



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
358 THIRD AVE., RIDGELAND SC. 29936**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS
APRIL 22, 2013, 4:30 P.M.
BUDGET WORKSHOP/MEETING
MINUTES**

Officials Present: Chairman Henry Etheridge, Vice Chairwoman Barbara Clark, Councilman Theodus Drayton, Councilman D. Thomas Johnson, Councilman L. Martin Sauls, IV

Staff Present: Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Judith Frank, Director of Administrative Services Ronnie Malphrus

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 Etheridge called the Budget Workshop to order at 4:35 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance – Chairman Etheridge led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation – Councilman Sauls gave the invocation.

Approval of Workshop Agenda- Vice-Chairwoman Clark motioned and Councilman Sauls seconded the motion to approve the Workshop Agenda. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Budget Discussion and Review – Mr. Fulghum started the budget discussion concerning the EMS division which constitutes 25% of the County’s budget. Mr. Fulghum reminded the Council that over the past 5 years, the Council has cut \$1,000,000 from this division’s budget. Mr. Malphrus reviewed the revenue and explained that he was weaning off using the 911 fees as revenue because in the future all the 911 fess will need to go towards replacing the equipment. Mr. Daley said that 2 ½ years ago he got an estimate of about \$1,500,000 to replace and upgrade the entire system. Mr. Malphrus explained that the difference in the salary lines in the budget was due to the cost of living raise received by the employees last year. Mr. Malphrus said in the current budget the cost of living raise was lumped into Dept. 62 and this year it is broken down by department. Mr. Malphrus said that 3 new employees were requested, but the administration did not approve any. Chairman Etheridge questioned the overage in overtime and Mr. Malphrus said that the division was not over for overtime and

they will make adjustments, but he did increase the overtime for Dept. 46 by \$10,000. Mr. Malphrus said that there were funds in the Cherry Point budget within the division to cover the overtime overage. Chairman Etheridge said if you add all the figures in Dept. 46 that department is over budget. Mr. Malphrus said funds from the Cherry Point budget can cover it and they needed to look at it by division, not department. Vice Chairwoman Clark asked if there were any other raises other than the cost of living increase last year. Councilman Drayton asked if the part-time salaries in Dept. 46 were adequate. Mr. Malphrus said they were. Mr. Malphrus said that the insurance and retirement are going up again this year. Chairman Etheridge asked if they budgeted for the County to pay for the entire increase or if the employees would be paying part. Mr. Malphrus said the amount listed was just for the County's portion. The Council discussed the various lines in the budget and Vice Chairwoman Clark asked for a list of what MISC paid for in each department. Mr. Malphrus said that Mr. Daley requested a new ambulance, a new fire truck and tanker, but it was denied by the administration. Mr. Malphrus said they were investigating privatizing EMS services. Councilman Sauls asked about when they would have the information on that and Mr. Malphrus said that he would have it by June 1, 2013. Mr. Malphrus said that each fire station requested \$10,000, but only \$2,500 was budgeted with the exception of the Firetower Road Station. Mr. Malphrus said that \$5,000 was budgeted for the Firetower Road Station since it was new and would need more equipment. Chairman Etheridge requested a list of what those funds paid for. Mr. Daley said that the Fire Tower Road station should be complete by June 1, 2013. Mr. Malphrus explained that the salaries for Dept. 47 were moved and listed under Dept. 56. Vice Chairwoman Clark asked for the number of phone lines that go into the operation center. Mr. Malphrus discussed the dispatch position and he explained that the \$38,000 covered salary and fringe benefits. Chairman Etheridge asked if they ever considered combining dispatch with other counties. Chairman Etheridge asked about paying for insurance for employees' families and Mr. Malphrus said that they are required by law to pay a portion of the insurance for the family, and the employee pays for part of it. Chairman Etheridge said not to add any more phone lines. Vice Chairwoman Clark asked if the phone service was shopped and Mr. Malphrus said the County uses the company that does the installation. Mr. Malphrus told the Council that the department requested \$10,000 for travel and training in Dept. 48, but that was cut to \$1,000. Chairman Etheridge asked how the utilities were determined. Mr. Malphrus said they were prorated by area. Councilman Drayton asked if Hampton County had a fire station closer to the Sand Hill area than the station in Jasper County. Mr. Daley responded that the Robertville Station is about the same distance as the Hampton station. Council requested a copy of the maintenance contracts from Mr. Daley and a print out of what the MISC funds were spent on. Mr. Malphrus told the Council that a new roof was requested, but administration did not approve it. Chairman Etheridge suggested that they look for grants to pay for the new roof, new vehicles and equipment. Mr. Daley said that the tankers are all in

Jasper County and he explained where they would be located. Councilman Sauls asked about placing the tankers in locations other than the fire departments. Councilman Sauls asked if that would lower the ISO ratings and Mr. Daley said if the station is outside the 5 miles it did not matter. The Council discussed funding for office supplies, telephones, and equipment. Mr. Malphrus said that an increase in salary was requested for an employee who has taken on additional responsibility. It was the consensus of the Council that there were a lot of employees that took on additional responsibilities and that it would not be fair to single out an employee and ignore the others. Councilman Drayton said he felt that if someone takes on added responsibility they should be compensated.

Adjourn - Vice-Chairwoman Clark motioned and Councilman Johnson seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

The meeting ended at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Approved by:

Judith M. Frank, ccc
Clerk to Council

Henry Etheridge
Chairman