



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL

**JASPER COUNTY GOVERNMENT BUILDING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SPECIAL CALLED COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 18, 2009
4:00 P.M.**

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

GEORGE HOOD, CHAIRMAN
LEROY BLACKSHEAR, VICE CHAIRMAN
HENRY ETHERIDGE, COUNCILMAN
REV. SAMUEL GREGORY, COUNCILMAN
HUBERT TYLER, COUNCILMAN

STAFF PRESENT:

ANDREW FULGHUM, ADMINISTRATOR
RONNIE MALPHRUS, DEP. ADM. ADM. SERVICES
DALE TERRY, DEP. ADM. ENG. SERVICES
JUDITH FRANK, CLERK TO COUNCIL
MARVIN JONES, ATTORNEY

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

HAZEL HOLMES, AUDITOR
VERNA GARVIN TREASURER
GREGORY JENKINS, SHERIFF
MARGARET BOSTICK, CLERK OF COURT
MARTIN SAULS, CORONER

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 HOOD CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 4:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

CHAIRMAN HOOD LED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

INVOCATION:

VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR OFFERED THE INVOCATION.

BUDGET DISCUSSION:

MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
5/18/09

CHAIRMAN HOOD EXPLAINED THAT THIS MEETING WAS CALLED WITH THE ELECTED OFFICIALS TO SEE HOW THEY COULD WILLINGLY PARTICIPATE IN THE BUDGET. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT THE COUNTY STAFF IS GOING TO HAVE TO DOUBLE UP AND SOME PEOPLE WILL HAVE TO BE LAYED OFF TO MAKE THE BUDGET WORK. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED THE ADMINISTRATOR TO REVIEW HIS RECOMMENDATIONS. MR. MALPHRUS PROVIDED THE COUNCIL AND THE ELECTED OFFICIALS WITH A COPY OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS REFLECTED POSITION CUTS AND THEY CAME UP WITH A FIGURE BASED ON THE POSITION ELIMINATION.

AUDITOR:

MR FULGUM RECOMMENDED THAT \$43,000.00 BE CUT FROM THE AUDITOR'S BUDGET AND THE POSITIONS CUT WERE THE TWO PART TIME POSITIONS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE NUMBERS PRESENTED ALSO INCLUDE FRINGES. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THE CUTS WOULD AFFECT OPENING AN OFFICE IN HARDEEVILLE. MS. HOLMES SAID SHE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO HAVE AN OFFICE IN HARDEEVILLE IF THESE POSITIONS ARE CUT. MS. HOLMES SAID SHE PLANNED TO USE THE TWO PART TIME INDIVIDUALS TO TRACK DOWN ILLEGAL TAGS AND WORK IN THE OFFICE SO THAT AN OFFICE COULD BE OPENED IN HARDEEVILLE. MS. HOLMES STATED THAT SHE CUT EVERYTHING SHE COULD FROM HER BUDGET. MS. HOLMES SAID THAT THERE IS A DIRE NEED FOR A SERVER FOR THE TREASURER, AUDITOR, AND ASSESSOR AND THEY DISCUSSED PUTTING FUNDS TOGETHER TO PURCHASE A SERVER. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED THE COST OF A SERVER AND MS. HOLMES ANSWERED THAT A SERVER WOULD COST ABOUT \$7,800.00. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THEY CAN USE THE EXISTING NETWORK AND THEY WERE WORKING ON POOLING MONEY TO PURCHASE A SERVER. MS. HOLMES TOLD THE COUNCIL THE SHE IS CONNECTED TO SMITH DATA AND STUGIS AND THE SERVER FAILED LAST YEAR, BUT YASEMIN HAD A BACKUP. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED IF THE SERVER WAS IN THE BUDGET AND MR. MALPHRUS RESPONDED THAT IT WAS NOT IN THE BUDGET AND THEY HOPED THAT IT WOULD NOT CRASH, BUT IF IT GOES DOWN THEY WILL HAVE TO FIND THE MONEY FOR A NEW ONE. MS. HOLMES SAID THAT SHE WAS NOT SURE THE SMITH DATA INFORMATION COULD BE TRANSFERRED. MS. HOLMES SAID THE SERVER WAS NOT WORKING PROPERLY THEY WERE WILLING TO JOINTLY GO TOGETHER TO PURCHASE A NEW SERVER. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED WHAT IT WOULD COST THE COUNTY IF THE SERVER CRASHED. MS. HOLMES SAID THEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO DO THE TAXES. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED MS. HOLMES IF IT WOULD BE A HARDSHIP TO TAKE TWO PEOPLE OUT OF HER

DEPARTMENT. MS. HOLMES SAID ONE MEMBER OF HER STAFF WILL BE OUT FOR 9 WEEKS IN SEPTEMBER AND THAT IS A VERY BUSY TIME AND WITH ONLY TWO PEOPLE, IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT. MS. HOLMES ASKED THE COUNCIL TO ALLOW HER TO KEEP THE TWO PART TIME POSITIONS SO THAT SHE CAN UTILIZE THEM IN OTHER AREAS. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED IF SHE CUT HER BUDGET ALREADY AND MS. HOLMES SAID THAT SHE CUT \$2,000.00 FROM COMPUTERS AND THE ONLY OTHER THING THAT COULD BE CUT WAS EMPLOYEES. COUNCILMAN TYLER ASKED IF HER BUDGET INCREASED OR DECREASED AND MS. HOLMES SAID THAT HER BUDGET IS UP SLIGHTLY BECAUSE SHE REQUESTED TO KEEP HER TWO PART TIME EMPLOYEES. MS. HOLMES SAID THAT SHE ONLY ASKS FOR FUNDING DURING BUDGET TIME AND DOES NOT COME BACK FOR MORE MONEY. MS. HOLMES SAID SHE EXHAUSTED ALL HER FUNDS IN THIS YEAR'S BUDGET FOR NEW COMPUTERS AND SHE HAD NO MONEY LEFT FOR THE SERVER. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED WHY THE SERVER WAS SEPARATE AND MS. HOLMES RESPONDED THAT SMITH DATA IS CONNECTED TO THE SERVER AND THIS SERVER WILL WORK WITH ALL THE OFFICES DEALING WITH TAXES AND SHE WILL NEED HER SHARE OF MONEY FOR THE COMPUTER IN HER BUDGET. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED MR. MALPHRUS IF HE HAD FUNDS ANYWHERE THAT COULD BE USED FOR THE SERVER AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT HE DID. MS. HOLMES TOLD THE COUNCIL SHE WOULD LIKE TO KEEP HER TWO PART TIME EMPLOYEES. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED IF SHE COULD DEAL WITH ONE AND MS HOLMES SAID THAT SHE COULD IMPROVISE IF IT CAME TO THAT.

TREASURER:

CHAIRMAN HOOD NOTED THAT THERE WERE NO CUTS FOR THE TREASURER'S OFFICE. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED IF MS. GARVIN STILL NEEDED THE CONTRACT HELP AND MS. GARVIN RESPONDED THAT HER OFFICE IS VERY BUSY FROM NOVEMBER TO MARCH AND THAT IS WHEN SHE USED THE CONTRACT HELP. MS. GARVIN SAID SHE SLICED EVERYTHING THAT SHE COULD FROM HER BUDGET. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED ABOUT THE \$2,000.00 FOR COMPUTERS AND MS. GARVIN SAID THE MONEY WAS FOR NEW PRINTERS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED WHO USED THE TRAVEL AND TRAINING MONEY AND MS. GARVIN SAID SHE DID. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED IF THE POSITON SHE DISCUSSED WITH COUNCIL PREVIOUSLY WAS IN THE SALARY LINE AND MS. GARVIN RESPONDED THAT THE POSITION WAS INCLUDED, BUT NOT A PERSON FOR HARDEEVILLE.

CLERK OF COURT:

CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED ABOUT COLLECTIONS AND MS. BOSTICK RESPONDED THAT THEY WERE DOWN; THE FINES HAVE BEEN CHARGED, BUT ALL OF THEM HAVE NOT BEEN PAID. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED HOW MANY EMPLOYEES WORKED IN HER OFFICE. MS. BOSTICK RESPONDED THAT THIS YEAR THERE IS NINE FULLTIME POSITIONS AND ONE PART TIME POSITION. MS. BOSTICK SAID THAT IN THE COMING YEAR SHE WILL HAVE SIX FULLTIME POSTIONS AND TWO PART TIME POSITIONS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THOSE CUTS WERE ALREADY MADE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF SHE COULD CONTROL THE COURT EXPENSES AND MS. BOSTICK RESPONDED THAT JUDGE DETERMINES IF PEOPLE SHOULD COME IN OR NOT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE TELEPHONE LINE. MS. BOSTICK SAID SHE HAS DISCUSSED THE PHONE WITH STEVEN MALPHRUS AND SHE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE CODES IN PLACE BECAUSE NOW THE JUDGE CAN PICK UP THE PHONE AND DIAL AND WITHOUT THE CODES, SHE HAS NO CONTROL OVER THE PHONES. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED ABOUT THE UTILITIES AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY WERE THE UTILITIES CHARGED FOR THE MARY GORDON ELLIS BUILDING THAT WOULD HOUSE THE CLERK OF COURT AND HE ASSUMED THAT THE UTILITIES FOR THE SCHOOL CAFETERIA COULD COME FROM THE COURTHOUSE RENOVATION FUNDS. MS. BOSTICK SAID SHE WAS NOT SURE HOW MUCH THE UTILITES WOULD BE, BUT THE COUNTY WOULD ONLY BE PAYING THE UTILITIES FOR THE CAFETERIA WING. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED ABOUT THE MAINTENANCE LINE AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT COVER THE OFFICE EQUIPMENT, BUT NOT THE COMPUTERS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT NOT MANY COMPUTERS HAVE MAINTENANCE CONTRACT. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED IF MONEY COULD BE SAVED BY COMBINING THE MAINTENACE CONTRACTS. MS. BOSTICK EXPLAINED THAT SHE USED 3 DIFFERENT SYSTEMS AND THEY CANNOT BE COMBINED. CHAIRMAN HOOD THANKED MS. BOSTICK FOR CUTTING HER BUDGET AND PRESENTING SUCH A TIGHT BUDGET.

SHERIFF:

MR. FULGHUM SAID THE ADMINISTRATION WAS RECOMMENDING A CUT OF \$168,000. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED HOW THEY ARRIVED AT THIS NUMBER. MR. FULGHUM SAID IT WAS BASED ON POSITIONS BEING ELIMINATED. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED HOW MANY PEOPLE AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID 3 POSITONS. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED SHERIFF JENKINS IF HE COULD DO WITHOUT THOSE POSITIONS. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID HE NEEDED THEM TO PROVIDE THE SERVICES TO THE CITIZENS. CHAIRMAN

HOOD COMMENTED THAT RIDGELAND AND HARDEEVILLE HAVE POLICE DEPARTMENTS AND THEY COLLECT A LOT OF REVENUE. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID HIS DEPARTMENT SERVES A LOT OF WARRANTS AND CIVIL COURT PAPERS. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED FOR AN EXPLANATION AS TO WHY THE MUNICIPALITIES HAVE SO MUCH REVENUE AND THE COUNTY DOES NOT. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE MUNICIPALITIES GENERATE ABOUT \$700,000.00 IN REVENUE EACH YEAR. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID THAT THERE IS A DECREASE IN TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS BECAUSE THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT PROVIDES SERVICE AND THE TWO TRAFFIC OFFICERS ARE ON PATROL DUTY. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED WHY THEY WERE PULLED FROM TRAFFIC AND SHERIFF JENKINS SAID HE NEEDED THEM TO PATROL THE COUNTY. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE COUNCIL APPROVED CERTAIN POSITIONS AND INDIVIDUALS ARE NOT PUT IN THOSE POSITIONS. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID THE TWO INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN PLACED ON PATROL, NOT TRAFFIC. COUNCILMAN TYLER SAID THAT IF SOMEONE DOES SOMETHING WRONG THEY ARE ISSUED A TICKET AND THEY HAVE TO PAY FOR IT OR DO TIME. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID THE JUDGE SETS THE FINE AND EVEN IF THEY DO THE TIME, THEY STILL HAVE TO PAY THE FINE. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED HOW MANY OFFICERS DOES THE SHERIFF HAVE AND SHERIFF JENKINS SAID HE HAD 40 OFFICERS, AND 17 OF THOSE OFFICERS ARE ON PATROL. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED WHAT THE 23 OTHER OFFICERS DID AND SHERIFF JENKINS SAID THEY ARE INVESTIGATORS, SERVE PAPERS, SUPERVISORS, ADMINISTRATION, AND RESERVE OFFICERS. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED IF HE HAD ANY DATA TO MEASURE THE SUCCESS OF HIS DEPARTMENT. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID THAT HE DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH INVESTIGATORS AND THAT HE ONLY HAS FOUR INVESTIGATORS AND THERE ARE OVER 100 OUTSTANDING CASES FOR JUST ONE INVESTIGATOR. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED ABOUT THE COMPUTERS IN THE CARS. SHERIFF JENKINS RESPONDED THAT THEY HAD TO SEND THEM BACK. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT WHEN THE COUNCIL VOTES TO APPROVE SOMETHING, THEY EXPECT IT TO BE DONE. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE COUNCIL APPROVED TWO TRAFFIC OFFICERS AND NOW THEY ARE PATROL OFFICERS. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE COUNCIL CANNOT TELL THE SHERIFF WHAT TO DO, BUT THEY SHOULD BE KEPT INFORMED. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED IF THERE HAS BEEN ANY DISCUSSION OF COMBINING THE THREE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN THE COUNTY. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID HE WOULD PROVIDE THE COUNCIL WITH INFORMATION AND OFFICERS HAVE BEEN WORKING CERTAIN AREAS BECAUSE OF THE BREAK-INS. SHERIFF JENKINS TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT HE LOOKS TO THE SAFETY OF THE CITIZENS AND NOT TRAFFIC.

SHERIFF JENKINS SAID THE TWO TRAFFIC OFFICERS WERE MOVED UNDER THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION AND KEPT THEM THERE. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID ONLY ABOUT 5% OF THE CITIZENS OF THE COUNTY GIVES TROUBLE AND MOST OF THE CITIZENS ARE GOOD AND DO WHAT IS EXPECTED. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID HE HAD TWO NARCOTIC OFFICERS WHEN HE BECAME SHERIFF AND NOW HE HAS FIVE. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID THEY HAVE SUCCESSFULLY FORMED A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SURROUNDING COUNTIES TO FIGHT DRUGS, BUT HE STILL HAS TO PROVIDE SERVICES. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID THE BREAK-INS HAVE DECREASED AND A DIFFERENCE HAS BEEN MADE. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED WHAT REVENUE DOES THE COUNTY GET FROM THE TASK FORCE. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID THE POT OF MONEY IS SHARED AND THE FUNDS GO TO THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED IF ANY OF THE FUNDS GO TO THE GENERAL FUND AND SHERIFF JENKINS SAID THAT LEGALLY BY LAW IT GOES TO THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED THE SHERIFF TO ATTEND AN EXECUTIVE SESSION WITH THE COUNCIL SO THAT THE COUNCIL CAN HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF TASK FORCE FUNDING. COUNCILMAN GREGORY AGREED THAT AN EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS NEEDED TO DISCUSS WHAT FUNDS COULD GO INTO THE GENERAL FUND. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THE COUNCIL ALSO NEEDED TO DISCUSS THE AMOUNT OF OVERTIME THAT IS IN THE BUDGET. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED IF \$85,000.00 WAS REMOVED FROM THE OVERTIME LINE, COULD THE SHERIFF STILL PROVIDE SERVICES TO THE CITIZENS. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID HE WOULD DO THE BEST HE CAN. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED HOW MANY SUPERVISORS WERE IN THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT. SHERIFF JENKINS RESPONDED THAT PATROL, NARCOTIC, ADMINISTRATION, AND TRAINING ALL HAVE SUPERVISORS. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED SHERIFF JENKINS IF HE WOULD CONSIDER TAKING SOME OF THE 23 OFFICERS AND PUTTING THEM ON TRAFFIC AND SHERIFF JENKINS RESPONDED THAT IF THERE IS AN EMERGENCY FOR THE CITIZENS HE WOULD MOVE THEM WHERE THEY WERE NEEDED. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID IF THEY COULD BE PUT ON TRAFFIC IT COULD GENERATE NEEDED REVENUE. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID THAT SAFETY COMES FIRST AND HE COULD NOT COMMIT TO THAT. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THAT SOME OF THE OFFICERS ARE WORKING A PART TIME JOB AND USING COUNTY EQUIPMENT. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN DONE IN THE PAST AND THE PART TIME WORK PROVIDES VISIBILITY AND THERE HAVE BEEN TIMES THAT WHILE THE OFFICERS WERE DOING PART-TIME WORK THEY WERE CALLED AWAY BECAUSE THEY WERE NEEDED. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED HOW MANY OFFICERS WERE CERTIFIED AND

SHERIFF JENKINS SAID 17 PATROL OFFICERS WERE CERTIFIED AND HE WOULD GET THE COUNCIL THE EXACT NUMBER, BUT HE THOUGHT 23 OFFICERS TOTAL WERE CERTIFIED. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED WHEN THE BREAK-INS GOT BAD. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID IN FEBRUARY. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF ANYONE WAS DOING TRAFFIC IN JANUARY. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID NO ONE WAS WORKING TRAFFIC, THEY WERE ON PATROL. COUNCILMAN ETHRIDGE SAID THAT THE MUNICIPALITIES TAKE UP A LOT OF AREA IN THE COUNTY AND WAS THERE ANY OVERLAPPING. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID IT WAS JURISDICTIONAL. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED HOW MANY OFFICERS WERE ON PATROL PER SHIFT. SHERIFF JENKINS RESPONDED THAT 1 OR 2 WORKING PER SHIFT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES IN THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS AND HE ASKED IF THE POPULATION WAS THAT MUCH GREATER. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID THAT THE POPULATION HAS GONE FROM ABOUT 16,000 TO 22,000. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED THE SHERIFF WHERE THE GROWTH TAKE PLACE AND THE SHERIFF RESPONDED THAT HE WAS NOT SURE. SHERIFF JENKINS ASKED IF THERE WOULD BE A LIASON BETWEEN THE SHERIFF AND THE COUNCIL. CHAIRMAN HOOD TOLD THE SHERIFF THAT HE AND COUNCILMAN TYLER SERVE ON THE COUNCIL COMMITTEE THAT MEETS WITH THE ELECTED OFFICIALS. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID HE WANTS TO MAKE SURE THAT THE NEEDS OF THE CITIZENS ARE MET AND THE PEOPLE WORKING FOR HIM ARE GREATLY NEEDED. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED IF THE SHERIFF COULD ISSUE TICKETS IN THE MUNCIPALITIES AND SHERIFF JENKINS SAID THAT THEY CAN ISSUE TICKETS ANYWHERE IN THE COUNTY. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED WHY THE OFFICERS ON PATROL CANNOT ISSUE TICKETS AND HE ASKED IF THEY WERE INVOLVED IN SOLVING CRIMES. SHERIFF JENKINS TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THERE HAVE BEEN CRIMES SOLVED IN THE PAST AND THEY WERE STILL WORKING ON OTHERS. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE COUNCIL WILL MEET WITH THE SHERIFF IN EXECUTIVE SESSION AT THE NEXT BUDGET WORKSHOP.

MARTIN SAULS - CORONER:

MR. SAULS SAID THAT HIS WORKLOAD HAS INCREASED BECAUSE OF ALL THE PEOPLE WHO TRAVEL I-95. MR. SAULS SAID HE COVERS 35 MILES OF THE INTERSTATE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE POST MORTEMES AND MR. SAULS SAID THAT IS FOR AUTOPSIES. MR. SAULS SAID HE TAKES WHATEVER THE COUNCIL BUDGETS AND IF THERE IS ANY MONEY LEFT OVER, IT GOES BACK INTO THE GENERAL FUND. MR. SAULS SAID THAT AN AUTOPSY IS REQUESTED

BY THE FAMILY, THE COUNTY HAS TO PAY FOR IT, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT REQUIRES THAT AUTOPSIES BE DONE. MR. SAULS SAID THEY HAVE TO TRANSPORT THE BODY AND WAIT FOR THE AUTOPSY TO BE DONE AND THEN TRANSPORT THE BODY BACK TO JASPER COUNTY. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED IF THE CORONER'S OFFICE WAS CUT BY THE STATE AND MR. SAULS RESPONDED THAT HIS DEPARTMENT GETS NO MONEY FROM THE STATE.

PROBATE JUDGE:

MR. FULGHUM TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WAS RECOMMENDING A CUT OF \$35,000.00. MR. FULGHUM SAID THIS WOULD BE THE SALARY AND FRINGE BENEFITS FOR ONE EMPLOYEE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THIS DEPARTMENT HAS THREE FULL TIME EMPLOYEES INCLUDING THE JUDGE.

SERVER:

CHAIRMAN HOOD TOLD MR. MALPHRUS TO FIND THE FUNDS TO PURCHASE A NEW SERVER FOR THE AUDITOR'S NETWORK.

DISCUSSION:

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT SOME COUNTY OFFICIALS THINK THAT THE COUNCIL'S TRAVEL AND TRAINING SHOULD BE CUT. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT COUNCIL IS GIVING UP THEIR ALLOWANCE FOR CELL PHONES. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID HE DID NOT THINK ANYTHING ELSE NEEDED TO BE CUT FROM THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT THE COUNCIL STAYS ON HILTON HEAD FOR THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE BECAUSE THE TRAFFIC AND PARKING IS SO BAD. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE THOUGHT THEY NEEDED TO WATCH THE TRAVEL LINE IN ALL DEPARTMENTS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SUGGESTED THAT THE COUNCIL TRAVEL LINE BE CUT TO \$18,000.00. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE ALSO FELT THE COUNCIL SHOULD CUT BACK ON THE FOOD SERVED AT MEETINGS AND SUGGESTED THEY HAVE COOKIES INSTEAD OF CHICKEN. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THE FOOD DOESN'T ADD UP TO THAT MUCH. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE FOOD IS PAID FOR FROM THE MISCELLANEOUS LINE. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SUGGESTED THAT THE CELL PHONES BE CUT, THE TRAVEL AND TRAINING LINE BE CUT TO \$18,000.00 AND THAT THERE BE NO OTHER CUTS TO THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET.

DELEGATION OFFICE:

MR FULGHUM TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT SENATOR PINCKNEY SAID THAT THE COUNTY IS OBLIGATED TO FUND HIS OFFICE IN RIDGELAND AND HE WOULD CONSIDER A REDUCTION. CHAIRMAN

HOOD SAID THEY COULD PROVIDE HIM AN OFFICE, BUT NO PERSONNEL. COUNCILMAN GREGORY AGREED WITH CHAIRMAN HOOD. MR. FULGHUM ASKED IF THE COUNCIL WOULD CONSIDER DISCUSSING THIS IN EXECUTIVE SESSION AT THE NEXT BUDGET WORKSHOP. MR FULGHUM SAID THE COUNCIL WAS TO MEET WITH THE SHERIFF IN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND THEY COULD DISCUSS THE OTHER DEPARTMENTS. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED IF ANY DEPARTMENTS WERE ASKED TO MAKE CUTS AND DID NOT DO IT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT EVERYONE WAS ON THE LIST. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE COUNCIL WOULD MEET WITH THE SHERIFF.

ADJOURN:

COUNCILMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

JUDITH M. FRANK, CCC
CLERK TO COUNCIL

DR. GEORGE M. HOOD
CHAIRMAN