



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE
TRAINING ROOM, 3RD FLOOR
358 THIRD AVE., RIDGELAND, SC 29936
SEPT. 2, 2011, 10:00 A.M.
MINUTES**

DUE TO THE NUMBER OF CITIZENS PRESENT, THE MEETING WAS MOVED TO THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

OFFICIALS PRESENT- COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MARTY SAULS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS GREGORY

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: ADMINISTRATOR ANDREW FULGHUM. WILBUR DALEY DIRECTOR OF THE EMERGENCY SERVICES DIVISION, RONNIE MALPHRUS DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION, CLERK TO COUNCIL JUDITH FRANK

OTHERS FIRE OFFICIALS PRESENT: RIDGELAND FIRE CHIEF JOHNNY MINGLEDORFF.

CALL TO ORDER – COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 10:00 A.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS LED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

INVOCATION – COMMITTEE MEMBER GREGORY GAVE THE INVOCATION.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS THANKED THE PUBLIC FOR ATTENDING THE COMMITTEE MEETING. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THEY WOULD HAVE THE PRESENTATION. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THE ADMINISTRATOR AND STAFF HAVE BEEN WORKING ON THE PRESENTATION TO IMPROVE FIRE PROTECTION THROUGH OUT THE COUNTY. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THEY WANT TO PROVIDE EFFICIENT AND SAFE FIRE PROTECTION FOR THE ENTIRE COUNTY.

COUNTY FIRE SERVICE – MR. FULGHUM SAID THE STAFF WAS DIRECTED BY COUNCIL TO DEVELOP A PLAN FOR FIRE PROTECTION FOR THE COUNTY.

MR. FULGHUM SAID THE PLAN IS A CULMINATION OF A LOT OF WORK AND IF A SEPARATE FIRE MILLAGE WOULD BENEFIT THE COUNTY. MR. FULGHUM DISCUSSED THE VARIOUS FIRE CONTRACTS, THE AREAS THEY COVERED AND THAT THE CONTRACTS REDUCED THE AREA THAT THE COUNTY WOULD HAVE TO COVER. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE FIRE SERVICE CONTRACTS WITH RIDGELAND, HARDEEVILLE AND LEVY PROVIDE CONTINUITY OF COVERAGE IN THE CONTRACTED AREAS AS LAND IS ANNEXED. MR. FULGHUM DISCUSSED THAT THE COUNCIL VOTED ONLY TO RENEW THE FIRE CONTRACTS WITH RIDGELAND AND HARDEEVILLE THROUGH JUNE 30, 2012. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE COUNCIL MUST ACT NOW IF THE COUNTY IS TO BE READY TO SERVE THE PEOPLE IN THE CONTRACTED AREAS IN 2012. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE PLAN WOULD BE PRESENTED TO COUNCIL AT THE SEPT. 19, 2011 MEETING OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL AND THEY WILL ASK FOR CONFIRMATION OF THE PLAN BY OCTOBER 1, 2011. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE CONTRACTS WITH HARDEEVILLE AND RIDGELAND ARE FOR \$195,000 EACH, FOR A TOTAL OF \$390,000. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT FOR THE COUNTY TO PROVIDE THE SAME LEVEL OF SERVICE IN THOSE AREAS WOULD COST THE COUNTY \$1,938,500 FOR THE FIRST YEAR AND \$1,021,500 FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE ISO RATING WOULD ALSO BE AFFECTED AND HE WOULD NOT KNOW UNTIL THE ISO RATINGS ARE DONE WHAT THE CHANGE WOULD BE. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS ASKED WHAT IS THE PROBABILITY OF AN INCREASE IN THE ISO RATINGS. MR. DALEY SAID THAT THE PEOPLE WHO DID THE ISO RATINGS WOULD NOT GIVE A SPECIFIC RESPONSE. MR. DALEY SAID THEY ARE CURRENTLY PAYING \$390,000 FOR THAT AREA TO BE COVERED AND HE DID NOT RECOMMEND A FIRE MILLAGE. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT CURRENTLY THERE ARE SEVERAL DIFFERENT FIRE DISTRICTS AND THEY RAN SEVERAL DIFFERENT SCENARIOS WITH THE COUNCIL'S DESIRE TO BE EQUITABLE WITH FIRE SERVICE. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE LAW ALLOWS MILLAGE AND THE MILLAGE IS NOT CAPPED, BUT IT MUST BE REQUESTED FROM THE AREA BY REFERENDUM IF THERE IS TO BE DIFFERENT MILLAGE FOR FIRE COVERAGE. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT COUNCIL CAN DO A COUNTYWIDE MILLAGE FEE, BUT NOT SEPARATE ONES. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE FEELS IT WOULD BE WORTHY DOWN THE ROAD TO ESTABLISH AN EMS FEE AND NOT ADDITIONAL TAXES, BUT A FIXED MILLAGE FOR THAT SERVICE. MR. FULGHUM SAID IT WOULD BE REVENUE NEUTRAL AND AS THE COUNTY GROWS, EVERYONE WOULD BE OBLIGATED TO PAY. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE COUNCIL WOULD HAVE TO TAKE ACTION BY OCTOBER 1, 2011 ON THE PLAN SO THAT IT CAN BE READY FOR JULY 1, 2012. MR. FULGHUM SAID CURRENTLY THERE IS A FIRE STATION TO PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR THE AREA CURRENTLY COVERED BY RIDGELAND. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE HARDEEVILLE AREA IS GEOGRAPHICALLY TRICKY AND HAS NO CURRENT FIRE FACILITY OR EQUIPMENT. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE COUNTY WOULD HAVE TO PURCHASE PROPERTY WITH A SLEEPING AREA AND ADD FOUR BAYS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THEY WOULD HAVE TO MOVE AN AMBULANCE TO THE NEW FACILITY FROM HARDEEVILLE, AND PURCHASE A FIRE ENGINE, A TANKER, AND EQUIPMENT AND HIRE THREE PEOPLE. MR. FULGHUM SAID IT WOULD COST A TOTAL OF \$1,041,000 TO

GET READY TO PROVIDE SERVICE. MR. FULGHUM SAID \$390,000 IS BUDGETED FOR THIS COVERAGE AND IF THE \$16,000 BUDGETED FOR THE FIRE STUDY IS DEDUCTED, \$810,000 WOULD BE FINANCED AT A COST OF \$175,000 PER YEAR PLUS THE ANNUAL OPERATING COST.

MR. FULGHUM SAID VARIOUS SCENARIOS WERE RUN AND HE CAME UP WITH A MILLAGE RATE THAT DIDN'T SEEM LIKE THE CITIZENS WOULD SUPPORT OR BE FEASIBLE FOR THE TAXPAYERS.

MR. FULGHUM SAID THE STAFF WILL NEED DIRECTION FROM COUNCIL REGARDING THIS PLAN AND IS THE BEST THEY CAN DO BASED ON WHAT IS AVAILABLE. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE COUNTY WOULD HAVE TO PURCHASE LAND, VEHICLES, EQUIPMENT AND MORE PERSONNEL AND OPERATING COSTS WOULD BE NEEDED.

COMMITTEE MEMBER GREGORY ASKED WHEN THE CONTRACTS STARTED AND MR. FULGHUM SAID 11/1/2006. MR. FULGHUM SAID HARDEEVILLE HAD A FIVE YEAR CONTRACT AND RIDGELAND HAD A ONE YEAR CONTRACT AND THEN FOUR YEARS WERE ADDED TO THE RIDGELAND CONTRACT. COMMITTEE MEMBER GREGORY ASKED ABOUT THE LEVY CONTRACT. MR. FULGHUM SAID THEY WERE NOT DEALING WITH IT AT THIS TIME.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS ASKED WHY THEY DID THE FIRE CONTRACTS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE COUNTY WAS APPROACHED BY HARDEEVILLE AND THEY SAID THEY COULD NO LONGER CONTINUE TO PROVIDE FIRE COVERAGE IN THE COUNTY AREAS WITHOUT COMPENSATION. MR. FULGHUM SAID THEY WERE ALSO GOING THROUGH JOINT PLANNING AND THEY WERE ESTABLISHING GOALS FOR GROWTH AT THE SAME TIME. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE COUNTY HAD A TWO YEAR MORATORIUM AND THEY WANTED TO CONCENTRATE GROWTH WHERE THE INFRASTRUCTURE WAS ALREADY IN PLACE. MR. FULGHUM SAID FOR SAFETY REASONS AND CONSISTANCY OF SERVICE THEY DID THE CONTRACTS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE FIRE CONTRACTS ARE WORKABLE SCENARIOS.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID IF THE CONTRACTS ARE CANCELLED, HE CAN SEE WHERE THERE COULD BE PROBLEMS AS TO WHO PROVIDES THE FIRE SERVICE IN CERTAIN AREAS. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THAT WOULD CREATE A LARGE LIABILITY FOR THE COUNTY. MR. FULGHUM SAID IT WOULD CREATE AN ADDITIONAL CHALLENGE. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS ASKED WHAT ANALYSIS WAS USED TO COME UP WITH \$195,000. MR. FULGHUM SAID IT WAS A BASE AMOUNT TO PROVIDE THE SERVICE AND TO ADD THE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL. MR. FULGHUM SAID IT COVERED THE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL COSTS. COMMITTEE MEMBER GREGORY ASKED IF THE AREAS BEING COVERED BY THE MUNICIPALITIES WERE COVERED PRIOR TO THE CONTRACTS BY THE MUNICIPALITIES. CHIEF MINGLEDORFF SAID THAT THEY STAYED WITHIN THE TOWN LIMITS. COMMITTEE MEMBER GREGORY ASKED WHAT THEY COVERED NOW. CHIEF MINGLEDORFF SAID THEY COVER A FIVE MILE RADIUS AROUND THE TOWN LIMITS. MR. FULGHUM SAID EACH OF THE MUNICIPALITIES HAD TO HIRE 3 ADDITIONAL FIREMEN. COMMITTEE MEMBER GREGORY SAID HE FELT THE COUNTY SHOULD KNOW HOW THE FUNDS WERE UTILIZED. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE CONTRACT STATES IT WILL PROVIDE FIRE SERVICE FOR

\$195,000 PER YEAR. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE COUNTY DOES NOT GET AN ANNUAL BREAKDOWN.

CHIEF MINGLEDORFF SAID HE HAS BEEN WITH THE TOWN OF RIDGELAND FOR 23 YEARS AND OVER THE YEARS THE COUNTY AND TOWN SHARED THE SAME FACILITIES UNTIL THE COUNTY MOVED TO THE OLD ARMORY. CHIEF MINGLEDORFF SAID THAT IN 1997 HE WAS THE ONLY PAID FIREMAN AND EVERYONE ELSE WERE VOLUNTEERS. CHIEF MINGLEDORFF SAID THE COUNTY AND THE TOWN ALSO SHARED THE VOLUNTEERS, BUT THEY HAD SEPARATE EQUIPMENT. CHIEF MINGLEDORFF SAID THE COUNTY MOVED IN 2000 AND THE ISO RATINGS WERE 7/9. CHIEF MINGLEDORFF SAID 2006 WAS THE FIRST YEAR THE COUNTY PAID THE TOWN THE \$195,000. CHIEF MINGLEDORFF LISTED THE EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED BY THE TOWN AND THAT THE STATION IS STAFFED WITH 3 PEOPLE/24 HOURS A DAY/7 DAYS A WEEK. CHIEF MINGLEDORFF SAID THE COUNTY RESIDENTS GET THE SAME PROTECTION AND THE FIREMEN USE THE SAME EQUIPMENT AS IT USES FOR THE TOWN RESIDENTS. CHIEF MINGLEDORFF SAID EVERY PENNY OF THE \$195,000 GOES INTO THE DEPARTMENT AND THE RATE HAS NOT INCREASED IN 6 YEARS. CHIEF MINGLEDORFF SAID THE ISO RATING WITHIN THE FIVE MILE RADIUS IS A 4 AND THAT IS BASED ON EVERYTHING THE TOWN OWNS, PERSONNEL, WATER AND EQUIPMENT. CHIEF MINGLEDORFF SAID THE COUNTY CANNOT DUPLICATE THE SERVICE THE TOWN PROVIDES FOR \$195,000. CHIEF MINGLEDORFF SAID IF THE CONTRACTS ARE NOT RENEWED, 3 FIREMEN WILL BE UNEMPLOYED AND THERE WAS NO WAY THE COUNTY COULD PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR THE INDUSTRIAL PARK. CHIEF MINGLEDORFF SAID THE FIRE CONTRACTS ARE THE BEST THING THE COUNTY HAS DONE FOR FIRE COVERAGE. CHIEF MINGLEDORFF ASKED THE COMMITTEE TO RECOMMEND KEEPING THE FIRE CONTRACTS. CHIEF MINGLEDORFF SAID THAT THE COUNTY IS WITHIN ONE BLOCK OF THE RIDGELAND FIRE STATION. CHIEF MINGLEDORFF SAID THE COUNTY STATIONS ARE NOT STAFFED AND COVERAGE WOULD BECOME A NIGHTMARE. CHIEF MINGLEDORFF SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE CHIEF DALEY BE ABLE TO BUILD THE COVERAGE IN THE RURAL AREAS AND GET THEIR STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS BUILT UP. CHIEF MINGLEDORFF SAID HE VOLUNTEERED FOR THE COUNTY FIRE SERVICE FROM 1987-2001 AND HE REALLY CARES ABOUT FIRE SERVICE IN THE COUNTY. CHIEF MINGLEDORFF SAID THE TOWN IS PROVIDING FIRE SERVICE FOR \$195,000 AND HE DID NOT THINK THE COUNTY COULD DO IT FOR THAT.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID HE CAN'T ARGUE WITH CHIEF MINGLEDORFF AND THE AMOUNT OF MONEY IT WOULD TAKE TO PROVIDE THE SERVICE THEY ARE CURRENTLY PROVIDING FOR \$195,000, WOULD BE A BURDEN ON THE CITIZENS.

JIM COWART, FROM THE OLD HOUSE AREA, ASKED ABOUT STAFFING THE ROSELAND FIRE STATION. HE ALSO ASKED IF THE COUNTY ACCEPTED THE PROPERTY OFFERED BY THE MALPHRUS FAMILY FOR A FIRE STATION IN OLD HOUSE. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID IF THE LAND WAS OFFERED TO THE COUNTY, HE NEVER HEARD ABOUT IT. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE HAD NOT HEARD ABOUT IT PERSONALLY, BUT CHIEF DALEY DID. CHIEF DALEY SAID THEY ARE WORKING ON THE FIRE TOWER ROAD

STATION AND THE LOCATION OF THE PROPERTY THAT WAS OFFERED IS WITHIN 5 MILES OF ANOTHER STATION. CHIEF DALEY SAID IF ANOTHER STATION WAS TO BE BUILT, IT NEEDED TO BE CLOSER TO BOLAN HALL. COMMITTEE MEMBER GREGORY SAID HE DID NOT WANT THE MALPHRUS FAMILY TO THINK THE COUNCIL DID NOT RESPOND TO THEIR OFFER. CHIEF DALEY SAID HE SPOKE WITH THE MALPHRUS FAMILY AND EXPLAINED WHY IT WAS NOT A GOOD LOCATION FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIRE STATION. COMMITTEE MEMBER GREGORY SAID HE FELT THE COUNCIL SHOULD HAVE BEEN INFORMED. MR. FULGHUM SAID IT WAS APPROPRIATE FOR CHIEF DALEY TO DISCUSS IT AND THERE WAS NO REASON FOR HIM OR THE COUNCIL TO KNOW ABOUT IT. COMMITTEE MEMBER GREGORY SAID HE FELT THE COUNCIL SHOULD HAVE KNOWN SO THAT THEY COULD HAVE RESPONDED BY LETTER. CHIEF DALEY SAID THEY WERE LOOKING IN THE BOLAN HALL AREA FOR A STATION LOCATION. COMMITTEE MEMBER GREGORY ASKED WHO COVERS LOW BOTTOM. CHIEF DALEY SAID THAT HARDEEVILLE COMES UP TO GREEN PLACE.

MILTON WOODS SAID THE MALPHRUS'S OFFERED PROPERTY AND MR. DALEY SPOKE WITH THEM. MR. WOODS SAID THE COUNTY AND RIDGELAND RECEIVE FUNDS FROM THE LOW COUNTY URBAN INTERFACE COUNCIL WHICH WAS ORGANIZED 6 YEARS AGO AND IT WAS INITIATED BY GOOD HOPE PLANTATION TO IMPROVE RURAL FIRE. MR. WOODS SAID HE HAS A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH WILDLIFE AND THEY HAVE INSTALLED 30 DRY HYDRANTS WITHIN THE COUNTY. MR. WOODS SAID HONEY HILL IS A FIRE WISE COMMUNITY AND OTHER AREAS OF THE COUNTY COULD BE COVERED IF THE COUNTY RENEWED THE CONTRACTS. MR. WOODS SAID THEY HAVE WORKED WONDERS AND IF THEY BREAK UP, THE INSURANCE PREMIUMS ARE GOING TO GO UP ON EVERY HOMEOWNER IN JASPER COUNTY DUE TO THE ISO RATINGS. MR. WOODS SAID THE COUNTY COUNCIL WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR RAISING THE INSURANCE PREMIUM FOR EVERY CITIZEN OF JASPER COUNTY AND THE CITIZENS ARE ALREADY IN HARD ECONOMIC CONDITIONS. MR. WOODS SAID HE WOULD NOT PUT MUCH STOCK IN GETTING GRANT FUNDS OR MONEY FROM THE STATE OR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. MR. WOODS SAID THINGS ARE NOT EXPECTED TO TURN AROUND UNTIL 2014. MR. WOODS SAID TRYING TO LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD IS HOGWASH, IT IS LIKE A COLONEL SENDING A MAN INTO BATTLE WITHOUT AMMUNITION AND SAYING WHEN THE AMMUNITION TRUCK GETS HERE WE WILL SEND IT. MR. WOODS THANKED COMMITTEE MEMBER GREGORY FOR VOTING TO EXTEND THE CONTRACTS FOR A YEAR. MR. WOODS ASKED THE COMMITTEE NOT TO SET THE COUNTY UP FOR LAWSUITS, BECAUSE IN AN ECONOMIC DOWN TIME, MORE HOUSES BURN DOWN. MR. WOODS ASKED MR. DALEY IF HE COULD PROVIDE THE SAME PROTECTION THAT THE CITIZENS IN THE CONTRACT AREAS ARE RECEIVING NOW. MR. DALEY RESPONDED, NO SIR. MR. WOODS ASKED OF IT WAS DUE TO THE LACK OF FUNDS AND MR. DALEY SAID YES, SIR. MR. WOODS SAID HE HAS BEEN INVOLVED FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND HE IS CONCERNED FOR THE PEOPLE OF JASPER COUNTY. MR. WOODS SAID HE TALKED TO THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE AND 95% OF THE REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS HAVE BEEN FORECLOSURES AND ONLY 5%

ARE NEW ORINATION LOANS. MR. WOODS SAID WHEN HE DISCUSSED PEOPLE LOSING THEIR HOMES WITH A COUNCIL MEMBER, THE COUNCIL MEMBER SAID THOSE SAME PEOPLE ARE GOING OUT TO EAT AND ARE BUYING NEW CARS, BUT MR. WOODS SAID HE COULD NOT BELIEVE THAT 95% ARE THAT IRRESPONSIBLE. MR. WOODS SAID PEOPLE WERE DOING WHAT THEY CAN AND HE WAS UPSET AND ASHAMED OF THAT COUNCIL MEMBER'S STATEMENT. MR. WOODS SAID THAT THEY ARE LOOKING AT MUCH MORE THAN THE FIRE CONTRACTS, MR. WOODS SAID THEY HAVE HAD MEETINGS IN THE COMMUNITY CENTERS, THE RIDGELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT SHOWED THEIR EQUIPMENT TO THE PEOPLE, THEY WENT TO EVERY HOUSE AND GAVE OUT AND INSTALLED FIRE ALARMS, THEY HELPED CLEAR DRIVEWAYS SO THE EMERGENCY VEHICLES COULD HAVE ACCESS TO THEIR PROPERTY AND THEY DID THIS AT NO COST TO THE COUNTY. MR. WOODS SAID HE KNOWS WHAT THEY DO BECAUSE HE HAS BEEN EXPOSED TO IT. MR. WOODS ASKED COMMITTEE MEMBER GREGORY NOT TO BE PART OF IT AND TO LET GOD GUIDE HIS DECISIONS. MR. WOODS ASKED THE COMMITTEE NOT TO ADD ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL BURDEN ON THE CITIZENS OF JASPER COUNTY. MR. WOODS SAID THEY NEED TO TAILOR A PLAN FOR WHAT IS NEEDED. MR. WOODS SAID HE WISHED THE LONG TERM PLAN WAS TO BUILD STATIONS IN FIVE MILE AREAS WHERE SERVICE IS NEEDED. MR. WOODS SAID THAT IF THERE IS AN AREA WHERE THE COUNTY NEEDS LAND, MAKE HIM AWARE OF THE LOCATION AND THE LANDOWNERS NAME AND HE WILL TRY AND NEGOTIATE WITH THAT PERSON TO DONATE THE PROPERTY OR HAVE FUND RAISERS TO PURCHASE THE PROPERTY. MR. WOODS SAID THE COUNTY NEEDS TO LOOK AT LEVY AND LOOK AT THE GOOD PAGES IN THEIR BOOK TO PROVIDE BETTER SERVICES FOR THE PEOPLE OF JASPER COUNTY.

BARBARA YOUNG EXPLAINED THAT SHE MOVED HERE 14 YEARS AGO AND THEY LIVE JUST OUTSIDE OF THE 5 MILE RADIUS. MRS. YOUNG SAID SHE HAD A 4 ISO RATING 1 ½ YEARS AGO AND NOW SHE HAS A 10. MRS. YOUNG SAID HER INSURANCE HAS DOUBLED. MRS. YOUNG SAID SHE DID NOT KNOW THE PROPERTY WAS NOT ACCEPTED FROM THE MALPHRUS FAMILY AND THAT IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO LIVE IN THE COUNTY DUE TO THE AMOUNT OF TAXES AND INSURANCE. MRS. YOUNG SAID IF THEY KNEW IT WAS LIKE THIS, THEY WOULD NOT HAVE MOVED TO JASPER COUNTY. MRS. YOUNG SAID THAT THEY ARE RETIRED ON A LIMITED INCOME AND WITH ALL THE INCREASES SHE CANNOT IMAGINE HOW OTHERS ARE MANAGING THE INCREASES ON EVERYTHING. MRS. YOUNG SAID SHE HOPED TO BE INCLUDED IN AN AREA TO GET A 5 MILE RADIUS. BEING NO FURTHER COMMENTS, COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS CLOSED THE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THE COUNTY HAS A GRANT FOR \$50,000 AND LAND FOR A STATION ON FIRE TOWER ROAD, BUT THE COUNTY DOES NOT HAVE THE MONEY TO HIRE FIREMEN TO HELP THE CITIZENS OF JASPER COUNTY, BUT THEY HAVE \$110,000 FOR THE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR'S POSITION. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID HE THOUGHT THE CITIZENS IN PINELAND AND ROBERTVILLE WOULD RATHER HAVE FIREMEN.

COMMITTEE MEMBER GREGORY SAID HE DID VOTE TO EXTEND THE CONTRACTS FOR ONE YEAR AND THE MEN ARE DOING THE BEST THEY CAN, AND HE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT GETTING RID OF THE CONTRACTS. COMMITTEE MEMBER GREGORY SAID HE IS NOT IN A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS AND HE PROLONGED THE TIME OF THE CONTRACT SO THAT HE WOULD HAVE TIME TO MAKE A GOOD DECISION. COMMITTEE MEMBER GREGORY SAID THEY HAVE TO DO WHAT THEY HAVE TO DO AND HE IS NOT AGAINST WHAT HE HEARD TODAY. COMMITTEE MEMBER GREGORY SAID HE GOT AN EDUCATION TODAY AND MR. WOODS PROVIDED GOOD EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION OF WHAT HE WOULD BE DOING WRONG IF HE VOTED AGAINST THE FIRE CONTRACTS. COMMITTEE MEMBER GREGORY SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE MEETINGS LIKE THIS. COMMITTEE MEMBER GREGORY SAID HE WOULD STUDY THIS AND HE WILL TALK TO MORE PEOPLE AND NOT MAKE UP HIS MIND ON THE FIRE SITUATION UNTIL HE IS SURE HE WILL MAKE SURE HE MAKES THE RIGHT DECISION.

MR. DALEY RESPONDED TO MR. COWART'S QUESTION REGARDING ROSELAND STATION BEING MANNED. MR. DALEY SAID THE ROSELAND STATION HAS BEEN MANNED FOR THE LAST 6 MONTHS UNLESS SOMEONE IS OUT SICK. MR. DALEY SAID THE 5 MILE RADIUS DETERMINES THE ISO RATING. MR. DALEY SAID HE HAD 35 ONLINE PERSONNEL AND THEY ARE ALL TRAINED FIREMEN AND PARAMEDICS. MR. DALEY SAID HE ALSO HAS A FIRE MARSHALL WHO COVERS THE ENTIRE COUNTY. MR. DALEY SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ALL THE STATIONS MANNED, BUT HIS PEOPLE ARE SPREAD OUT TO 8 STATIONS AND IT TAKES TIME TO MOBILIZE AND IT TAKES LONGER TO GET IT DONE. MR. DALEY SAID THEY WILL PROVIDE THE BEST SERVICE THEY CAN WITH WHAT THEY HAVE. MR. DALEY SAID HE HAS A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS IN HARDEEVILLE AND RIDGELAND.

COMMITTEE MEMBER GREGORY ASKED THAT THE STAFF GET THE TOTAL AMOUNT THAT WILL BE NEEDED TO OPERATE EVERYTHING NEXT YEAR TO PRESENT TO THE COUNCIL. COMMITTEE MEMBER GREGORY SAID THEY WILL NEED A FEW WORKSHOPS WITH THE ENTIRE COUNCIL SO THEY WILL HAVE THE FACTS ON BOTH SIDES AND DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO THE SITUATION.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THE STAFF NEEDS A VOTE BY OCT. 3 REGARDING THE CONTRACTS. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE PUT HIS PROPOSAL TOGETHER BASED ON NOT RENEWING THE CONTRACTS AND THE STAFF WILL NEED TIME TO PURCHASE THE PROPERTY AND NECESSARY EQUIPMENT.

MR. FULGHUM SAID THE COMMITTEE NEEDS TO LET THE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN KNOW AND THEY NEED TO REQUEST A WORKSHOP. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS IT WITH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR. COMMITTEE MEMBER GREGORY SAID HE FELT THE COUNCIL SHOULD VOTE TO HAVE A WORKSHOP. MR. FULGHUM SUGGESTED THEY HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH THE CHAIRMAN OR BRING IT UP AT THE COUNCIL MEETING.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAULS THANKED THE PEOPLE FOR ATTENDING AND
ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 11:30 A.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

JUDITH M. FRANK, ccc
CLERK TO COUNCIL

MARTIN L. SAULS, IV
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

ADJOURN