEMENT HAD 12,548 CALLS AND DISPATCH HANDLED 22,397 CALLS.

BUSINESS OFFICE REPORT:

MR. WATSON SAID THE AMOUNTS BILLED AND COLLECTED MONTHLY VARY BECAUSE THE BILLS ARE NOT ALWAYS PAID THE SAME MONTH THE BILL WAS SENT. MR. WATSON SAID THAT YEAR TO DATE THE BILLING OFFICE HAS COLLECTED \$300,682.57.

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION:

MR. WATSON SAID THAT MS. LUCAS WAS WORKING WITH THE ONE INDIVIDUAL WHO IS STILL OUT ON WORKERS COMPENSATION. MR. WATSON SAID ONE PERSON WAS TERMINATED BECAUSE HE WAS CONSISTANTLY LATE FOR WORK EVEN DURING HIS PROBATIONARY PERIOD AND HE DID NOT APPLY HIMSELF.

MR. WATSON SAID THEY HIRED ONE PERSON AND HE STILL HAD ONE OPENING.

MR. WATSON DISCUSSED THE 24 HR PEOPLE AND THEIR LOCATION. MR. WATSON SAID THE PEOPLE WERE AT THESE STATIONS BECAUSE THEY COULD SERVE OTHER AREAS FROM THERE. MR. WATSON SAID THAT MR. GRAHAM IS GOING TO ASK FOR 24 HOUR COVERAGE AT LEVY AND MR. WATSON SAID HE FELT THAT WAS A GOOD IDEA TO DO THIS.

INCIDENT REPORTS:

MR. WATSON PROVIDED THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS WITH INCIDENT REPORTS. THE COMMITTEE AGREED THAT THESE WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY UNLESS THEY REQUESTED THEM.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE:

MR. WATSON SAID THAT HE HAS DISCUSSED THE MAINTENACE WITH MR MALPHRUS AND MR. TERRY. MR. WATSON SAID HE FELT THE REASON THE ENGINE BLEW UP WAS BECAUSE THE WRONG OIL WAS USED. MR. WATSON SAID USING THE WRONG OIL WAS ALSO WHY THE AMBULANCES WERE HAVING SO MUCH TROUBLE WITH THEIR INJECTORS. MR. WATSON SAID HE CANNOT PROVE THE OIL USED

WAS INCORRECT, BUT THE PRISONERS ARE WORKING ON THE VEHICLES WITHOUT THE PROPER SUPERVISION. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED WHY THEY WERE NOT BEING SUPERVISED AND MR. WATSON SAID THAT MARK CROSBY WAS THE SHOP SUPERVISOR, AND COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THAT IT NEEDS TO BE MADE KNOWN THAT HE IS ACCOUNTABLE FOR WORK DONE IN THE SHOP. CHAIRMAN TUTEN SAID HE WILL BRING THIS MATTER UP WHEN HE MEETS WITH ENGINEERING SERVICES. MR. WATSON SAID HE KNEW THE COUNTY COULD NOT AFFORD TO OPERATE A FULLY FUNCTIONAL GARAGE, BUT THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO CHANGE THE OIL AND TIRES AND THE TYPE OF OIL IS SPECIFIED ON THE VEHICLES.

COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID SOMEBODY NEEDS TO BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE AS THE PRISONERS COULD CARE LESS IF THEY USE THE RIGHT OIL AND IF THE SHOP SUPERVISOR IS NOT THERE THEN MR. TERRY NEEDS TO MAKE SURE SOMEONE IS THERE TO MONITOR THE ACTIVITIES.

CITIZEN CONCERN:

CHAIRMAN TUTEN SAID THAT HE RECEIVED A CALL FROM A CITIZEN WHO WAS UPSET ABOUT NOT BEING ABLE TO BID THE MAINTENANCE WORK ON THE EMERGENCY VEHICLES. MR. WATSON SAID THAT THEY WERE TRYING TO PUT ALL REPAIRS UNDER ONE PROVIDER AND THE LOCAL VENDORS COULD NOT DO EVERYTHING THAT WAS NEEDED AND IF THE VENDOR SUBBED THE WORK OUT IT WOULD END UP COSTING THE COUNTY MORE MONEY. MR. WATSON SAID THAT JOHNSON FIRE AND SAFETY CAN HANDLE EVERYTHING AND THEY WILL DO IT FOR A CERTAIN PRICE AND THE PRICE WILL INCLUDE ALL THE VEHICLES. MR. WATSON SAID THAT THE PUMPS REQUIRED SPECIALITY WORK. CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED IF A TRUCK OR PUMPER WENT DOWN, HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE FOR JOHNSON FIRE AND SAFETY TO RESPOND AND REPAIR THE VEHICLE. MR. WATSON SAID THE TURN AROUND WOULD BE ABOUT ONE DAY AND THE CURRENT PERSON WHO FARMS THE WORK OUT TAKES TWO OR THREE DAYS. CHAIRMAN TUTEN SAID HE FELT THE LOCAL PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BID THE WORK AND MR. WATSON SAID HE HAD NO PROBLEM WITH THAT ESPECIALLY IF THERE WAS SOMEONE WHO COULD DO IT ALL, INCLUDING THE PUMPS.

DISCUSSION:

CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED WHEN AND FOR HOW LONG WOULD MR. WATSON BE OUT OF TOWN WITH HIS NATIONAL GUARD ASSIGNMENTS. MR. WATSON SAID HE WOULD BE GONE FROM

JANUARY 30 – FEB. 19, 2007. CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED WHO WOULD BE IN CHARGE AND MR. WATSON SAID STEVEN MALPHRUS. CHAIRMAN TUTEN SAID HE AND COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR WOULD LIKE TO VISIT THE DETENTION CENTER. MR. WATSON SAID THAT MR. BENJAMIN COULD TAKE THEM ON A TOUR OF THE FACILITY. CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED IF THE DETENTION CENTER WAS OVER BUDGET AND MR. WATSON SAID THE FOOD AND MEDICAL CANNOT BE BUDGETED FOR EXACTLY BECAUSE IT IS CALCULATED ON THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS AND THE COUNT HAS AVERAGED OVER 100 PRISONERS PER DAY. MR. WATSON SAID THAT HE WILL INCORPORATE A DETENTION REPORT EACH MONTH WHEN HE MEETS WITH THE COMMITTEE. MR. WATSON SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO ACCOMPANY THE COUNCIL MEMBERS ON THEIR VISIT TO THE DETENTION CENTER. THE COMMITTEE DECIDED TO VISIT THE DETENTION CENTER PRIOR TO THE MARCH COMMITTEE MEETING. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED ABOUT THE REPAIRS FOR THE 1981 E1 FIRE TRUCK AND HE WANTED TO KNOW IF THE TRUCK WAS IN GOOD MECHANICAL CONDITION. MR. WATSON SAID THAT IT WAS AND THE TANK WAS THE ONLY PROBLEM AND IT WAS GOING TO BE REPLACED WITH A POLY TANK. MR. WATSON SAID THIS TYPE OF TANK HAS BEEN TESTED IN COLD CLIMATES AND HOT CLIMATES AND IT HOLD UP VERY WELL.

PERSONNEL:

MR WATSON SAID THAT THE 24 HOUR PEOPLE WERE LOCATED IN COOSAWHATCHIE, TILLMAN, CHERRY POINT, RIDGELAND, AND GRAYS. MR. WATSON SAID THE 12 HOUR SHIFTS WERE NOT WORKING AND HE DECIDED TO MAN THE OTHER STATIONS WITH 24 HOUR PEOPLE BECAUSE OF THEIR LOCATION AND THAT THEY COULD REACH OTHER AREAS QUICKLY FROM THOSE LOCATIONS. MR. WATSON SAID THE OTHER STATIONS ARE CHECKED BY THE PERSONNEL AT THE MANNED STATIONS. MR. WATSON SAID THAT WITH THE NEXT ROUND OF EMPLOYEES HE PLANNED TO PUT 24 HOUR PEOPLE AT ROSELAND AND ROBERTVILLE. MR. WATSON SAID NO ONE WILL BE AT THE PINELAND STATION, BUT BY IT JUST BEING THERE WILL HELP THE ISO RATING. CHAIRMAN TUTEN SAID THERE WAS NO WATER AND NO PLACE FOR A SEPTIC TANK AT THE PINELAND STATION. MR. WATSON SAID THE ISO PEOPLE WERE COMING IN TWO WEEKS TO TELL HIM HOW BEST TO HAVE THE COUNTY EVALUATED. MR. WATSON SAID HE SPOKE WITH STEVEN MALPHRUS, CLAY LUCAS, AND GEORGE WYNN AND THEY COULD NOT COME TO A CONSENSUS SO HE ASKED FOR AN ISO REPRESENTATIVE TO COME AND TELL HIM THE BEST WAY TO HAVE IT DONE. MR.

WATSON SAID THAT THE PROCESS AND PAPERWORK HAS BEEN DONE.

MR. WATSON SAID THAT IN THE FUTURE HE WILL FORMAT HIS AGENDAS SO THAT HE WILL COVER ALL AREAS LISTED UNDER EMERGENCY SERVICES.

THE MEETING ENDED AT 10:55 A.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

JUDITH M. FRANK, CCC

COUNCILMAN FRED TUTEN

COUNCILMAN LEROY BLACKSHEAR