

3.5. Three, five, seven, ten minute drive time and it might come back saying, you know, it's more people in these areas than other areas, we don't know. But that was his first shot at it. I'm not going to say that after he does that and comes back, we might need four. I don't know. But if we're putting three in there now and it's going to come out the fund balance as yearly payments for three or either four years, it won't tax us.

MR. HINELY: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It won't tax our budget; it won't give us a tax increase. We are still leaving by State mandate, which is 4.5 percent increase, not the 43 percent increase or 44 percent increase that was in the paper this past week.

MR. HINELY: Right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And we are living within the constraints of the State government and statute. We can withdraw funds out of the fund balance at any time. You don't want to do that a whole lot because all of us don't like seeing you living off your fund balance. Well, in this case, we aren't living off the fund balance. We're making capital improvements out of the fund balance and that's what you ought to do. We aren't using the fund balance for the general fund. We're actually using it for capital expenditure to pay down debt. So, the money is there. We definitely need to decide because nobody on this Council can tell me where those buildings are going yet, we just know where they ought to know where they go. I think just as soon as second meeting's approved tonight and we know we aren't going to change a whole lot between now and third reading, and then I don't know why we can't get Wayne back up here and go ahead and meet on it before the third reading, if possible. Mr. Marcharia?

MR. MARCHARIA: Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman. As our President, Mr. Barack Obama, said words should mean something or words should stand for something, and I hope words are not a great source of misunderstanding, but stand for something. And February 28th four years ago, this very Council voted and here's the minutes on that, that if we do anything or build anything in terms of centers like that, the first one given to didn't say anything about three. It said, and I'm certainly open for other communities to have, but it did make a commitment that that first center would start in western Fairfield. This Council voted on that. Now, I'm hearing three being thrown out there with no time line, we're all going to do it in conjunction, I know maybe we'll have that kind of discussion. So I'm hoping that words do mean something when we put something down in writing that we're committed to what we say and as I heard Mr. Hinely talking, in terms of community centers, and particularly western Fairfield, two, not three, places where we vote at is going to disappear because they're at churches and the churches no longer want them there is my understanding. These community centers can be very helpful in having the voter registration places, as well as other community needs that we have. And I'm making this appeal to once again we just had a leak over at the nuclear power plant, even though they said it wasn't dangerous, wouldn't hurt anybody, but it certainly was a leak, which says accidents can happen and nuclear power plants are almost like having a loaded gun in the house with kids. Accidents can happen. And the community has made an appeal, of course, we're looking at the health center, we're glad if that can help. We've always had inadequate healthcare in that area. Inadequate fire protection; and, again, I'm saying \$500 million has left that community, somewhere in that proximity, and we still look like we're living in the 50's over there. It's almost the same as Mr. Ferguson's saying. (Tape flipped) words mean something.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Marcharia.

MR. MARCHARIA: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Anderson, I think you told me earlier that you talked to Wayne or who talked to Wayne?

MR. ANDERSON: I had called Wayne and basically I got the same report that you gave. He's been out doing the five and ten mile drive around and basically you gave the same information that he gave me. But I will set up a time for him to come up and meet with Council again and give us a conclusion on that very soon.

MR. HINELY: He's followed up on what we've asked him to do.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, I was talking to Mr. Goode, about something else, and I called two or three people down there. Anyhow, he said he was getting it done and we just need to get it done. Mr. Ferguson?

MR. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, I've got kind of some mixed emotions. To hear that we got to come back or that we don't have to come back and vote on this issue, I myself was kind of concerned about doing this right

now given the economic times like they are. Nobody's got a crystal ball that says between now and January this time next year that we're going to be out of the woods. I think leaving the \$100,000 per building in there to do the architectural work, to do the planning and that kind of stuff, but I think it would be presumptuous on Council's part to go ahead and allocate because that's if we're not going to vote again, what you're saying is we're going to allocate the money tonight. That's what that means. I, for one, have a problem allocating that money with the given economy like it is, with 16 percent of our people or over 16 percent now of our folks out of work. I would rather leave the \$100,000 per building in there with the understanding that once we got to that place that it would come back to Council for a vote. Now, and I'll make that as a motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Let me say one thing. Do we have a second to do that?

MS. ROBINSON AND MS. KINLEY: Second.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If we leave the \$300,000 in there for the three buildings, and that's what we have said, the remainder of the money is fund balance.

MR. HINELY: That's right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Won't be budgeted, it'll just be a carry over fund balance. So, it won't be a line item in the budget, Mr. Ferguson, for us to go back and just say spend it. We will have to come back and say remove it from the fund balance.

MR. FERGUSON: You're saying what I'm saying. You know, before that money is expended, it's got to come back to Council for a vote to say we're ready to go. And I would go so far to say this, and it's what Mr. Marcharia was saying, you know, and you were saying, even if there's another \$100,000, if Wayne said there's four, I wouldn't object to putting the other \$100,000 in there for a fourth building or whatever we're going to do, but I just think to be safe and prudent, we need to look at it at the appropriate time to spend those funds I don't think we just need to and that's what I wanted you to say, Mr. Chairman, that that is fund balance and it takes a vote to bring it out of fund balance and to expend it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And like I said a minute ago, this is capital expenditure, now. If we budget it as a line item, then that goes against the general fund. This is something to reduce debt on capital expenditure out of the fund balance, if we use it.

MS. ROBINSON: Mr. Chair?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, ma'am.

MS. ROBINSON: We just got that report within the last month on recreation and for us to sit here and immediately say we're going to start putting it together and we're going to build X number; I have a problem with that. We're acting like normal governments and the way they respond. For once in our life, can't we, as a Fairfield County Council, put together a plan and know where we're going to put these buildings and use this \$100,000 to go out and follow the plan that has come down to us and say, all right, they say we need one here, here, here, and I know for years we've talked about dividing the County in fourths and if it takes four, but follow a plan instead of just jumping in because it sounds like a wonderful idea. I'm not booing the idea of facilities for communities, don't think I'm doing that. But for once, plan. When we were trying to build our new house, we planned and we planned and we planned and because of it, I have one dead space in the whole house. We used everything, but it took planning. And it seems like all they're doing is just jumping and jumping and never ever planning anything. We need to plan and know where it's located. I was amazed at where some of these centers are. The present community mini parks are, and where they're all located, and some of them may not be used properly, but let's plan and use the best areas that we have to put them in so that we get the best bang for our dollars this time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And I think

MS. ROBINSON: That's my request.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And isn't that pretty much what we are saying? We're going to put the 400.

MR. HINELY: That's what this does. That's what this does is plan.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The \$300,000 or \$400,000 in the budget for planning and land purchasing and the rest will come from fund balance. All we got to do is tell Mr. Hinely take it out of fund balance.

MS. KINLEY: We've been trying to plan over these last couple of weeks.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, it's taken us four years to get here, so it's no use in getting in. We can have Mr. Shuler up here between now and the next budget meeting or right after the budget, but I'm just saying that I

think everybody up here is committed to the recreation study, whatever it may be, and to building community centers. I mean, I know I am and I think everybody else is. But we want to put them at the right place, scientifically or however Mr. Shuler comes up with it, and whatever else. But as far as if we don't do this \$400,000, and then it's going to be next year before we sit here and talk about the same thing. So, if we put the 400 in now and the rest can come from fund balance, I think that's what and we aren't saying how many are going to be built. We're just going to see what we'll end up doing. Mr. Trapp?

MR. TRAPP: Mr. Perry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Perry?

MR. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Trapp. Let me just say this, Mr. Chairman. You know, from being a youth and growing up in Fairfield County. I think what you've just said, Mr. Chairman, that's what we've been doing for the last months is planning to try to put together a recreation plan for this County. However, being in this County for 46 years, I would have thought that a plan would have been put together over that time span. I've been in sports for 36 years in this County. I mean, since I started playing sports at ten years old. And I am still just like the rest of the youth in Ridgeway, in Jenkinsville, in Blair, and Greenbrier, still having to come to Winnsboro for any type of indoor sport at the recreation center, which I played in when I was a youth. Since then, nothing has changed. It is still the same and it will continue to be the same until, like you say, we get a plan completed and we make a commitment to move forward, because we can sit back and we can say it'll never be a right time. It's almost like planning to have kids. You just got to do it. Sometimes you can try to plan and we're going to have money and you can have the nicest house and it'll be in the best school system, but you know what, there are going to be times when you're ready, you've just got to move. You've just got to move off the center and you got to make the decision and go with it. And I think the reason is we have not wanted to move forward and be committed to move forward. That's why if we don't have a recreation in Jenkinsville or western Fairfield, I wasn't here in 2005, but if there had been a commitment and there had been a plan and paperwork and documentation to say this is what we're going to do, this is how we're going to do it, and then this is when we're going to do it, guess what, we wouldn't be having this conversation right now. And I think if we don't put it in writing and we don't have a plan and a process, we'll be having these same conversations again four years from now. That's all I got to say. Mr. Trapp, I turn it over to you.

MR. TRAPP: I realize that we need a plan, but we still can put the money in the budget and have the money delegated for those specific reasons until the plan is finalized. How much money did we borrow to do the recycling centers? \$2 million?

MR. HINELY: \$2.6, it was the recycling centers.

MR. TRAPP: \$3 million, we spent \$200,000 on the animal shelter, so we spent \$3 million on trash and animals, but we can't spend \$2 million on the youth and the senior citizens. That doesn't seem to make good sense to me.

MR. MARCHARIA: Amen to that, Brother Trapp.

MS. KINLEY: Mr. Chairman, may I?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MS. KINLEY: Thank you. We only got this under the County what, two years ago, Mr. Hinely?

MR. HINELY: Yes, ma'am.

MS. KINLEY: There was supposed to have been a plan being worked on by the recreation committee or the recreation board, which was not done. So I don't think we can blame the Council for what hadn't been done all those years in the past. But I do think recreation's important and I said three or four months ago you all were not going to like what I said and Ms. Robinson said it last meeting, with the economy like it is, I don't feel comfortable putting \$2 million in there for recreation, but I do feel comfortable putting it in this \$300,000 to go with plans and we've come a lot further in the last two years than we've come in the last ten years to have a plan. So I kind of think we are on our way and to meet with this gentleman again, we've kind of told him what we wanted, but, you know, let's just don't jump in the fire right quickly. Excuse me. But the plans have got to be laid, but I just think it's timing, Mr. Trapp and Mr. Perry, with this, but I do think we're making headway. But before it came under the County, we were asking those folks to do a plan and nobody came up with anything. So I kind of just feel like that's where we are, but I'm for recreation, too, but I think we've got to look at the timing. Thank you.

MR. TRAPP: Mr. Chairman? The economy wasn't doing all that well when we sat up here and voted to borrow that \$2.6 million. It wasn't doing that well at all.

MS. KINLEY: For the trash? But that affects the health of the county.

MR. TRAPP: Well, the recreation affects your health.

MS. KINLEY: I agree with that and we are not saying no to recreation, though. I'm not. And I just kind of feel like, you know, the economy, and that's what Ms. Robinson said last meeting too.

MR. PERRY: And, Mr. Chairman, you know, with all due respect to Ms. Kinley and Mr. Ferguson and to you, Mr. Chairman, I know you have been on Council long, and to Ms. Robinson for being on Council and coming back, and Kamau, I think what happens is, and this is just being on Council for the two and a half years that I've been on Council, just like I think when it comes to making a decision, who's to say just like we voted to bring recreation under the Council, who's to say the dynamics of the Council doesn't change and there's a vote to take it back from underneath Council? Can we do that?

And I think what I'm trying to say is when we make decisions, I think we have to make decisions based on the information that we have, based on history and the facts, to make a decision now because there's no guarantee that any of us, not one single person, will be re-elected, including myself the next time we're up, which could change the whole dynamics of Council. So I think while we have the opportunity to do what's right for this County, I think we need to take advantage of it, and we're all entitled. We're all entitled and I can respect the different opinions just like when we built the animal shelter, I feel very strongly about animals.

I have three animals of my own. I feel very strongly about that. But I would tell you I have a definite passion for the elderly, for the youth, and for the disadvantaged, and the people that have lost their jobs, and the people that are struggling and that are under paid, I just feel just like Mr. Hinely put on that document, the numerous different areas where those community centers can help this County, I think we're hearing recreation just like when we built the animal shelter, it was dog pound. It's more than that. It's a community center and I commend Mr. Hinely when I saw that document and saw the different areas that a community center could help the different areas with this County, I called Mr. Hinely and I commended him because that's my vision for a community center. Not just recreation. To me, that's just a piece of it and there are so many different advantages that a community center could have if we move forward with this plan. We're not talking about particular locations. That can come later. We're talking about putting the funds in the budget to move forward with the community centers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let me ask, and I mean I've said this already one time, but correct me if I'm wrong, Mr. Hinely, if we put the \$300,000 or \$400,000 in there for the study and the ground and flatten the ground.

MR. HINELY: Yes, sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Grading, whatever, and we determine where they are going, leaving \$400,000 in this budget as a designated item, we still can live within the 4.5 percent across the board increase, and we still got the fund balance that we can draw from. If we put the \$2 million in however many thousands of dollars it would cost to build three or four units in a line item budget we won't be within the 4.5 percent.

MR. HINELY: All of this money is from the fund balance, so it really has nothing to do with the 4.5 percent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's outside.

MR. HINELY: It's outside the 4.5 percent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's outside of our ordinary balance.

MR. HINELY: This is exactly what you said a while ago, that every public administration person says you should use fund balance for one time only expenditures because you don't want to do it on an ongoing basis.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And this is not doing this to make our general fund balance, this is just for capital expenditure, and for something that we dearly need. Now, I think the original motion was for \$300,000. Who made that? Didn't Mr. Ferguson?

MR. FERGUSON: I said three or four. It's according to what Wayne comes back with, but the motion is that we stop it right there until that is finalized and then it comes back to the Council to vote on expending the funds to actually physically build.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And if it comes out of fund balance, it's got to be voted on again.

MR. FERGUSON: Right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And if it's voted on now, it doesn't meet the budget. I mean we can vote on in the future taking it out of fund balance.

MR. HINELY: That's where it's going to have to come from anyway.

MR. FERGUSON: That's not my motion, Mr. Chairman.

MR. TRAPP: But can't you vote to take it out of fund balance tomorrow and it won't be in the next year budget?

MR. FERGUSON: Not until my motion gets off the floor.

MR. TRAPP: I know, but I'm asking the question, can you do that legally? Can somebody vote to take out of the fund balance allocated for those community centers, take it out Friday so it won't be in next year's budget?

MR. HINELY: I'm not sure I'm following.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What he is saying is go ahead and make the expenditure this year.

MR. TRAPP: Go ahead and make the expenditure in this budget year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And not deal with it in next year's budget.

MR. HINELY: In the current budget? You could vote to do it out of the current budget.

MR. TRAPP: Out of the fund balance?

MR. HINELY: You could do that right now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But we the only problem I have with that, Mr. Trapp, is right now we don't know how much these four buildings are going to cost us. We don't know how much we need to be taking out of fund balance. I don't want to undertake or overtake. I'd rather us at least know what we are building, how much it's going to cost us, and how many we're building, and then we can sell a bond like we did with the dog pound or whatever and reduce it with the fund balance over a three or four year period. And then that doesn't even hurt our fund balance. I mean, we just have to be frugal about what we're doing with the budget.

MR. HINELY: And we might get some interest-free money.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's right. Mr. Marcharia?

MR. MARCHARIA: Yes. Mr. Chairman, I heard Ms. Kinley say that we weren't responsible for what other Council members done and we wasn't here, but this is the governing body of the citizens of this County and, again, I'm going back and say over the livelihood of that plant hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars come to this governing body. Now, in order to move ahead to me, we've got to look back and see where we're at and where we came from and what we did and what we didn't do. This governing body did not have a vision about moving out into the rural areas and taking care of their citizens and young people and senior citizens in the rural areas. We have recreation programs and those programs don't reach the rural areas. Our kids participate in sports with raggedy uniforms; they go off and play. People are half embarrassed. We don't really encourage them to take care and make them proud and put money into projects while our young people are out here trying to be something. We haven't done that because we haven't had the vision to do it. We've had planning at the courthouse over the years, I participated in that planning, and it went absolutely nowhere. Is that because of leadership or because we've become mentally constipated about we don't want to do things for other people in other areas or we're fixed on our own agendas. I'm talking about we've had enough money for everybody in this County to have something in their community for our senior citizens and for our kids, a place we can have family reunions, a place where kids can go have a study or homework within a building somewhere. Over time, we've had that. And we hadn't had the vision or the will for us to step up and do that. We need to do that. When we mentioned about the dog pounds, that was a \$300,000, just for one thing. Well, by the time you get finished and it's up and running, we're talking about several hundreds of thousands of dollars, but we're talking about spreading three over four areas or whatnot and that's just for engineering, that's not like for building anything. Where is that money going to come from?

I don't understand the resistance to that and I'm going to stand up for my community and say we live in the most eminent danger area that there is and we don't get nothing back in return, rinky dink fire station, fire trucks breaking down, showing up at fires with no water in the trucks, not adequate healthcare, I'm going to keep repeating it because this is factual stuff that has happened. As leadership, this whole body should try to look out for everybody to make sure that we do something to make this county a better place and quality of life better. They're moving, what, 250 to 500 people are moving here to work at the nuclear power plant on Highway 215. The people came here at the last session to talk about that. That's going to be growth. Is it

going to be adequate construction going on, infrastructure? In between Mr. Trapp's district and my district, I have over 3,000 resident voters and he have 3,000 resident voters, a total population of maybe 4,000 people per district, and we're going to have 4,000 people moving in our backyard. We have more people in just that area than the whole town of Winnsboro and we're not making adequate preparations to look out for these people. Wholesome recreation, that same way we do for tourism, nobody tours western Fairfield and look at the money we put into Winnsboro and all around the choo-choo trains and stuff for tourism. Nothing for the western and the eastern part, outlying areas. So I'm asking this Council to be a little conscious and don't be selfish that every time it comes down with somebody else, you find a reason and say the money is tight. Money is always tight. So just have an open mind about this and look out for all the citizens if we can.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A motion on the floor which is to \$400,000 in recreation items that will help purchase land, engineering, let us know what buildings will cost for community centers.

MR. FERGUSON: For community centers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: For a community center. Right.

MR. MARCHARIA: One more before you say that, this plan that Mr. Hinely said in here has already been four years. I said it was 2005 when we originally voted for this. This plan that's being proposed is another five years, it'll be a total of almost ten years before something happen if this be implemented. What are we talking about here? None of us will probably be on Council at this point. I just want to point that out now. We're talking about a time frame of almost ten years.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let me say this. That's not what we are we talking about. We're talking about funding this thing now and taking the money out the fund balance. That's what we're saying.

MR. MARCHARIA: So are you talking about building a little tin box? What are you talking about building as a community center? What's your concept of a community center because we asked for a multipurpose community center?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Marcharia.

MR. MARCHARIA: Yes, sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's why I'm saying don't take the fund balance out now because we have no idea how much money we're spending. I think we need to get the engineering studies done; I think we need to purchase the land; we need to figure out where they are going; we need to come up with a total cost; and then we'll come back in and say all right, we got to take this much and we have to sell a bond for this much money so we can take out this much money from the fund balance over the next four years to pay the bond off, so it won't tax any of us. Mr. Perry?

MR. PERRY: Maybe I got a question to make sure I understand the motion from Mr. Ferguson. Mr. Ferguson is making the motion for the \$300,000 and I guess maybe this is where I want to make sure we're very clear on, I think Councilman Trapp has ... this is probably some of the concerns and I want to make sure that we're very clear on this because I think this is where the concern comes in. The motion is made for the \$300,000 for the engineering for the three different sites, maybe four, if we have to do a fourth one, but once we choose the three sites, are we saying that we got to come back and vote again whether we want to move forward at that point? And, see, that's where my concern is. I'm saying once we decide that we're going to build the community centers, it should not be a question of are we going to move forward with the project. We should be moving forward with the project. It shouldn't be once we do the studies and they come back and they say we're going to put the community centers here, I don't want to have to come back here again and vote whether we're going to move forward with the projects or not. At least that's my concern.

MR. TRAPP: Absolutely.

MR. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir.

MR. FERGUSON: At age 65, I have worked my entire life in this County, lived here, hadn't moved, hadn't gone a place. If over the next year that 16 percent unemployment is 22 percent. We're going to sit here tonight and say we're going to expend \$2 to \$4 million not looking out there and not knowing because folks, we're talking about people that's still working, we're talking about people that's got an income, we're talking two people who don't have an income. In this very county, we've got folks who worked at two of the different plants that shut down. That means family incomes to these homes are absolutely zero. And when

unemployment runs out, it runs out. You get an extension and then when it quits, it quits. And if you don't have other jobs to take up that slack, I'm not saying we don't need these things, I'm saying there's an appropriate time, but nobody sitting at this table and President Obama or nobody else has got the insight to say when this thing's going to turn around. I do hear from Washington that it's going to get worse before it gets better, and at 16 and a half percent unemployment, what is worse? So that's my concept. I'm not against having community centers. I've said that from the very start. Matter of fact, if you look at the record, if you look at that thing Mr. Marcharia has gotten, you'll see my name as one of the yeses on it. But the fact of it is unemployment in the County at that point wasn't 16 and a half percent. Now, that's what I'm concerned about. I'm concerned about the constituents out there who can't pay their bills and are losing homes and that kind of stuff and don't know where the next meal's coming from. That's what concerns me. That's my primary concern. And then where we can go and have recreation or we can have family reunions and that kind of stuff, that's secondary to me. And I think that's what is primary to most of the citizens that's paying taxes in this County. Now, I call for the vote, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: One more, Mr. Marcharia.

MR. MARCHARIA: I just want to say this. We have industry in this County we have pumped hundreds of thousands of dollars in, I don't see the jobs. We have an airport that we've put millions of dollars in, I don't even see one person job that was created and we still pumping hundreds of thousands of dollars. Nobody in my district lands any planes out there. None of the constituencies don't have these jobs that we're here talking about, didn't create anything, but they're using their tax money to put hundreds of thousands of dollars in there to land club planes or whatever, but no one says anything about that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Mr. Ferguson's motion is exactly what, Ms. Brown?

MS. BROWN: Mr. Ferguson's motion was that he would rather leave the \$100,000 per community center with the understanding that it comes back to Council for a vote before it's expended, but you had a motion and a second on that, but when you were trying to clarify the motion, the Chairman said that there would be \$400,000 in for recreation items, for site prep, engineering design for community centers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So Mr. Ferguson, when I said clarification, I said recreation by mistake. It's a community center. But Mr. Ferguson's motion is on the floor.

MR. FERGUSON: Let me clarify my motion, Ms. Brown. ***I made a motion that we expend up to \$400,000 for site prep work, engineering, and for study to figure out where these three or four centers would go, and that would be expended out of the line item budget for this year. Once that is expended, then it comes back to Council for a vote before the actual buildings are placed on those sites, which is to come from either grants, loans, fund balance or whatever, that it come back to the Council for a vote at that point in time. That's my motion.***

MS. KINLEY: *Second.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: All in favor of that motion? All right, then it comes back to Council and you corrected that and said after that \$400,000 is expended?

MR. FERGUSON: Right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What if we don't need to spend that \$400,000?

MR. FERGUSON: Well, that's immaterial. Just whenever the Council gets to the point where it's ready to build the buildings, all the engineering's done, the drafts are in and the whole nine yards, and we've decided where those three or four places are going to be, then it comes back to Council to expend the \$2 to \$3 million it'll take to build those buildings. It's actually the only thing, Mr. Brown, we really don't even have to vote on what I'm saying because if we don't vote tonight to expend that fund balance, we've got to come back to expend the fund balance. Mr. Hinely can't spend that on none of our say so. He's got to spend it on all of our say so. But I'm just clarifying that we're not going to spend that money tonight. We're not going to incriminate that money tonight that it's going to come back. Once the study's done, once the engineering's done, then it comes back to Council for a vote to expend the money it's going to take to build those three or four buildings, whatever.

MS. KINLEY: But the \$400,000 will be spent and is in the budget as a line item, right?

MR. FERGUSON: That's a line item. I mean, we're going to vote on that when we vote on the total budget.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If we motion an unknown amount of money it's unknown out the fund balance right now, I

mean, we're talking tonight, then it would have to be coming from the fund balance in the future, is that right?

MR. HINELY: I think if I understand you, yes, sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: *All in favor signify by saying aye.*

MR. FERGUSON, MS. ROBINSON, MS. KINLEY, MR. BROWN: *Aye.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Those opposed, likewise.

MR. TRAPP, MR. MARCHARIA, MR. PERRY: *Nay.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: *The ayes have it. The vote carries.* At this time, I want to put the continuance of the recreational study and to keep it moving forward as fast as possible and the health education and recreation committee, which consists of Mr. Perry, Mr. Trapp, and Mr. Ferguson, and you are the chairman. So if you will just report back as soon as you all get with Mr. Shuler and let us know what and when and give us some estimates, you know, just you all stay behind it. Don't leave it up to administration; you're in charge.

MR. MARCHARIA: Mr. Chairman, I missed some of that. I was distracted. Give me a synopsis of what was just said and what the vote was.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The synopsis was that Mr. Ferguson's motion carried. And I immediately put it the recreation study and the future of this whole scenario in the education and recreation committee, that is Mr. Perry, Mr. Trapp, and Mr. Ferguson, for them to start working with Mr. Shuler and administration to come up with estimates, to come up with costs, to come up with whatever it takes to keep this thing moving on fast track so we can come back and see what we're going to end up doing. And as our income comes in this year. Anybody else?

MR. FERGUSON: Next thing, Mr. Chairman, that I'd like to discuss is EMS. Looking at seven vacancies in EMS and I commend Mr. Anderson on what he's done to try to bring EMS back under control because it has got to be a bidding war with folks who are touching our county, as well as all over the State. In talking with folks in the low country, they're dealing with the same thing we're dealing with. However, been doing some studies. We have kind of a unique situation in Fairfield County in that we have over the last few months or longer than few months really, we have had some basic trucks running without paramedics on them; we have had some stations that were not operating up to their capacity. Our folks out in the community expect when we expended funds to buy trucks and EMS stations to put out there, that they would be manned and they would be manned in the appropriate manner. We have not been able to keep the appropriate folks on staff to do that. Now, the expectations to the County and the expectations to the citizens in the County is that if we have expended those funds, that those stations are up, duly qualified run, and we got a paramedic and an EMT at each one of them. That's the expectations. That's what we said we were going to do when we put them there. We have three, and this isn't a popular thing, and I know I'll be the one with the slap across the face, but I've said this last year and Mr. Hinely's grinning because he knows what's coming, we got three paramedics that sit at every shift. One paramedic every shift that sits at the hospital as a shift leader. Not on a truck, not dealing with patients, just running those trucks telling those folks what to do. Well, you got a paramedic on that truck and you got an EMT that both had to pass tests to get there. Now, I think what we are talking about doing is we can save \$100,000 simply by bringing those three shift leaders and putting them back in a truck, in an ambulance, in Fairfield County, saves the County money, three of these seven jobs will go away. We'll have three of those jobs covered instantaneously. Those folks leave the hospital and get on a truck, we'll be right back to the place where we were before those three people started staying at the hospital.

Now, is there some advantage to them being there? Yes, there are. But does that advantage take precedent over trucks running in this County without paramedics in them? No, it doesn't. Not as far as I'm concerned. Now, this is something that we've been fighting with. We fought with it last year, year before last, we increased the salaries. What happened? Richland, Newberry, and Chester raised theirs 15 percent more than we did, so where are we now? We're now backing with Dr. Archer looking at raising it again to keep them on board. I'm for paramedics making what they should make, but what bothers me is when I got a call the other day from Mr. Trapp's district that said there hadn't been an ambulance at that station or there hadn't been anybody at that station in 24 hours. I don't know that to be so, but that's a resident that lives in Mr. Trapp's district. I asked Mr. Anderson to check on that for me. But the fact of the matter is, folks, if we got them out there, if we got those stations built and we got those trucks, they need to be manned. This is a way to man them; this is a way to cut back \$100,000 or close to \$100,000 on our budget, and, you know, I reckon, Mr.

Chairman, I'm just looking for some discussion because it makes sense to me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Let me ask this, why are there people sitting at the hospital? Who directed that decision?

MR. ANDERSON: Mr. Chairman, how that shift is designed, you have a shift leader, which is the captain. He drives the quick response vehicle. Any time a call goes out, they have to back up the shifts. We have I think twelve people per shift, two at each substation, and the role he plays as a quick response vehicle and if someone does not show up for work, he fills in at that location so we don't have to close down a EMS substation. I understand Mr. Ferguson's argument, but if you take that person off, if you have one person out and you don't have someone to fill in, we will have problems. But it's just a management call how you want us to operate. I mean, whatever you all decide, we would do, but if you take that spare person just like the Sheriff's Department, they could operate with four on a shift, they have five. People are going to take vacations, people are going to call in sick, and you have different types of things you have to look at it. But if you have that spare person, even at the Detention Center, you have five people on a shift. State law says you have to have three. It's hard to, you know, say everybody's coming to work everyday and these are emergency jobs, you have to have people there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How often is this person utilized at the hospital?

MR. ANDERSON: I'm not trying to cross Mr. Ferguson's words but when you say they are stationed at the hospital, that's the central location, and they go over the entire County. Every time there's a call, they back-up each unit. If a unit goes out to Richland County to take a patient, they will shift and he'll go sit at a station as a quick response vehicle. That truck is quicker; it can get there faster, so it's a rotation. But that's its main base is at the station behind the hospital.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And what kind of vehicle does this person drive?

MR. ANDERSON: It's a truck. It's like the one that sits behind this building.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So if an individual is sitting there and you get a call from Rockbridge Road at Lake Wateree, does it still take 30 minutes for somebody to get to Rockbridge Road?

MR. ANDERSON: No, our response time with the layout that you all helped design for our centers, most all calls are under the national standard of ten minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. So if this is Monday afternoon at 5:00 and a call comes in and it takes 30 minutes for an ambulance to get to this person's house, should not take that long. You can get there from the hospital in less than 30 minutes.

MR. ANDERSON: Right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If it was a back-up situation.

MR. ANDERSON: (Inaudible) and it may fill up because this actually happened, Mr. Trapp called me, and I hate to call Mr. Trapp.

MR. TRAPP: Stepfather.

MR. ANDERSON: Stepfather was having some respiratory problems, called, and Mr. Trapp called and said the ambulance hadn't gotten there. Well, the ambulance on that side of the County was in Richland Memorial. By the time I called and found out, Mr. Trapp said the ambulance and the quick response vehicle was there. He had to come from Winnsboro to get over, so they had to shift. So that's the kind of rotation that they do when you got people out of the County. If you have a bad accident on 77, you might have two ambulances out the County. So they have to shift and then that captain acts as a quick response person.

MR. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir.

MR. FERGUSON: All that's good. But if nobody's at that station or if the person at that station is an EMT or two EMTs that can't push drugs, can't start a line, can't do anything other than talk on the telephone until that truck gets there, would you want to be riding in the back of the truck? Because I can tell you the answer to that question. I wouldn't want to be riding in the back of the truck. And I'll follow-up a little bit better, Mr. Anderson. Mother's Day weekend we had trucks on the road with one EMT in them and no paramedics. Now, my question to you is if we got two paramedics, captains, that's at home, not on their shift, why are if they're captains, why are they not in those ambulances on days where nobody else showed up? Because they weren't working that weekend, I've already checked that. So if we have people in top positions and we got trucks

riding around here without paramedics in them, and we got two paramedics at home that are in top level positions, I got a problem with that. I have a serious problem with that. And when you're talking about the two shift captains that weren't on duty? Well, not to be argumentative, but if the one captain just got off, he had to work a 48 hour shift, so that wouldn't be a good thing for having a safety sensitive employee working a 48 hour shift. So that would be one just got off and then to work another shift, that wouldn't be good. But if we got another one that could come in, they should have. Now, that's a management issue that we would have to look into. And we do have the director and the training officer that's paramedics that work during the day doing the managerial function, but they can go out and be at stations, too, when they don't have enough EMTs.

MS. KINLEY: Do we do that?

MR. FERGUSON: When have they ever ridden? And I know that's a loaded question, but when has those two ever ridden on an ambulance since they come to work up here? I can tell you if your answer's correct. Tell me. Tell me.

MR. ANDERSON: I can't answer that question. I can't answer that.

MR. FERGUSON: All right. Well, that's a good enough answer, but I can tell you the answer is no, they haven't been. And that's my point.

MR. HINELY: Right.

MR. FERGUSON: There's expectations of this County on the most critical issue that this County can deal with is people's health and we are not stepping up to the plate; we are not doing what we need to be doing, and all of that stuff is we're doing good and, you know, on paper that looks good, but I know you're talking about we can't work people 48 hours, we got paramedics that are working 48 hours three times a week, straight shift behind shift because we don't have the paramedics to do them. And I know that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Hinely.

MR. HINELY: I think Mr. Ferguson's got a lot of frustration obviously, and we do, too. And I would say that the system that we use is probably a pretty good system if everything's kind of and normal and all that kind of stuff. We've had not so much downtime, but just qualified people that we're short of.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right.

MR. HINELY: And I think what Mr. Ferguson is suggesting, you know, we ought to look into that and see what we can do and see how we can at least during this crunch time reallocate maybe some resources. And we know that will cause another problem on the other end, but it might be less than the problem that we have by doing this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Hinely, I'm going to also put that in health education and recreation committee. Mr. Perry, so you and Mr. Trapp and Mr. Ferguson can sit down with EMS and kind of get a better understanding of this thing.

MR. FERGUSON: I'm through, Mr. Chairman. I don't believe I want to bring up nothing else.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ms. Kinley?

MS. KINLEY: Thank you, sir. How are we doing this with seven vacancies? Are we running trucks without paramedics on it with seven vacancies?

MR. ANDERSON: Yes, ma'am. For me to sit here and tell you we're not, we are. By the State code to keep our EMS certifications, we have to have a paramedic on a truck I think 80 percent of the time. And we are at that point. That's why we've, you know, we are going to be using the captains and anywhere else we can fill in, but that's going to make overtime jump and we all know that. That's the way they get paid. That's going to jump tremendously, but we have to do that to make sure the safety of the County is in place. We have been working on this, but we have counties around us, I mean, not really doing so much in salaries. Got a count north of us, we are working a 24/48; they're going to 24/72, so you work one day and three days off. They have more people, but you make the same amount of money working seven days a month, so you have different factors of where people are doing different type of things to get people to work. And the problem is not people don't want to work, it's the amount of hours that a paramedic and you know this, Ms. Mary Lynn, amount of hours that a paramedic has to cover to be a paramedic.

MS. KINLEY: Right.

MR. ANDERSON: Isn't it gone to like 1500 or almost like an associate degree, maybe six hours less than a registered nurse.

MS. KINLEY: Right.

MR. ANDERSON: So people say, well, I might as well go ahead and be the registered nurse because I can make \$60,000 to \$70,000 a year. So people are not falling into those categories. We were looking at contracting it out, but then you're looking at a contract bill that we wouldn't be able to pay.

MS. KINLEY: Too much.

MR. HINELY: Can't afford that.

MR. ANDERSON: Can't afford that. So we got some issues there we're going to have to, you know, study. We're going to have to make some preparations and make sure we are focusing on the issue. But we are not deaf to that. We've been looking at that.

MR. HINELY: About the last 40 years, counties have kind of been in the EMS business, you know, before those funeral homes ran the calls. Customers or whatever. And just the supply of people just never has caught up, the supply of employees, you know, and it's kind of like the worst kept secret in town, you know, if we raise our pay, they raise their's, or we do one thing, they'll do something else.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Supply and demand.

MR. HINELY: We just get whipsawed to death and, you know, but anyway, I think Mr. Ferguson's got some valid points and we'll get on that.

MS. KINLEY: Two comments to that. Are we doing anything to promote this with the students in the high school to look at these areas of going in? I mean, could we let them shadow, could we let them do that, to see the need for this and the beauty of the program, you know, so?

MR. HINELY: It's a great career.

MS. KINLEY: So are we doing anything?

MR. ANDERSON: We've done two things. We've got the captains going into the schools and also we are giving classes at Midlands Tech. We have a lot of people that's going in for the basic EMT class.

MS. KINLEY: Right, we just advertised that.

MR. ANDERSON: It's a tremendous amount of those qualified people, but the paramedic skill, that's where, you know, that's the bread and butter. That's who you want to come to your house if you got a cardiac arrest or, you know, somebody's not breathing. Those are the people that we must attract and we must try to keep here. Talked with Mr. Ferguson about it, we know we're a smaller county, so what we have started to do, we are starting to attract more of the EMTs, and it's a good thing they're more experienced, but they're getting a little old in age; they don't want to work in Columbia and run 15 to 18 calls in a twelve hour shift, so they want to come to Fairfield County where they can specialize and not just beat themselves down. So we're getting some of them to come, but right now we happen to have seven openings. And it's nothing wrong with those employees. They just are more seasoned and they just ... they just can't run a call every hour like in Richland County, and you know what I'm speaking of. But right now we're just at seven openings. And Richland County bumped their salary up to basically a EMT almost making \$40,000 a year, then paramedics up about \$60,000 with overtime, you know, some of our paramedics, say hey, "I got to go make this bread and butter," and they go to Richland County.

MS. KINLEY: Just one comment on the administrative end. Three years ago, we had three administrative nurses that sat in the office. We have none now because we could not afford to pay a nurse to sit behind a desk, so they're all on the floor or in the ER working now and we had to bite that bullet three years ago.

MR. HINELY: Working supervisors.

MS. KINLEY: Absolutely.

MR. HINELY: Working supervisors.

MS. KINLEY: And they get an extra stipend for being the supervisor part, but they're also working the floor or the emergency room.

MR. ANDERSON: I think that we can come back with a plan to the committee that we can be proud of to make sure that we're getting the service out there to the people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Got any other concerns on the budget? Because, if not, we're going to adjourn or if we got more concerns, we're going to recess in just a minute or either we're going to come back Wednesday night.

So anybody got any further concerns about the budget?

MS. ROBINSON: Whenever the water companies make the request based on the application, where is that in the budget?

MR. HINELY: That's \$100,000 line item in there and what we'll do is if it's kind of a chicken and an egg we ask them to give us their request and the Council has put that in the budget over the last several years, and what we'll do is if you all approve the budget, we've already gotten their requests, As soon as you do the budget, we'll come to you and say, here's a list of the ones that we have and it usually never exceeds the amount of money that we have.

is? I know it's \$100,000 that we put in there.

MS. JOHNSON: It's in the 225 account, page 94.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 94?

4. **ADJOURN**

The budget worksession was adjourned at 8:07 P.M, upon motion by Council Member Marcharia; second by Council Member Ferguson and unanimous approval by Council.

SHRYLL M. BROWN
CLERK TO COUNCIL

RUSSELL DAVID BROWN
CHAIRMAN