

**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL  
MARY GORDON ELLIS EXECUTIVE BUILDING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
BUDGET WORKSHOP  
APRIL 22, 2008  
1:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

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

**OFFICIALS ABSENT:**

FRED TUTEN, VICE CHAIRMAN

**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 THE MINUTES ARE TYPICALLY CONDENSED AND PARAPHRASED.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

CHAIRMAN HOOD CALLED THE WORKSHOP TO ORDER AT 1:05 P.M.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

CHAIRMAN HOOD LED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

**INVOCATION:**

COUNCILWOMAN JONES GAVE THE INVOCATION.

**PRESENTATION OF BUDGET:**

MR MALPHRUS EXPLAINED TO THE COUNCIL THAT THE BUDGET THEY RECEIVED REFLECTED THE DEPARTMENT AND AGENCY REQUESTS.

**DR. ANNE MCNUTT –TCL:**

DR. MCNUTT THANKED THE COUNCIL FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND SAID THAT THE COUNTY'S SUPPORT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO THE SUCCESS OF TCL. DR. MCNUTT SAID THAT TCL CURRENTLY HAS THREE CAMPUSES

AND THE DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE. DR. MCNUTT SAID THE LOTTERY HAS HELPED TO OFFSET THE COST OF TUITION FOR THE STUDENTS. DR. MCNUTT SAID THAT TCL WAS OFFERING THREE NEW PROGRAMS – PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT, ROUGH-IN ELECTRICIAN AND FINISHING ELECTRICIAN. DR. MCNUTT REQUESTED \$300,000.00 FOR OPERATIONAL FUNDS. DR. MCNUTT SAID THE COLLEGE ALSO HAD A LONG LIST OF UNFUNDED CAPITAL PROJECTS INCLUDING A FUTURE BUILDING AT THE NEW RIVER CAMPUS AND SHE HOPED THAT THE COUNCIL WOULD EXPLORE WAYS TO HELP TCL EXPAND THEIR BUILDING PROJECTS. COUNCILWOMAN JONES ASKED ABOUT THE COST OF THE TWO YEAR PROGRAM AS COMPARED TO TWO YEARS AT USC OR CLEMSON. DR. MCNUTT SAID THAT TCL IS MUCH LESS EXPENSIVE AND ALL THE TCL STUDENTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE LOTTERY FUNDING. DR. MCNUTT EXPLAINED THAT TCL HAS A 2 YEAR ASSOCIATES DIPLOMA DEGREE PROGRAM, CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS, DIPLOMA PROGRAMS, AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS, COLLEGE TRANSFER PROGRAM, THEY OFFER DISTANCE EDUCATION THROUGH THE INTERNET AND DUAL ENROLLMENT WITH THE LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS. CHAIRMAN HOOD THANKED DR. MCNUTT AND TOLD HER THE COUNCIL WOULD DO THE BEST THAT THEY COULD WITH THE FUNDING AVAILABLE.

**ROLAND GARDNER – BJHCH:**

MR. GARDNER UPDATED THE COUNCIL AND THANKED THE COUNCIL FOR THEIR SUPPORT IN THE PAST. MR. GARDNER SAID THAT THEY HAVE HAD AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 15% MORE PATIENTS AT THE JASPER SITE. MR. GARDNER SAID THAT DR. TYLER AND HIS WIFE ARE PROVIDING MORE SERVICES IN THE HARDEEVILLE AREA. MR. GARDNER TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT BJHCH HAS BEEN SELECTED TO OPERATE A MEDICAL SCHOOL FOR ABOUT 10 STUDENTS PER YEAR. COUNCILWOMAN JONES ASKED IF THEY HAD ANY DOCTORS WHO SPECIALIZED IN GERIATRIC AND MR. GARDNER SAID NOT AT THIS TIME. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED ABOUT THE DRUG PROGRAM AND MR. GARDNER RESPONDED THAT THE DRUG PROGRAM IS FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO INSURANCE. MR. GARDNER SAID THAT 52% OF THEIR FUNDING COMES FROM THE PATIENTS, GRANTS, MEDICARE AND MEDICAID, AND 48% COME FROM PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING. MR. GARDNER REPORTED THAT THEIR ADMISSIONS TO COASTAL CAROLINA INCREASED BY 20-25%. MR. GARDNER REQUESTED \$ 115,000.00.

**DR. JANE UPSHAW – USCB:**

DR. UPSHAW PROVIDED THE COUNCIL WITH HANDOUTS AND DID A POWER POINT PRESENTATION. DR. UPSHAW DISCUSSED THE NEW NURSING PROGRAM AND OTHER PROGRAMS AVAILABLE AT THE UNIVERSITY. DR. UPSHAW SAID THAT THE LOWCOUNTRY HAS A DRAMATIC NEED FOR MORE BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMS TO PREPARE THE CITIZENS IN THE AREA FOR JOBS. DR. UPSHAW POINTED OUT THAT JASPER COUNTY RANKED 45<sup>TH</sup> OUT OF 46 COUNTIES WITH ONLY 8.75 OF

THE POPULATION OVER 25 YEARS OF AGE WITH BACHELOR DEGREES OR HIGHER. DR. UPSHAW HIGHLIGHTED THE BRIDGE PROGRAM WITH TCL, THE NURSING PROGRAM, THE USCB LIBRARY AND THE MIDDLE SCHOOL COLLEGE AWARENESS PROGRAM, AND THE OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAM. DR. UPSHAW REQUESTED \$400,000.00 FOR USCB.

**MARY ELISE GABBARD – JARM:**

MS. GABBARD EXPLAINED THAT THIS IS THE 3<sup>RD</sup> YEAR THAT JARM HAS BEEN OPERATING THE ANIMAL SHELTER FOR JASPER COUNTY. MS. GABBARD SAID THAT THEY HAVE A COMPANY THAT DONATES MOST OF THE FOOD FOR THE ANIMALS AT THE SHELTER, WHICH SAVES THE COUNTY ABOUT \$48,000.00. MS. GABBARD TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE SHELTER ONLY ACCEPTS ANIMALS FROM JASPER COUNTY. JARM'S REQUEST IS FOR \$157,100.00 OF WHICH \$122,000.00 IS FOR SALARIES FOR NINE PEOPLE. MS. GABBARD SAID NO BENEFITS ARE PAID FOR THE EMPLOYEES. MS. GABBARD SAID THE SHELTER IS OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK AND SHE INVITED THE COUNCIL TO COME TO THE SHELTER AND SEE ALL THE IMPROVEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE. MS. GABBARD STATED THAT OVER 2,000 ANIMALS WERE TAKEN IN BY THE SHELTER LAST YEAR AND SHE EXPECTS THAT NUMBER TO BE HIGHER THIS YEAR. MS. GABBARD ASKED THAT DIRECTIONAL SIGNS BE PUT UP SO THAT PEOPLE CAN FIND THE SHELTER. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT HE WOULD TAKE CARE OF GETTING THE SIGNS INSTALLED.

**ANNE WALKER – BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB:**

HEATHER DAVIS, PRESIDENT OF THE JASPER BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB, THANKED THE COUNCIL FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND HELP IN GETTING A NEW LOCATION FOR THE CLUB TO MEET. MRS. DAVIS SAID SHE THOUGHT THE CLUB WOULD BE ABLE TO USE THE LOCATION FOR ABOUT 2 YEARS. MRS. DAVIS SAID THAT THERE ARE 363 KIDS THAT ARE MEMBERS OF THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB. MRS. DAVIS SAID THE CLUB KEEPS THE KIDS OUT OF TROUBLE, HELPS WITH THEIR HOMEWORK AND READING SKILLS. MRS. DAVIS INTRODUCED MISS GARRETT, THE JASPER YOUTH OF THE YEAR. MISS GARRETT EXPLAINED THE BENEFITS OF THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB AND HOW IT HAS CHANGED HER LIFE. MS. DAVIS REQUESTED \$10,000.00 FOR THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB.

**STEVEN MALPHRUS – SOFTWARE FOR THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE:**

STEVEN MALPHRUS WAS NOT PRESENT AND RONNIE MALPHRUS MADE THE PRESENTATION. MR. MALPHRUS EXPLAINED THAT THE SOFTWARE IN THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE NEEDED TO BE UPGRADED AND THE UPGRADE WOULD ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR KEEPING ALL THE INFORMATION STORED IN FILE CABINETS IN THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE NEW SOFTWARE WOULD ALLOW THE HISTORICAL DATA TO BE STORED ON THE COMPUTER AND THE PAPER COPIES COULD BE STORED IN A CENTRAL STORAGE AREA. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE AUDITOR WAS

LEERY ABOUT CHANGING. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE COUNTY COULD START IN THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE AND MAKE THE CHANGE IN THE OTHER OFFICES IN THE FUTURE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE COST FOR THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE WOULD BE \$130,000.00 AND IT COULD BE PAID OVER 3 YEARS WITH \$20,000.00 DOWN IN 2009 AND \$65,000.00 PER YEAR FOR TWO YEARS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THIS WOULD NOT BE READY UNTIL OCTOBER AND MR. FULGHUM FELT IT SHOULD BE HANDLED THROUGH THE BUDGET. MR. MALPHRUS STATED THAT THE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE FEES WOULD BE LESS THAN THE COUNTY IS CURRENTLY PAYING SMITH DATA. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED IF THIS IS FIRE PROOF AND MR. MALPRHUS SAID THAT THE BACK-UP WOULD BE KEPT OFFSITE.

**DISCUSSION:**

MR. MALPHRUS UPDATED THE COUNCIL OF POSSIBLE LEGISLATIVE CHANGES REGARDING PROPERTY TAXES AND WHEN THE PROPERTY VALUE WOULD CHANGE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT HE WAS GOING TO BASE THE BUDGET ON THIS YEAR'S RULES, BUT IF THE LEGISLATURE CHANGES THE RULES, THE BUDGET MAY NEED TO BE CHANGED. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THERE WAS ALSO A BILL PENDING TO GET STATE AID FUNDING AND THE COUNTY WOULD NEED TO POST ON ITS WEBSITE EVERY CHECK THAT IS WRITTEN MONTHLY FOR UP TO ONE YEAR ANYTHING OVER \$100.00.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:15 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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JUDITH M. FRANK, CCC  
CLERK TO COUNCIL

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DR. GEORGE M.HOOD  
CHAIRMAN