

**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
FIRE COMMITTEE
MARY GORDON ELLIS EXECUTIVE BUILDING
CONFERENCE ROOM
AUGUST 9, 2007
10:00 A.M.**

MINUTES

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN FRED TUTEN, COUNCILMAN LEROY BLACKSHEAR, DEP. ADM. ES.
TOM WATSON, CLERK TO COUNCIL, JUDITH FRANK

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 TUTEN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 10:00 A.M.

INVOCATION:

COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR GAVE THE INVOCATION.

DISCUSSION:

FIRE COMPETITION

MR. WATSON INFORMED THE COMMITTEE THAT THE FIRE COMPETITION TEAM
PLACED FOURTH AT THE COMPETITION IN MYRTLE BEACH.

MONTHLY REPORT:

MR. WATSON SAID HE WAS LOOKING INTO LEASING EQUIPMENT AND WHAT
WAS NEEDED TO BE REPLACED AND WHAT NEW EQUIPMENT WOULD BE
NEEDED. MR. WATSON SAID HE WAS GOING TO NEED 3 NEW PUMPERS, 3 NEW
TANKERS, 3 MEDIUM DUTY AMBULANCES, 1 AERIAL QUINT UNIT, AND 1 RESCUE
UNIT. MR. WATSON SAID THAT THE PURCHASE OF THESE VEHICLES WOULD
UPDATE ALL THE COUNTY'S FRONT LINE VEHICLES TO BE ABOVE THE YEAR
2000. MR. WATSON SAID THAT THIS WOULD ALSO ALLOW HIM TO KEEP 3 E-ONE
FIRE TRUCKS FOR RESERVE UNITS AS REQUIRED BY ISO. MR. WATSON SAID
THAT ISO REQUIRES 1 RESERVE TRUCK FOR EVERY 8 PIECES OF EQUIPMENT. MR.
WATSON SAID HE WAS PROVIDED THIS INFORMATION FOR THE NEXT BUDGET
YEAR. MR. WATSON SAID HE FELT THE EQUIPMENT COULD BE LEASED FOR LESS
THAN \$150,000.00 PER YEAR. MR. WATSON SAID HE WOULD RECOMMEND
LEASING THE AMBULANCES FOR 5 YEARS AND THE OTHER EQUIPMENT FOR 7

YEARS. MR. WATSON SAID HE WOULD NAIL DOWN A MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR ALL THE VEHICLES.

MR WATSON SAID THAT EMERGENCY OPERATIONS WAS TIED IN WITH THE SURROUNDING COUNTIES SO THAT IF ONE COUNTY WAS WIPED OUT THEY COULD OPERATE FROM OTHER AREAS INCLUDING DISPATCH.

NEW STATIONS:

MR. WATSON SAID HE FELT THE FIRE TOWER ROAD STATION SHOULD BE COMPLETE BY NEXT YEAR AND IT WOULD BE EQUIPPED, BUT NOT MANNED. MR. WATSON SAID THE SETTINGS AND THE FRAMPTON TRACK ARE WORKING ON DRAWINGS FOR A FIRE STATION IN THAT AREA AND THAT STATION SHOULD BE BUILT IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. MR. WATSON SAID HE IS ALSO WORKING ON GETTING LAND IN THE SNAKE ROAD AREA.

CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED WHY HARDEEVILLE WAS ANNEXING EVERYTHING AND MR. WATSON RESPONDED THAT EVENTUALLY HARDEEVILLE'S AND RIDGELAND'S BOUNDARIES WILL MEET. MR WATSON SAID THAT HE IS ALSO WORKING ON A JOINT FIRE AGREEMENT WITH BLUFFTON. CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED IF THIS WAS TOWARDS PRITCHARDVILLE AND MR. WATSON SAID IT WAS BECAUSE MORE COVERAGE IS NEEDED IN PRITCHARDVILLE. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID A LOT OF DEVELOPMENT IS GOING ON IN THAT AREA. MR. WATSON SAID THAT ONE STATION WILL HAVE TO BE MOVED BECAUSE OF A ROAD EXTENSION. CHAIRMAN TUTEN SAID THAT HELP IS ALSO NEEDED IN THE BELLINGER HILL AREA. MR. WATSON SAID HE HAS BEEN WORKING ON IT AND HE IS TRYING TO SEE WHAT WOULD BE BEST FOR JASPER COUNTY.

CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED WHERE THE CHERRY POINT CONTRACT STANDS. AND MR. WATSON RESPONDED THAT HARDEEVILLE SAID THE CONTRACT IS ON THE WAY TO MR. FULGHUM. CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED ABOUT THE LEVY SITUATION AND MR. WATSON SAID THAT MARVIN JONES IS WORKING ON A TOTAL PACKAGE AND WHEN IT IS COMPLETED THAT HE (MR. WATSON) WOULD REVIEW IT AND HE HOPED TO HAVE IT READY FOR THE AUGUST 20, 2007 MEETING.

HOSPITAL SITUATION:

MR. WATSON SAID THAT THEY HAD A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH THE HOSPITAL, BUT THE HOSPITAL WANTED THE COUNTY TO DEDICATE ONE AMBULANCE JUST FOR THEIR NEEDS AND MR. WATSON TOLD THEM THAT HE COULD NOT PROVIDE THAT. MR WATSON SAID A 4TH AMBULANCE OR AMBULANCE SERVICE WOULD MAKE A BIG IMPACT TO THE LOWCOUNTRY. MR. WATSON SAID THE AGAPE GROUP HAS AN AMBULANCE AND IS INTERESTED IN PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR THE REGIONAL AREA. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED IF THE HOSPITAL WANTED A COUNTY AMBULANCE ON SITE AND MR. WATSON SAID EVERY EMS SERVICE HAS TO

DEAL WITH THIS AS THE HOSPITALS WANT AN AMBULANCE WITH A PARAMEDIC TO GET THE PEOPLE OUT WHO NEED TO BE MOVED. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THAT THE COUNTY NEEDS TO DO WHAT IS BEST FOR EVERYONE CONCERNED.

CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED IF THERE IS AN AMBULANCE AT CHERRY POINT AND MR. WATSON SAID NO, THERE IS AN AMBULANCE IN HARDEEVILLE, BUT A NEW ONE WOULD GO TO CHERRY POINT IN MARCH. CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED IF THERE ARE THREE OR FOUR AMBULANCES ON THE ROAD AND MR. WATSON SAID THREE AMBULANCES ARE ON THE ROAD. CHAIRMAN TUTEN SAID THE COUNTY IS TOO LARGE FOR THREE AMBULANCES AND THE 4TH ONE NEEDS TO BE UP AND RUNNING BY MARCH.

MR. WATSON SAID THE NEW AMBULANCE IS IN AND THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT IS BEING INSTALLED AND ONCE IT IS INSPECTED BY DHEC IT CAN BE PUT ON THE ROAD.

ISO INSPECTIONS:

MR. WATSON SAID THE INSPECTION WILL BE DONE BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER.

POSITIONS OPEN:

CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED HOW MANY POSITIONS ARE OPEN AT ES. MR. WATSON SAID THAT THERE ARE FOUR FULLTIME POSITIONS AND 2 PART TIME POSITIONS OPEN AND HE WOULD START INTERVIEWING NEXT WEEK. VICE CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED IF SCOTT LOWTHER IS STILL HELPING AND MR. WATSON SAID HE HELPS OUT SOMETIMES.

CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED IF THEY ARE REACHING OUT TO THE VOLUNTEERS TO FILL THE OPENINGS AND MR WATSON RESPONDED THAT THEY ARE AND SINCE THEY ALL DON'T MEET THE REQUIREMENTS, AN EMT CAN BE TRAINED IN HOUSE FOR FIRE, BUT A FIREMAN WOULD HAVE TO BE SENT OUTSIDE FOR THE EMT TRAINING.

FIRE PROTECTION IN THE SAND HILL AREA:

COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED IF MR. WATSON IS LOOKING INTO FIRE PROTECTION IN THE SAND HILL AREA AND MR. WATSON SAID NO, RIGHT NOW HE IS WORKING ON THE FIRE TOWER ROAD STATION TO FILL THE GAPS BETWEEN TILLMAN AND ROBERTVILLE.

COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THERE WAS A BURNOUT IN THE SAND HILL AREA LAST WEEK AND MR. WATSON SAID GRAYS IS THE CLOSEST STATION AND THE COUNTY HAS AN AGREEMENT WITH HAMPTON FOR HELP IN THAT AREA. MR. WATSON SAID HE FELT THEY WERE PROVIDING PRETTY GOOD COVERAGE, BUT CANNOT COVER ALL THE GAPS. MR WATSON SUGGESTED PUTTING SMALL METAL BUILDINGS IN THOSE AREAS AND TO PUT IN EQUIPMENT AND GET

VOLUNTEERS TO WORK IT. MR. WATSON SAID THE FUTURE LEASING ARRANGEMENT SHOULD HELP GET EQUIPMENT IN THOSE AREAS. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID HE SHOULD OFFER IT TO THE COMMUNITIES IF THEY GET THE VOLUNTEERS. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID HE DID NOT THINK EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE PUT IN AREAS WITH NO VOLUNTEERS TO USE IT. CHAIRMAN TUTEN SAID A TAX DISTRICT NEEDS TO BE CONSIDERED IN POINT SOUTH DUE TO EVERYTHING THAT IS GOING ON IN THAT AREA. MR. WATSON SAID THE SETTINGS STATION WOULD BE HANDLING MOST OF THAT AREA.

CHAIRMAN TUTEN TOLD MR. WATSON THAT THE SIGN AT THE END OF LOGHALL ROAD WAS DOWN AND THAT IT NEEDED TO BE REPLACED. MR. WATSON SAID HE WOULD NOTIFY PUBLIC WORKS ABOUT IT.

ADJOURN:

THE MEETING ENDED AT 10:40 A.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

JUDITH M. FRANK, CCC
CLERK TO COUNCIL

FRED TUTEN
CHAIRMAN