



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS CONFERENCE ROOM
EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**358 THIRD AVE.
RIDGELAND, SC 29936
SEPTEMBER 28, 2009
9:00 A.M.**

MINUTES

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

LEROY BLACKSHEAR, COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
HENRY ETHERIDGE, COMMITTEE MEMBER

STAFF PRESENT:

ANDREW FULGHUM, ADMINISTRATOR
ARTHUR BENJAMIN, DETENTION CENTER DIRECTOR
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 MINUTES ARE TYPICALLY CONDENSED AND PARAPHRASED.

CALL TO ORDER:

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 9:00 A.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

COMMITTEE MEMBER ETHERIDGE OFFERED THE INVOCATION.

DETENTION CENTER IMPROVEMENTS:

MR. FULGHUM REVIEWED THE ITEMS THAT NEEDED REPAIRED AND THE FENCE IMPROVEMENTS THAT WERE REQUIRED BY THE STATE. MR. FULGHUM PRESENTED A CONTRACT FOR THE HVAC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$21,760.00. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT IT WOULD BE MORE COST EFFECTIVE TO HAVE THE CONTRACT THAN PAYING FOR SERVICE CALLS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE ENTRANCES. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT PROJECT WAS STILL UNDER DISCUSSION WITH THE PREVIOUS ARCHITECT. MR. FULGHUM SAID THEY ALSO DISCUSSED EXPANSION AND AN APPROXIMATE COST. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE SHERIFF HAS COMPLAINED ABOUT THE LACK OF SECURITY AT THE ENTRANCE. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE WILL BE COMING TO COUNCIL REGARDING AN EXIT DOOR FOR MAGISTRATE COURT.

BUDGET ISSUE REGARDING JUST CARE:

MR BENJAMIN SAID HE HAS BEEN WORKING ON ALTERNATIVES TO JUST CARE, BUT TWO INMATES WERE AT JUST CARE IN SEPTEMBER. MR. BENJAMIN SAID HE WAS WORKING WITH OTHER DETENTION CENTER DIRECTORS ABOUT SENDING INMATES TO A FACILITY THAT MET REQUIREMENTS HE NEEDED AND IN TURN THEY WOULD SEND HIM INMATES THAT THE COUNTY'S FACILITY MET THEIR NEEDS. MR. BENJAMIN SAID HE ALSO SPOKE WITH THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ABOUT SENDING SOME INMATES TO SAFE KEEPING. MR. BENJAMIN SAID HE WAS TRYING TO GET ONE INMATE TRANSFERRED FROM JUST CARE TO SAFE KEEPING. MR. FULGHUM ASKED THAT MR. BENJAMIN PUT THIS POLICY IN WRITING. MR. BENJAMIN SAID THAT HE CAN SOMETIMES SEND SOMEONE FROM JUST CARE TO ANOTHER DETENTION CENTER AND THEY SEND SOMEONE TO HIM. MR. BENJAMIN SAID MOSTLY FEMALE INMATES ARE SENT TO HIM SINCE HE HAS MORE ROOM FOR FEMALE INMATES. MR. BENJAMIN DISCUSSED SPACE FOR JUVENILES. MR. BENJAMIN SAID THIS IS ALSO A PROBLEM AND THEY ARE HOUSED IN COLUMBIA. MR. BENJAMIN SAID BEAUFORT COUNTY WAS TRYING TO PURCHASE PROPERTY IN THEIR INDUSTRIAL PARK FOR A FACILITY. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT HE FELT THE COUNTIES SHOULD GET TOGETHER AND BUILD ONE LARGE FACILITY. MR. FULGHUM ASKED IF THE COUNTY'S FACILITY COULD BE TURNED INTO A FACILITY FOR JUVENILES IF A REGIONAL FACILITY WAS BUILT. MR BENJAMIN SAID HE FELT IT COULD. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED IF THE FUNDS WERE AVAILABLE TO DO THE IMPROVEMENTS. MR. FULGHUM RESPONDED THAT THE FUNDS WERE IN A SPECIAL ACCOUNT THAT CAN ONLY BE USED FOR THE DETENTION CENTER.

COMMITTEE MEMBER ETHERIDGE COMMENTED ON THE NUMBER OF INMATES AT THE DETENTION CENTER THAT WERE BROUGHT IN BY THE MUNICIPALITIES.

COMMITTEE MEMBER ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THE MUNICIPALITIES PAY FOR THIS AND MR. FULGHUM SAID THEY DO NOT PAY FOR ANYTHING AT THIS TIME. MR. FULGHUM SAID IF THE COUNCIL WAS CONSIDERING CHARGING THE MUNICIPALITIES FOR HOUSING THEIR INMATES HE SUGGESTED THAT IT BE DISCUSSED AT BUDGET TIME. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE ATTORNEY WOULD HAVE TO SET UP DIFFERENT CATEGORIES AND THE COUNCIL NEEDED TO BE CAREFUL AS TO HOW THINGS WERE WORDED.

COMMITTEE MEMBER ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT INMATE HELP AND MR. BENJAMIN SAID THAT CURRENTLY THERE WERE ON THREE INMATE WORKERS AND THEY WORKED IN THE KITCHEN.

MR. BENJAMIN DISCUSSED THE NEED TO REPLACE CARPETING IN ONE AREA. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID HE WAS NOT IN FAVOR OF MAKING THINGS TOO EASY OR TOO COMFORTABLE FOR THE INMATES. MR BENJAMIN SAID THE CARPET ALSO CUTS DOWN ON NOISE. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED IF THERE WAS ANYWAY TO RECONSTRUCT THE OPEN BAY AREA AND MR. BENJAMIN SAID HE WOULD GET AN ESTIMATE ON CHANGING IT. COMMITTEE MEMBER ETHERIDGE ASKED IF AN OPEN BAY AREA WAS REQUIRED. MR. BENJAMIN SAID THAT OPEN BAY AREA IS AN ECONOMIC WAY TO BUILD, BUT THE FEELS IT IS RISKY AND A CHALLENGE. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED IF IT WAS FEASIBLE TO

MAKE CORRECTIONS FOR SAFETY. MR. FULGHUM SUGGESTED THAT THE COMMITTEE TOUR THE FACILITY AND AT THE NEXT MEETING DISCUSS THE EXPANSION PLAN.

MR. FULGHUM ASKED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS.

THE COMMITTEE WENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.

THE COMMITTEE RETURNED TO REGULAR SESSION AND NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

ADJOURN:

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 11:00 A.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

JUDITH M. FRANK, CCC
CLERK TO COUNCIL

LEROY BLACKSHEAR
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN