

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL

WILLIAM P. WALLACE, SR. ADMINISTRATION OFFICE BUILDING

CONFERENCE ROOM

MONDAY, MAY 10, 2016

**WORK SESSION MEETING**

10:00 AM- 5:00 PM

Present at the meeting: Mr. Jason Steen; Mr. Willie Gladden; Mr. Ron Munnerlyn; Dr. Carolyn Prince; Ms. Corrie Plato; Mr. Steve Blackmon; Mr. Anthony Woods; Mr. Jim Haynes, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Bundy, Clerk to Council; Ms. Ainsley Moore, Finance Director; and Ms. Lynn McQueen, Herald-Advocate

Absent from the meeting: Mr. Ken Allen

A copy of the agenda was emailed to Lynn McQueen of the Herald Advocate, and posted on the front door of the William P. Wallace, Sr. Administration Building and on the county's website ([www.marlborocounty.sc.gov](http://www.marlborocounty.sc.gov)).

Mr. Jason Steen, Chairman, called the work session meeting to order and stated that there were a few department heads that he had asked to appear to speak about various matters and their budgets for the upcoming year.

**Keith Hughes – Fire Coordinator**

Chairman Steen thanked Mr. Keith Hughes for attending the meeting and asked him to talk about the status of the fire departments and their future needs.

Mr. Keith Hughes talked about the fire study that was done back in 2009 and stated that things had been done to move them in the right direction. He stated that since that study in 2009, a goal had been set to lower all ISO ratings throughout the county and that has been done. He stated that as of December, 2015, every citizen in the county enjoys a 4 or 5 ISO rating and they are beginning to see a decrease in their homeowner insurance rates.

Mr. Hughes stated that since the millage increase two years ago, they have purchased several large items for the fire departments some of which were two tankers for the new fire station in Wallace, one tanker for the Brightsville Fire Department and are working on opening a fire station on Family Farm Road; one tanker for Blenheim and have replaced two older pumpers for Blenheim. He stated that they have also relocated the fire station for Blenheim from Allen Ridge Road to Highway 38.

Mr. Hughes stated that one main thing that was put into place in 2015 was the standard reimbursement for fuel charge to volunteers for each call that they attend. He stated that they pay each volunteer that goes to a call \$10. He stated that he feels this was a good move and makes the volunteers feel more appreciated. Mr. Hughes asked Chairman Steen if he felt that the improvements made have made an impact and Chairman Steen stated that he did feel that it was all positive. He stated that the departments still have older trucks but that they were all up to code.

Mr. Hughes stated that the ISO ratings years ago were on a 10 year schedule but is now on a three year schedule. He stated that the next ISO rating would be done in 2017.

Mr. Hughes mentioned that one change that is being considered by the National Fire Protection Association is considering requiring that the firetrucks not be used after 25 year life. He said this could be a problem because a truck that may be 25 years old in most cases still may have a lot of good miles left on it and the equipment is still in great condition. He stated that if this rule comes into place, Marlboro County will have major costs in replacing these trucks.

Mr. Anthony Woods asked how much a new truck would cost and Mr. Hughes stated that a cheap one might cost somewhere around \$60,000.00 but a pumper with all of the whistles would cost somewhere around \$430,000.00. He stated that they are not cheap.

Chairman Steen stated that some of the trucks in the county only have 15,000 miles on them and if this new rules comes into play, the county will be hit really hard.

Mr. Hughes stated that budget wise they have made great progress. He stated that the millage has not been increased as much as the study which was done in 2009 recommended. He stated that staff did need to look forward on the capital plan. He suggested that the county fire millage increase by 1.50 mils from 15.35 mils to 16.85 mils. He stated that if the new millage was made effective, they would consider paying the volunteers \$12 per call rather than \$10 per call and that the increase would allow each department \$5,000 in additional funds to be used towards capital and equipment.

Chairman Steen asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Ron Munnerlyn asked how many people were on the roll and Mr. Hughes responded 110 folks. Mr. Munnerlyn then asked how many volunteers get paid the \$10 per call and Mr. Hughes responded about 90 folks. Mr. Hughes stated that McColl operates on their own like Bennettsville.

Mr. Munnerlyn asked how much the county paid out last year for the \$10 per call and Mr. Hughes stated that in 2015, a total of \$47,200 was paid out from the \$48,000 budgeted amount.

Mr. Willie Gladden stated that he felt that the per call rate should be increased from \$10 to \$15 per call. He stated that \$2 was crazy. Mr. Hughes agreed but stated that in looking at the budget as a whole, he thought that a \$2 increase was at least something. Mr. Hughes stated that Laurinburg pays \$15 per call; Dillon pays \$15 per call; and Darlington pays \$12 per call but they are discussing an increase. He stated that the City of Bennettsville pays \$25 per structure fire call but averages out to be with all fire calls at \$12 per call. Mr. Hughes stated that he felt that every fire was important.

Chairman Steen stated that with 90 volunteers presently where we would like to be volunteer wise. Mr. Hughes stated that he would like to have at least 150 volunteers

throughout the county but that the number to pull from was very tough. He stated that volunteers need to have at least 120 hours of training with no incentives.

Mr. Ron Munnerlyn asked if any volunteers paid any money out of pocket and Mr. Hughes responded just their travel.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the volunteers should be reimbursed for travel so that it doesn't cost them anything. Mr. Hughes stated that staff might could pay \$12 per each training class but that the cost would rise pretty quickly. Mr. Hughes stated that most of the training classes are offered in Clio so that that travel is not too bad for volunteers.

Chairman Steen stated that we needed incentives to get folks to join and serve on the fire departments. He stated that it takes four volunteers to equal to one paid person for a fire call

Mr. Hughes stated that he thought the county would have to look at one day paying day time folks to serve. He stated that most people work and it's hard for them to get off when a fire breaks out.

Mr. Jim Haynes, County Administrator, stated that the county may be limited as to how much we can increase the fire millage.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that there was no way that the law would check on this.

Mr. Willie Gladden stated that he felt that the county should do something from the volunteers because he was afraid that the volunteer service would get old and they would lose volunteers which we could not afford to have happen.

Mr. Anthony Woods stated that firemen do it because they love doing things for people and their neighbors. He stated that he did not feel that it was all about the money for these folks.

Mr. Haynes stated that Mr. Hughes has recommended an increased millage of 1.50 and he needed to have council's thoughts as to how to move on this request.

#### **Jeff Boan - Marlboro County Rescue Squad**

Chairman Jason Steen welcomed Captain Jeff Boan of the Marlboro County Rescue Squad to the meeting. He asked that he provide an update.

Mr. Boan stated that in 1996, the squad went from all volunteers to paid crews. He stated that the hospital was very vital in helping this be done.

Mr. Boan stated that with the Marlboro Park Hospital's closing as of May 1, 2015, things have been tougher. He stated that he worked at the hospital and no one ever thought that the hospital would really close. He stated that Marlboro County Rescue Squad was not prepared for the closing and it hurt them very bad. He stated that they made somewhere around \$350,000 transporting folks from Marlboro Park Hospital and that all that money is now gone. Mr. Boan stated that the squad was doing ok and they have stretched out to do more transport services out of the county. He stated that a 30 minute trip when Marlboro Park Hospital was open has now turned into an hour or more. He stated that Cheraw

Hospital only has eight beds in ER so many times the squad will have to wait to unload and this takes time. He stated that Sunday was really busy and Wallace came in and helped them. He stated that they would like to get another crew for peak times.

Mr. Boan stated that a lot of folks will refuse to be taken to Cheraw or Laurinburg or other out of town hospital because they have no transportation to get back home. Mr. Boan stated that often times, when the paramedic understands that the person needs treatment, they will tell them that they will come pick them up and bring them home at no charge.

Mr. Jim Haynes, County Administrator, asked what the response time is averaging now. Mr. Boan stated that back in 2014, from the time that the call was actually received, it was 6 ½ minutes response time but now it is somewhere around 12 minutes due to the fact that we may be in Laurinburg or Cheraw or on our way back from one of those places. He stated that if they get two or three calls at one time, they try to make a decision to get the most critical first.

Mr. Anthony Woods stated that Clio had a truck years ago and asked what it would take to get a part-time truck in Clio/Blenheim area. He asked if Wallace had one and Chairman Steen responded that Wallace did have one.

Mr. Boan stated that McColl services Blenheim and Clio and that is where it was placed. He stated that if Clio needs service, McColl will respond and if Blenheim needs one and McColl is out, Bennettsville will go the call.

Mr. Ron Munnerlyn asked if Marlboro County Rescue Squad had looked at non-emergency rather than hospitals. Mr. Boan stated that they have vans that take patients to dialysis. He stated that in addition, they went in September to purchasing a small Palmetto Transportation Service which consists of five ambulances and equipment. He stated that the Marlboro County Rescue Squad thought that they could use that service to make some money to keep county from having to having to make such a large increase in payment. Mr. Boan stated that it was doing pretty well and in the long run he felt it would help a great deal.

Mr. Munnerlyn asked if they could take some of the 911 calls to an Urgent Care type center. Mr. Boan stated that there were a few stand-alone emergency room urgent care facilities but that his conversations with a gentleman at Scotland Health stated that they could not transport 911 calls to the Bennettsville Urgent Care site. He stated that he spoke with the Associate Vice President who had the first name of "Pat" but did not remember is last name.

Chairman Steen asked Mr. Boan in his opinion could 50% of the calls be taken to an Urgent Care type facility if the facilities would accept the calls and Mr. Boan stated that they could transport somewhere around 50% of the calls to that type facility.

Mr. Munnerlyn asked Mr. Boan if they could get it worked out where Scotland Urgent Care would take some of these 911 calls, whether or not it would help them. Mr. Boan stated that yes it certainly would. Mr. Boan stated that the local Urgent Care would not take them now because he felt that the practice had regular family practitioners in the practice and they were afraid they might not be able to do what needed to be done with calls that came in.

Mr. Boan stated that the Palmetto Transport service would not be their local squad vehicles but would handle non-emergency things.

Mr. Boan stated that all the bad things get publicity. He mentioned the lady that had the baby in the Brownsville area and stated that they had four crews on staff that day and one crew was on their way but the lady continued traveling to "no man's land" and took the squad forever to get there.

Mr. Boan stated that he had been a paramedic for more than 25 years and stated that no death has occurred since the hospital closed that could have been saved by taking them to Marlboro Park Hospital had it been opened. He stated that even when the hospital was up and running, no emergency type patients were taken there.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he felt that the emergency vehicles had much of the needed equipment to help someone in critical condition. Mr. Boan agreed and stated that they have a doctor on the phone at all times to give them orders for a patient. Mr. Boan offered a tour of the squads and equipment at any time. Dr. Carolyn Prince thought that would be a great idea and that the local paper could even publicize the event for the public to come. Chairman Steen stated that he felt this was a good idea and would give citizens more peace about not having a hospital here.

Mr. Anthony Woods asked Mr. Boan if they recruited for crew members. Mr. Boan stated that he gets applications every day but that his profession, you were gifted to know when you have someone that you might be able to use. He stated that they look for honest and trustworthy folks that would not be tempted to take anything if they went into someone's house and also someone that would not repeat everything they saw.

Mr. Jim Haynes stated that someone had called the administration last week to make a complaint. He stated that he understood that there was a vehicle accident and someone from both vehicles were taken by the same ambulance to Scotland. Mr. Haynes asked if this was standard procedure. Mr. Boan responded that in some cases when both people are adults and if they are going to the same location, they may take two in one ambulance but it depends on what is available at the time. Mr. Boan stated that anyone 17 or younger were required to have an adult with them but the person would not be allowed to ride in the back but in the front with the driver due to safety reasons.

Mr. Haynes asked Mr. Boan if he knew of any counties in South Carolina that were running trucks as first responders. Mr. Boan stated that he worked with Horry County at one time and they attempted this but it did not go over very well.

Chairman Steen thanked Mr. Boan for all of the work the Marlboro County Rescue Squad does for the citizens of Marlboro County. Mr. Boan stated that the thanks went a long way and he also appreciated what Marlboro County did for the squad.

**Mr. Ron King – Economic Development Director**

Chairman Steen welcomed Mr. King to the workshop and asked that he give members of Council an update on what's going on.

Mr. King stated that everyone knew that Baldor in Clio was closing by the end of the year. Mr. King stated that this company made large conveyor belts for the entire world but that they are making little sales and not enough to warrant keeping the Clio plant open. Mr. King stated that the production equipment would be moved to the Shelby, North Carolina, Baldow location and some employees might transfer to that location as well. Mr. King stated that the employees should be able to find employment since Wyman-Gordon in Dillon County which employs the same type workers.

Mr. King also advised that he had a group of French gentlemen that wanted to tour the facility already. He says he does not feel that we will have trouble finding a new industry to occupy the building because it really is a nice facility.

Mr. King stated that Flakeboard has completed their expansion and is talking about expanding on the back side and plan to hire in excess of 700 people. He stated that the starting pay is now \$12/hour and are hoping to increase that to \$15/hour.

Mr. King stated that there were a couple of prospects for toilet paper production companies that actually use excess pulp to make their paper rather than the actual trees.

Mr. King stated that the sprinkler system will be installed at the BORO property but that no other improvements are recommended until a tenant is placed in the building.

Mr. King announced the ground breaking ceremony for ECAM on Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 p.m. He stated that Arauco has agreed to donate an additional \$100,000 to this project which will make their donations to date almost \$350,000. He stated that the center should be able to open in the Fall.

Mr. King stated that he has a meeting scheduled with a solar company later this week.

Mr. King stated that Domtar just hired 25 people and Arauco is hiring around 45 folks. He stated that Mohawk has leveled off at 1,000 employees but replaces approximately 20-30 a month due to the demanding physical requirements. He stated that Marley has added 40 new employees and is getting air conditioning in their facility which will be a great addition.

Mr. King stated that the trailer companies are doing well and expect to hire more welders in the coming months.

Mr. Willie Gladden asked if the trailer companies have training programs. Mr. King responded that they did not but that this will hopefully be offered at the ECAM facility when opened.

Mr. King stated that SoPakCo is steady and Service Transportation in Wallace has added 45 people and would hire an additional 45 more if they could find qualified truck drivers.

Mr. King stated that Harbor Freight is looking at expanding again but they are requiring Dillon county to erect a fire station at their site for insurance rate reductions on their

property or across where an old gas station was at one time. Mr. King says they are looking for an additional 150 acres of and land.

Chairman Jason Steen asked how many acres were still available in the Industrial Park in Dillon. Mr. King responded that there were 460 acres but 130 of them were used in last expansion.

Mr. Anthony Woods asked about an update for Bennettsville Printing. Mr. King responded that Bennettsville Printing was getting money to print more camouflage cloth and Galey and Lord is closing this week and they were doing some of Bennettsville Printing's work. He stated that the company is in the process of purchasing sizing equipment and lab after that and will be adding about 40 more employees. He stated that the plant could sell more cloth if they could make more.

Mr. King stated that Mr. Jason King was interested in space at Boro as soon as it is completed and ready for tenants.

Mr. Jim Haynes, County Administrator, stated that "lake Boro" is now gone due to drainage.

Mr. Anthony Woods asked whether he was having a good attendance at the monthly partnership meetings. Mr. King stated that attendance was really good and that most of the members are on committees and their interest remains good.

Chairman Steen thanked Mr. King for coming and for the update.

### **Gary Harrington – Recreation**

Chairman Jason Steen welcomed Gary and stated that he wanted to meet with him about recreation plans and get update and status on parks, etc.

Mr. Harrington stated that he and his department were working on lighting at parks and had recently had new roads put in the Lindsay park to help with parking.

Mr. Ron Munnerlyn stated that the roads have made parking much better and that the work that was done were good moves.

Mr. Harrington stated that folks are beginning to get the idea of parking. He stated that he was currently working on light fixtures and have had some donated to the park and has also had some bulbs donated to the park. Mr. Harrington stated that he also had more bleachers coming in too.

Mr. Harrington stated that work was being done to the dugouts at the Wallace park. He stated that McColl park had no major problems with the exception of score boards.

Mr. Jim Haynes, County Administrator, asked how much a score board might cost. Mr. Harrington responded that they cost somewhere between \$4,000 - \$5,000.

Mr. Harrington stated that staff was also currently working on the Clio recreation field and getting fencing erected.

Mr. Haynes asked if the fencing was helping with the parking area and Mr. Harrington stated that it had.

Mr. Harrington mentioned the new Veterans Memorial at Brightsville-Adamsville Park and stated that it really looked great. He stated that there were no events being held there yet.

Mr. Willie Gladden mentioned that Mr. Harrington had helped get some fire works for the July 4<sup>th</sup> event and by getting them now he was able to get them a lot cheaper. He stated that he appreciated Mr. Harrington's help with this and stated that this would save Brightsville Park a lot of money.

Mr. Harrington mentioned that the Blenheim Gym is moving along and that the air conditioning/heating units had been installed and the power is being connected. He stated that they will begin painting soon.

Dr. Carolyn Prince stated that last year she had requested that the other area which was donated to Healthy Start be cleaned up and it was done which helped the appearance of the property since most people believe that we own it all. She asked that this done again this year.

Mr. Anthony Woods asked if security lights could be installed at the Clio park to keep folks from parking and soliciting the property at night. He stated that if some lights of some kind were installed, he felt that the traffic would be less.

Chairman Steen asked how many of the parks had security lights and Mr. Woods stated none. Mr. Harrington stated that Lindsay Park had some.

Dr. Prince asked if Smith Park was owned by the City and Mr. Harrington confirmed that it was. Mr. Harrington stated that it was really grown up. Dr. Prince stated that maybe staff could talk to the City about having it cleaned up so that events could be planned there.

Chairman Steen asked what else was offered through county recreation other than ball. Mr. Harrington responded that they offer football, soccer, cheerleading camps, smaller program for 7-8 year olds for tackle football, and a program for 5-6 year olds of football. He stated that Coach Boyd was assisting the county with these efforts.

Mr. Anthony Woods asked when the Blenheim Gym would be open for events. Mr. Harrington stated that events have already been held there such as basketball programs. He stated that the Basketball season was great last year. He stated that once the county finishes the improvements and opens for good, the location will be very busy.

Mr. Haynes stated that the media room at the Blenheim Gym will be available and that the county is in the process of purchasing tables, chairs, a refrigerator and microwave so that events can be held there. He stated that he hoped we would have our Christmas Party for employees there this year.

Mr. Woods suggested having TVs and Xboxes or playstation games there for the children that are athletically included. He stated that we needed something to keep kids off the streets during the summer months. Mr. Gladden stated that the city offers this and they do not charge and it works out very well.

Dr. Carolyn Prince asked if the Blenheim Gym would be used every day this summer and Mr. Harrington confirmed that it would. She stated that she felt the county should offer that location for breakfast and lunch with activities which will require a minimum of 25 folks. She stated that Tasha at the WYNN Agency would be interested in that location. Dr. Prince stated that the county would need someone there to keep up with the number of meals served and help with distributing food.

Dr. Prince stated that staff should publicize that the facility is ready for use. She asked what other programs were offered for adults and seniors. She stated that staff needed to offer something for all ages similar to what the Senior Circle did when it was here.

Mr. Harrington stated that some folks have mentioned horseshoe games/competitions, and card games, as well as Bingo. He stated that exercise classes were offered at the Marlboro Street location but could also be offered at the Blenheim Gym.

Mr. Anthony Woods suggested that a committee be formed to help staff with ideas and getting things implemented.

Ms. Corrie Plato mentioned that seniors like to crochet and liked to do crafts. Mr. Harrington stated that he has about ten women come in the office for crafts through the Marlboro Area Arts Council.

Chairman Steen thanked Mr. Harrington for his time and the updates.

#### **Josh Cohoon – Animal Shelter**

Chairman Steen thanked Mr. Cohoon for coming and stated that members of Council wanted to talk with him briefly on what has been going on at the Animal Shelter.

Mr. Cohoon stated that things were going well. He mentioned the distemper outbreak but stated that everything has been cleaned and they have reopened for intake as of the first of the month. He stated that all treatments for the distemper were paid for by ASPCA and Petsmart.

Chairman Steen stated that a while back they had met with the National Humane Society and talked about grants but he had not had any follow up conversations on this.

Mr. Cohoon stated that a grant was given to the Humane Society in the amount of \$25,000 to be used at the Animal Shelter and they have about \$22,000.00 still available and had considered making indoor/outdoor runs and more concrete work to allow fluids to not flow into other kennels.

Chairman Steen asked how many volunteers the shelter currently had. Mr. Cohoon stated that AMI kids has come two days this week and expects that they will be doing this more

and more now that the shelter is open from the distemper. Mr. Cohoon stated that he was in the process of getting paperwork completed with the foodstamp office that will have folks volunteer to help, as well as the Probation office for community service prospects.

Mr. Jim Haynes, County Administrator, asked about how many inmates he had to help him. Mr. Cohoon stated that this week he has had three but he never knows from week to week what kind of help he will get. He did state that he had three steady for the past three weeks or so.

Ms. Corrie Plato asked if there were any spay-neutering programs coming up. Mr. Cohoon stated that a clinic was scheduled for tomorrow at a discounted rate. He said he thought the cost would be \$40 when it is typically around \$120.00. Mr. Cohoon stated that the company that is coming is from Columbia but he would like to see our local vets offer it locally to keep the money in the county.

Dr. Carolyn Prince asked if there was a dog-grooming business in town. Mr. Cohoon stated that there were two in the county.

Mr. Ron Munnerlyn asked what the requirements were for adoption of an animal. Mr. Cohoon stated that there is an adoption fee of \$90.00 which includes the neutering or spaying of the animal. He stated that once the \$90.00 was paid that the animal could be picked up from the vets office or from the animal shelter once the work has been completed.

Mr. Munnerlyn asked about rescues. Mr. Cohoon stated that once someone commits to a rescue that that person is responsible for all work done to animal.

Mr. Munnerlyn asked if any animals were being released without being spayed or neutered and Mr. Cohoon confirmed that no animals were being released until this was done.

Dr. Carolyn Prince asked about cleaning the shelter. Mr. Cohoon stated that the floors are flat so right now fluids go from place to place. He stated that he talked with Mr. D. T. Turner about having some concrete poured to slop the fluids straight back so as not to run from place to place. Mr. Munnerlyn asked if a cost had been obtained for that yet and Mr. Haynes advised that no cost had been computed yet. Mr. Cohoon stated that he was talking with Mr. Turner to get some cost together on this.

Mr. Haynes stated that staff really did not want anyone in the shelter with the recent distemper breakout because they could possibly carry the distemper home to any animals that they may have. Mr. Haynes stated that Mr. Turner had animals at home and did not want to take a chance of that happening.

Mr. Willie Gladden asked Mr. Cohoon whether he had enough help with the part-time person and with inmates. Mr. Cohoon stated that right now he felt that he was in good shape with help.

Mr. Munnerlyn asked if it would be cost effective to have monies set aside for neutering and spaying? Mr. Cohoon stated that he would do some research on the matter.

### **Recap by Chairman Steen**

Chairman Steen stated that we needed to decide as to whether or not to increase the fire millage which Mr. Hughes requested. Mr. Anthony Woods stated that if the law passes about the trucks being less than 25 years old the the county would need to do something.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he felt that things had improved since Mr. Hughes came on board. He asked what we would do if McColl comes in and wants to duplicate how the county would respond.

Chairman Steen stated that the city has ladder trucks and it is a big thing for them but he felt that the county had to have one that would go to all structural fires. He stated that he did not feel that the county needed two ladder trucks.

Chairman Steen stated that the county was spending tax payers money and that Mr. Keith Hughes was assisting the county with this task. He stated that he felt that the county was going in the right direction.

Chairman Steen stated that he felt that sometime soon the county would need its own Marlboro County Fire Department and we would want some folks on the department from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. that are paid. He said we will eventually be just like the Marlboro County Rescue Squad.

Chairman Steen stated that a firefighter needs 240 hours to get the proper training required just to become a volunteer. He stated that recruitments go on for other areas and we should recruit for firefighters as well.

Mr. Munnerlyn suggested paying the per call fee based on training status.

### **EMS Recap**

Mr. Jim Haynes stated that staff could change the contract to reflect \$690,000 for a one year period and a one time donation of \$50,000 to assist the Marlboro County Rescue Squad with operating expenses. Mr. Haynes stated that Mr. Boan actually requested a \$100,000 increase.

Dr. Carolyn Prince stated that she felt that it should be spelled out so that it is understood that we will pay \$50,000 as a donation or gift and the contract would continue at the same rate for one year.

Mr. Steve Blackmon agreed that it should be spelled out and be very clear and felt that a donation of \$50,000 should be paid with the contract left the same until we see what the hospital can have done.

Mr. Woods mentioned that the squad was looking into purchasing a new truck. Dr. Prince stated that the new truck was a done deal and was being paid for by the Hospital Trust.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that the Marlboro County Rescue Squad is making money. He stated that he felt that we should press Scotland Memorial to allow 911 transfers to Urgent Care.

He stated that he was aware of a Pilot Program in Lexington County allowing such transports to Urgent Cares and we need to push this.

Mr. Anthony Woods asked about the Task Force. Chairman Steen stated that the Hospital Trust folks and Pat Henegan had requested a meeting with the Administration and Finance Committee. He stated that when they met with the Administration and Finance committee they requested that the monies from the one penny sales tax that we were trying to get for recreation be paid to them to be given to McLeod to operate a stand-alone Emergency Room.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he understood that McLeod did not want to come but the Hospital Trust says that they would come if we gave them this kind of money. Mr. Munnerlyn states that the law is clear that we cannot give them money from the one cent sales tax until the county builds the hospital and that is not what McLeod wants.

Chairman Steen stated that they wanted a letter of support to get a study done and we have issued that letter.

Mr. Munnerlyn suggested that the group go into executive session to discuss contractual matters.

Motion made by Mr. Steve Blackmon, seconded by Mr. Willie Gladden to enter into executive session to discuss contractual matters.

#### **Jim Haynes Budget and Planning Discussion**

Mr. Haynes advised members of Council that he wanted to show them the numbers of the upcoming budget. He used an easel with marking pad and stated that the state millage cap is .12% which equals to about \$6,000.00. He stated that if the increase was implemented the general operating millage would change from 87.35 mils to 87.46 mils. He stated that solving any problems in the budget legally cannot be done with millage increases in the general obligation millage. He stated that when a county uses a fund balance there is always a need to use the fund balance and Council has had to do this in the past.

Mr. Haynes stated that railroad funds to the general fund this past year was \$400,000. He stated that over the past two years it was somewhere between \$500-550,000. He stated that the reason for the decrease in funds is due mainly to the decrease in gas and diesel and stated that right now it was cheaper to ship things by truck than railroad and it is quicker for the most part.

Mr. Haynes stated that this year our share of Harbor Freight monies from the Industrial Park were \$29,000.00 when we were expecting somewhere around \$240,000. He stated that in accordance with the agreement with Dillon County, we were required to pay one-half of the taxes on equipment and building which was never declared or listed. He stated that the state does the assessment on this type property. He stated that after we paid Dillon County for some required matching funds which ended up being somewhere around \$98,000.00, we ended up with \$29,000.00 from this park. Mr. Haynes stated that next year we should expect income on this park to be somewhere in the range of \$240,000.

Mr. Haynes stated that the total revenue for the upcoming year was estimated at \$10,966,390. He stated that expenses included a 2% increase for employees' salaries which comes to about \$138,304. He stated that payments on capital costs which were purchased under lease payments will be due this coming year and are estimated at \$241,000 which is down from current year of \$440,000. He stated that he expected fuel savings due to lower gas prices of somewhere around \$46,000 but that health and retirement rates are going up which will take the \$46,000 so that it will wipe all of that savings out.

Mr. Haynes stated that funds set aside for historic building work was previously \$100,000. We still have about \$66,000 in the budget for improvements to these buildings.

Mr. Haynes stated that the coroner's professional services portion of the budget has increased by \$20,000. He stated that he felt this was due to more bodies with no sure way to state what the cause of death was and when this happens, the coroner send the bodies for autopsies which is about \$2,500 for each one requested.

Mr. Haynes stated that road signs had been turned over to Mr. Sidney Wallace' department and they were doing a great job. He stated that in the past these signs were being purchased with grant funds which has now ran out. Mr. Haynes stated that he has budgeted \$10,000 in the road maintenance budget for signs.

Dr. Carolyn Prince asked if staff was doing any more "Welcome to Marlboro County " signs. Mr. Haynes responded that that there were no more planned since all the grant monies have been used up. He stated that he felt that it would be a good thing to get some more of those up.

Mr. Haynes stated that the Animal Control budget is being increased for a half of a person since the program actually did not start until later in the year. He stated that a person had been moved from the Recreation staff to the Animal Control budget full time and there should be someone at the shelter at all times. He stated that more kennels/crates would need to be purchased.

Mr. Haynes stated that with regards to Public Buildings, that our Maintenance crew had patched with bits and pieces but it's time to replace some things. He mentioned the light fixtures and wiring at the courthouse and stated that he had budgeted about \$17,000 to have new fixtures and wiring. Mr. Haynes also stated that the building which is housed by Council on Aging is in need of a new roof which is going to cost somewhere around \$23,400. He also mentioned that the floor was in bad shape and that Mr. D.T. Turner was in the process of trying to see what the joists looked like underneath the floor.

Dr. Prince asked if there was any other building that these folks could use. Mr. Haynes stated that the group had requested the use of the old Winn-Dixie building.

Mr. Haynes stated that the Voter Registration building needed a new roof which would cost somewhere around \$8,000 or at least some major patch work and this amount was also included in the upcoming budget.

Mr. Haynes stated that the Sheriff's Department had requested \$24,000 for radios with 800 MGHZ for their patrol cars.

Mr. Haynes stated that cars had been leased by the Sheriff's Department and we are in third year and it was time to pay up. He stated that \$94,000 is the amount needed to make these lease payments for the upcoming year.

Mr. Haynes stated that the Probate Judge had requested an additional full-time person but he has recommended to Judge Heath that we begin with a part-time person. Mr. Haynes stated that Judge Heath has advised that the traffic through his office has increased a lot and that was the reason for the request for an additional full-time person.

Mr. Haynes stated that the total budget for expenses and revenue was drafted at \$10,966,390. He stated that this draft was based on using about \$1,000,000 from the fund balance based on current local government appropriations. Mr. Haynes stated that the plus side of this was that even though funds from the fund balance had been used in the past, the auditors had advised that at the end of the 2014-15 fiscal year the fund balance had grew some. He stated that even though we had used some of our fund balance, it still grew.

Mr. Ron Munnerlyn asked how much of the fund balance did we use for the current year and Mr. Haynes responded about \$840,000. Mr. Haynes stated that we have more than \$5,000,000 in the fund balance. He stated that we estimate about \$940,000 being used for the upcoming year.

Mr. Munnerlyn asked if the auditors were counting the funds that were owed to the county by the Solicitor's office as an asset and Mr. Haynes stated that he was unsure if they even knew about it. Mr. Haynes stated that the Solicitor's office is expecting come additional funding this year and Solicitor Rogers has stated that more monies will be paid towards the amount that they owe the county.

Dr. Carolyn Prince asked how recreation would man the Blenheim Gym all summer. Mr. Haynes stated that he may get Thomas Stevens who is currently part-time with the Recreation Department to help out.

Mr. Willie Gladden asked about maintenance on the vehicles at the Sheriff's office. He stated that he never hears them talking about changing oil or routine maintenance in their vehicles but that this should be done. He stated that sometimes the cars do not last longer due to lack of maintenance.

Mr. Anthony Woods stated that Mr. Ron Covington with the Public Works department has knowledge to do the basic maintenance on these vehicles.

Mr. Haynes stated that workers' compensation listed in the non-departmental portion of the budget lists \$173,000 and this is for the entire county. He stated that it was down a little from last year but that he was sure it would increase in the year to come due to the death of Deputy Del Daniels.

Mr. Haynes stated that Voter Registration's budget came down from the current year due to having no General Election next year.

Mr. Haynes stated that the Sheriff's budget as shown on page 46 was at \$1.785 million and the Detention Center was at \$1.3 million which is about \$3 million.

Dr. Prince stated that she would love to have the Detention Center under Council rather than the Sheriff. Mr. Haynes stated that by law it is under the Sheriff. Dr. Prince stated that if there were any "fat" in the Detention Center budget, that it should definitely come back to the county.

Mr. Haynes stated that staff had started a new system with regards to the payment of 911 dispatchers. He stated that it now depends on the levels of certification as to what these folks get paid. He stated that the pay of a dispatcher is now \$27,000 from the \$24,000.00 salary. He stated that this system will encourage dispatchers to get more training and with more training folks will hopefully do a better job.

Mr. Haynes stated that the 911 position had been posted and applications had come in and the application period had now closed. He stated that one guy that had been interviewed was from out of the county and worked with Fire Services in Virginia and retired from that position at around 40 years old. He stated that the guy worked in Florida for a about 8 years and is now back in the Charlotte area to be closer to his parents who live in Virginia and his in-laws who reside in Richmond.

Mr. Haynes that Marlboro is a smaller county but that two county employees, Mr. Shane Sligh and Mr. Steve Akers, had submitted applications for the 911 Director position and that they were both very impressive as interviewees. He stated that Mr. Allison is scheduled to leave towards the end of July.

Mr. Haynes stated that he needed guidelines about fire budget. He asked if Council wanted to increase the millage as requested by Keith Hughes. He stated that the program for neutering/spading at the Animal Shelter was something that was discussed as well and asked if they wanted to earmark some money for the purpose.

Chairman Jason Steen asked if there was anything that Council members could do to move the Recreation project forward. Mr. Haynes responded that he was hoping that the bond attorneys would have called him by now to say that they had found a loophole but he had not received such a call. He stated that the bond attorneys had suggested that we do a state-wide correction through legislative delegation but he did not feel that that would be very successful. Mr. Haynes stated that initially SC Association of Counties' attorneys had told him that this referendum would not be in conflict with the School District's referendum to build the Wallace School but the bond attorneys have said that it is a conflict. Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he felt that it was too late to do anything this year with Recreation.

Mr. Haynes mentioned about the bond refinancing of the \$4,000,000 in bonds and stated that the amount was down to \$2,600,000. Mr. Haynes stated that the county is refinancing the bonds at a lower rate which would save the county about \$135,000 over the next ten years. He stated that if this process could be worked like a Home Equity Line so as to allow us to

borrow the additional funds back up to the original amount, we might could do a recreation project but that bonds did not work this way.

Dr. Prince stated that she felt that Gary Harrington at Recreation needed more help and that he should reach out and ask for more help.

Chairman Steen thanked everyone for coming to the work session today and stated that he knew it had been a long day. He stated that he felt that Council had some direction as to how to go forward.

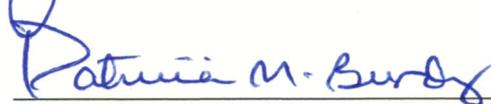
Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

SEAL

ATTEST:

Date Adopted: June 7, 2016

  
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Jason K. Steen, Chairman

  
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Patricia M. Bundy, Clerk