



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE
TRAINING ROOM, 3RD FLOOR
358 THIRD AVE., RIDGELAND, SC 29936
JUNE 9, 2011, 8:30 A.M.
MINUTES**

OFFICIALS PRESENT- COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MARTY SAULS

OFFICIALS ABSENT- COMMITTEE MEMBERS GREGORY

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: ADMINISTRATOR ANDREW FULGHUM, DIRECTOR OF THE EMERGENCY SERVICES DIVISION, DETENTION DIRECTOR ARTHUR BENJAMIN, CLERK TO COUNCIL JUDITH FRANK

OTHERS PRESENT: HARDEEVILLE FIRE CHIEF DANIEL MORGAN, RIDGELAND FIRE CHIEF JOHNNY MINGLEDORFF, BLUFFTON BATTALION CHIEF TODD HARVEY AND RIDGELAND CAPTAIN JOHN MALPHRUS

CALL TO ORDER – COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 8:38 A.M.

INVOCATION – COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS GAVE THE INVOCATION.

MONTHLY REPORTS

DETENTION CENTER – MR. BENJAMIN INFORMED THE COMMITTEE OF THE HURRICANE EVACUATION PLAN HE WAS WORKING ON WITH BEAUFORT, COLLECTON, HAMPTON, ALLENDALE AND BAMBERG COUNTIES. MR. BENJAMIN EXPLAINED THAT THEY WERE ESTABLISHING A PLAN TO MOVE THE INMATES AND CONTACTING THE AREAS AS TO WHERE THE INMATES WOULD GO. MR. BENJAMIN SAID THAT LEXINGTON COUNTY AND RICHLAND COUNTY AGREED TO HOUSE THE PRISONER, BUT HE WAS LOOKING FOR TWO ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS. MR. BENJAMIN SAID TRANSPORTATION WAS A PROBLEM AND THEY WERE REVISING THE PLAN AND THE COUNTIES WERE TO TEAM UP AND USE COUNTY VANS. MR. BENJAMIN SAID THE PLAN WILL COVER EVERY MAJOR CRISIS. MR. BENJAMIN TOLD THE COMMITTEE THAT HE WILL PROVIDE A COPY TO ALL THE DEPARTMENT HEADS. MR. BENJAMIN SAID HE WAS ALSO WORKING ON A POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL FOR

THE OPERATIONS AT THE DETENTION CENTER. MR. BENJAMIN PROVIDED THE COMMITTEE WITH THE MAY AND JUNE MONTHLY REPORTS.

EMERGENCY SERVICES – CHIEF DALEY PRESENTED THE MAY REPORT WHICH LISTED 272 EMS CALLS DISPATCHED AND 25 NON-TRANSPORT CALLS; 65 RIDGELAND FD FIRE CALLS DISPATCHED; 108 HARDEEVILLE FD CALLS DISPATCHED; 24 LEVY FD CALLS DISPATCHED; 326 JASPER COUNTY FD CALLS DISPATCHED. THE LAW ENFORCEMENT CALLS DISPATCHED WERE 1,084 RIDGELAND PD; 1142 HARDEEVILLE PD; AND 1,513 JASPER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE. THE TOTAL CALLS DISPATCHED FOR ALL AGENCIES WAS 4,534. MR. DALEY REPORTS REFLECTED EMS BILLINGS OF \$116,811; AND EMS COLLECTIONS OF \$109,719.99. THE 911 ADDRESSING INFORMATION LISTED IN THE REPORT WAS THAT 4 NEW ADDRESSES WERE ISSUED; 235 ADDRESSES WERE VERIFIED; NO SIGNS WERE STOLEN THIS MONTH, THERE WAS A TOTAL OF 68 MISSING ROAD SIGNS. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS ASKED IF THE FIRE CALLS OVERLAPPED. CHIEF MORGAN SAID AN AMBULANCE AND FIRE TRUCK WOULD BE THE ONLY ONES THAT OVERLAP IN HARDEEVILLE. CHIEF DALEY SAID DEPENDING ON THE CALL, THEY COULD OVERLAP. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THEY NEEDED TO DISCUSS HOW TO ACHIEVE THE BEST ISO RATINGS AND THE BEST COVERAGE. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID HE FELT THE FIRE CONTRACTS WERE THE MOST ECONOMICAL WAY TO PROVIDE THE COVERAGE. CHIEF DALEY PROVIDED A BREAKDOWN AS TO WHAT IT WOULD COST TO PROVIDE COVERAGE IN THE HARDEEVILLE AREA INCLUDING A NEW STATION, EQUIPMENT AND MANPOWER. THE COST ESTIMATE TOTALED \$1,750,173 FOR THE FIRST YEAR. COUNCILMAN SAULS ASKED ABOUT THE SECOND YEAR AND CHIEF DALEY SAID IT WOULD BE ABOUT \$600,000 TO \$700,000 LESS. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS ASKED HOW MANY MILLS WOULD BE NEEDED TO COVER THAT. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE DID NOT KNOW. CHIEF MORGAN POINTED OUT THAT THE COST FOR THE ELECTRIC AT CHERRY POINT AVERAGES ABOUT \$1,100 PER MONTH. CHIEF MORGAN EXPLAINED THE AREAS ON THE MAP THAT HAVE BEEN ANNEXED INTO HARDEEVILLE. CHIEF DALEY SAID THAT THE WAY THINGS ARE ANNEXED IT CAN LEAVE A HOLE FOR COVERAGE. COMMITTEE MEMBER SAULS SAID IT ALSO CAUSES A LIABILITY BECAUSE IT WOULD BE CONFUSING WITH DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS COVERING THE AREA, BUT WITH THE CONTRACTS THERE IS TOTAL COVERAGE. CHIEF MINGLEDORFF PROVIDED THE SCENARIO OF AUGUSTA AVE. AS AN EXAMPLE WHERE SOME OF THE PROPERTY IS IN THE COUNTY AND SOME ARE IN THE TOWN. CHIEF MINGLEDORFF SAID THE DISTRICT CONTRACTS MAKE IT BETTER AND NOT POLITICAL. CHIEF MORGAN POINTED OUT THAT THE AREA ACROSS THE RAILROAD TRACK IS IN THE COUNTY, BUT ONLY ¼ MILE FROM THE HARDEEVILLE FIRE STATION. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE HIGH GROWTH AND ANNEXATION WAS THE REASON WHY THE DISTRICTS WERE SET UP FOR CONTINUITY OF SERVICE. CHIEF DALEY SAID THE COSTS TO TAKE OVER RIDGELAND WOULD NOT BE AS HIGH BECAUSE A STATION WOULD NOT HAVE TO BE BUILT. CHIEF DALEY SAID RIDGELAND HAS A BETTER LOCATION AND DENSITY OF EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL. CHIEF DALEY

SAID IT TAKES THE COUNTY MORE TIME TO MOBILIZE SINCE PEOPLE WOULD BE COMING IN FROM THE OTHER STATIONS LEAVING THEM UNMANNED. CHIEF DALEY SAID THEY WOULD NEED MORE EQUIPMENT AND MORE MANPOWER TO PROVIDE THE LEVEL OF SERVICE CURRENTLY PROVIDED. CHIEF DALEY SAID THAT MORE MONEY NEEDS TO BE PUT IN OTHER AREAS THAT ARE NOT BEING PROVIDED COVERAGE INSTEAD OF PUTTING IT INTO THE AREAS THAT ALREADY HAVE GOOD COVERAGE WITH THE CONTRACTS. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID HE FELT THE CONTRACTS WERE INVALUABLE AND THE OTHER AREAS NEED TO BE IMPROVED. CHIEF DALEY SAID THAT DENSITY NEEDS TO BE CONSIDERED AND THE DENSITY OF SERVICE. COMMITTEE MEMBER SAULS SAID THAT THEY NEED TO FOCUS ON KEEPING THE CONTRACTS DUE TO THE COST AND LIABILITY TO THE COUNTY IF THE CONTRACTS ARE CANCELLED. CAPT. MALPHRUS SAID THEY NEED TO LOOK AT THE MANDATES REGARDING PERSONNEL THAT ARE REQUIRED BY OSHA. CHIEF MINGLEDORFF SAID THAT SOUTH CAROLINA IS AN OSHA STATE AND THEY REQUIRE 3 PEOPLE DURING THE WEEK, BUT RIDGELAND HAS 5 PEOPLE PER DAY. CHIEF MORGAN SAID THAT HARDEEVILLE HAS 5 PEOPLE 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK. CHIEF MORGAN SAID HE HAS A MINIMUM OF 4 PEOPLE AND HE IS ON DUTY AND HE HAS VOLUNTEERS. MR. DALEY SAID THAT HIS PEOPLE ARE SPREAD OUT ALL OVER THE COUNTY. CAPT. MALPHRUS POINTED OUT THAT WHEN THE AMBULANCE GOES OUT ON A CALL THAT TAKES TWO MEN OUT OF SERVICE, BUT AN AMBULANCE NEEDS TO BE ON THE SCENE OF THE FIRE. CAPT. MALPHRUS SAID THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NOW REQUIRES THAT ALL FIRE FIGHTERS HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL AND IF THE VOLUNTEERS CAN'T GO TO THE ACADEMY, IT CAN TAKE THEM TWO YEARS TO FINISH THEIR TRAINING. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THE COUNTY NEEDS TO CONCENTRATE ON IMPROVING COVERAGE IN THE RURAL AREAS. CHIEF MORGAN SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE CONTRACTS WAS TO ALLOW THE COUNTY TO DO THAT. CHIEF MINGLEDORFF SAID AT THE BEGINNING EVERYONE WAS HAPPY AND THE COUNTY WAS BUILDING OTHER STATIONS, BUT THEN CUTS WERE MADE AND THAT AFFECTED THE SERVICES THE COUNTY COULD PROVIDE. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THEY NEEDED TO GET THE ISO RATINGS DOWN. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT STAFF RECOMMENDED DOING THE CONTRACTS FOR ONE YEAR WHILE THEY KNEW THINGS WERE CHANGING. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT THE LEGISLATURE PUT IN LANGUAGE TO ALLOW FIRE DISTRICT FEES TO BE CHARGED AND THEY WILL NOT AFFECT THE MILLAGE. MR. FULGHUM SAID FEES CAN ALSO BE ADDED FOR AMBULANCE SERVICE. MR. FULGHUM SAID SOME AREAS ARE WILLING TO PAY MORE FOR FIRE PROTECTION AND THE FEES WOULD RECOUP THE COSTS OF THE AREAS WITH CONTRACTS. MR. FULGHUM SUGGESTED HAVING ANOTHER MEETING IN A FEW WEEKS FOR THE ATTORNEY TO GO OVER THE FEES FOR DISTRICTS, AND THEY CAN WORK ON A PRESENTATION TO BRING TO COUNCIL. CHIEF MORGAN SAID THAT THE PEOPLE FROM HARDEEVILLE ALSO PAY FOR FIRE SERVICE BEING PROVIDED IN THE RURAL AREAS. CHIEF MINGLEDORFF SAID THE ONLY COUNTY EQUIPMENT AT HIS STATION IS A TANKER AND THEY USE THE TOWN'S EQUIPMENT IN THE RURAL

AREAS. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID HE FELT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED WAS GREAT AND IT CAN BE USED AS A TOOL TO KEEP THE FIRE CONTRACTS. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THEY NEED TO CONCENTRATE ON HOW TO PROVIDE BETTER SERVICE IN THE RURAL AREAS. BATTALION CHIEF TODD HARVEY ASKED WHEN THEY HAD THE LAST ISO RATING. CHIEF MORGAN SAID IT WAS ELIMINATED. BATTALION CHIEF HARVEY SAID THEY NEED TO LOOK AT THE ISO RATINGS AS A GROUP. BATTALION CHIEF HARVEY COMMENTED THAT THE AMOUNT OF MONEY COLLECTED FOR EMS IS PHENOMENAL AND THAT BEAUFORT COUNTY ONLY BRINGS IN ABOUT 40% OF EMS CALL BILLINGS. CHIEF DALEY DISCUSSED A SHOOTING INCIDENT IN ROBERTSVILLE WHERE A BULLET WENT INTO THE BUILDING WHERE A FIREMAN WAS SLEEPING. MR. DALEY SAID HE PULLED THE MEN FROM THERE AND NOW THERE IS NO ONE IN GRAYS, SO ROBERTSVILLE TO COOSAWHATCHIE IS NOT COVERED. CAPT. MALPHRUS SAID ONE PERSON CAN DO SOMETHING UNTIL THE OTHERS GET THERE. BATTALION CHIEF HARVEY SAID THAT THE COUNTY IS WIDE OPEN FOR LAWSUITS. BATTALION CHIEF HARVEY SAID HE LIVES IN GRAYS AND PAYS THE SAME TAXES, BUT HE HAS NO FIRE SERVICE. CHIEF DALEY SAID HE HAD MORE VOLUNTEERS IN GRAYS THAN IN THE OTHER AREAS. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THEY NEEDED TO FOCUS ON PROVIDING BETTER SERVICE. MR. FULGHUM SAID HIS GOAL WAS TO DO A SEPARATE FIRE MILLAGE SO THAT IT IS NOT PART OF THE OPERATING BUDGET. CHIEF MINGLEDORFF COMMENTED THAT THEY RECEIVE NO CREDIT FOR THE TANKER THAT THE COUNTY PROVIDES TO RIDGELAND AND THE TANKER IS THE ONLY PIECE OF EQUIPMENT THAT THE COUNTY PROVIDES TO RIDGELAND. CHIEF MINGLEDORFF SAID IF THE CONTRACTS IS TAKEN AWAY, THE CITIZENS IN THAT AREA WILL LOSE THE ISO RATING. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID HE FELT THE FIRE MILEAGE WOULD LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD. BATTALION CHIEF HARVEY SAID BEAUFORT COUNTY HAD NINE FIRE DISTRICTS AND THEY ALL HAVE DIFFERENT MILEAGE RATES. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID HE FELT GOOD ABOUT THE PLAN AND HOPED THE MAJORITY OF THE COUNCIL WOULD SEE THE ADVANTAGES OF THE CONTRACTS AND THE LATITUDE TO CREATE FIRE DISTRICTS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THEY WILL HAVE THE INFORMATION READY FOR NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET. MR. FULGHUM SAID THEY WILL HAVE SEVERAL DIFFERENT PRESENTATIONS. CHIEF DALEY SAID THAT WITH THE DISTRICTS, EVERYONE WILL RECEIVE THE SERVICE THAT THEY ARE PAYING FOR. BATTALION CHIEF HARVEY SAID IF THEY EXPLAIN IT TO THE PEOPLE, THEY WILL UNDERSTAND WHY THEY HAVE TO PAY AND THE COUNTY CAN JUSTIFY THE FEE. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THAT BENCHMARKS NEED TO BE SET. MR. FULGHUM SAID THEY NEED A COMPLETE PRESENTATION FOR THE COUNCIL. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS SUGGESTED A POWER POINT PRESENTATION. MR. FULGHUM REQUESTED A DATE BE SET TO GET THE WORK STARTED. MR. DALEY SAID THIS PROJECT WILL TAKE ABOUT A YEAR. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS STATED WHY SPEND \$2,000,000 WHEN THE SAME THING CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED FOR \$700,000. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE COUNCIL'S STANCE IS NOT TO RENEW THE CONTRACTS NEXT YEAR, SO THE

PRESENTATION NEEDS TO BE MADE PRIOR TO JULY. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID HE HOPED THE COUNCIL WOULD SEE WHAT THE OPPORTUNITIES ARE. CHIEF MINGLEDORFF SAID IT IS A SAFETY ISSUE AND THEY WANT TO CONTINUE TO DO WHAT THEY ARE DOING AND PROVIDE THE SERVICES. CHIEF MINGLEDORFF SAID THE EMPLOYEES ARE CONCERNED ABOUT LOSING THEIR JOBS. CHIEF MINGLEDORFF SAID THAT ONE EMPLOYEE HAS 20 YEARS AND WOULD LOSE HIS JOB IF THE CONTRACTS ARE NOT RENEWED. CHIEF MINGLEDORFF SAID HE APPRECIATED WHAT THEY WERE TRYING TO DO. CHIEF DALEY SAID THAT VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED AND CURRENTLY HE HAS ABOUT 20-30 VOLUNTEERS, BUT WITH THE ECONOMY THE WAY IT IS, PEOPLE DO NOT HAVE TIME TO VOLUNTEER. CHIEF DALEY SAID THAT THE VOLUNTEERS ALL HAVE TO BE EDUCATED AND NEED EQUIPMENT. CHIEF DALEY SAID THAT IT TAKES 9 WEEKS TO GO TO THE ACADEMY FOR TRAINING. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT HE WAS WAITING TO HEAR FROM THE ATTORNEY AND MR. MALPHRUS AND THEN THEY WILL START WORKING ON THE PRESENTATION.

THE MEETING ENDED AT 9:45 A.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

JUDITH M. FRANK, ccc
CLERK TO COUNCIL

L. MARTIN SAULS, IV
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN