



**MINUTES
BUDGET WORK SESSION IV
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
MAY 17, 2023**

Present: Shirley Greene, Peggy Swearingen, Cornelius Robinson, Tim Roseborough, Doug Pauley, Clarence Gilbert, Dan Ruff (Council Members); Laura Johnson, Interim County Administrator; Synithia Williams (Deputy County Administrator); Beverly Mozie (Interim Finance Director); Dr. Kimberly Roberts, Clerk to Council.

Absent: None.

Others Present: Beverly Mozie

In accordance with the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80 (e), as amended, the following persons and/or organizations have been notified of the time, date and location of this meeting: The Independent Voice of Blythewood and Fairfield, The Country Chronicle and one hundred forty one other individuals.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pauley called the Work Session to order at 3:03 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Councilman Ruff, seconded by Councilman Gilbert, to approve the agenda. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

III. INVOCATION

Councilman Ruff led the invocation.

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. FY 2023-2024 Budget

Mrs. Johnson turned the meeting over to Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Mozie. Mrs. Williams said she would first answer the questions Council had from the last budget meeting. Regarding Fire Services, they asked Interim Fire Chief Jamie Webb to attend to answer questions. Some of the questions they asked were where would the new fire fighters be housed, how many volunteers were at the Dutchman Creek Fire Station, who would be assigned to the River Road Fire Station and what were the differences between Fire Marshall and Deputy Fire Chief duties. They were given a handout that was created by Mr. Webb that answered those questions and he referred to the handout. **PLEASE SEE ATTACHED.** Mrs. Swearingen

asked if there was currently someone in Jenkinsville. Mr. Webb said that person was out on medical leave and he moved someone from another station for coverage but there was no one there every day. He said if he had more staff, he could move some people around to increase coverage in other areas. Mrs. Swearingen said she knew they did not have a facility but they needed someone to cover part-time in Feasterville and Blair. Mr. Webb said the problem was not having the utilities to accommodate the staff. Mr. Pauley stated that Mr. Webb based the information on call volume and Feasterville only had 20 calls for 2022. Mr. Webb said he was correct and he tried to place staff in the areas that had more calls. Mrs. Swearingen said she understood that but they had a house to burn to the ground and the houses in Feasterville and Blair were just as important as homes elsewhere. She requested he reconsider and do something for those areas. He said without facility upgrades it would be very difficult and it would become a health hazard but he would do the best he could. He reiterated the difficulty of the request without facility upgrades. Mr. Ruff said even if he had a person on staff there, if there were not enough volunteers, one person would not be able to handle a job alone. Mrs. Swearingen emphasized the need for help in that area. Mr. Pauley wanted to verify that he was asking for four full-time firefighters and a Fire Marshal and Mrs. Johnson said yes. Mrs. Swearingen asked the responsibilities of the Fire Marshal. Mr. Webb referred to and read the last page of the document he provided, which stated the duties of a Fire Marshal. The Fire Chief, Deputy Chief and firefighters were experts in putting out fires and handling emergency calls. The Fire Marshal was an expert on fire and building codes, code reviews and making sure the county was as safe as possible to try to prevent fires. Mrs. Swearingen asked if one person could perform both jobs and Mr. Webb said not effectively. Mr. Robinson asked if the inspections were done and he said they did the best they could with a part-time fire inspector. Mr. Roseborough stated in the past the Director of Fire Protection was also the Fire Marshal. Mr. Webb said in the past, Fairfield operated as 11 separate fire departments and the county had a County Fire Marshal – no Chief or Deputy Chief and he did the duties of a Chief. When he changed to the Fire Chief, the Deputy Chief came on board as a certified Fire Marshal and they had a part-time inspector. All three of those persons had retired. To find someone to work in both roles effectively would be hard. Mr. Pauley said his department had asked for a Fire Marshal position for as long as he could remember. He asked if he or Mrs. Johnson know the number of public buildings in Fairfield that should be inspected and Mr. Webb said he did not know but could get that information. He said every building open to the public was supposed to be inspected. Mr. Pauley said he was concerned about the liability regarding buildings not being inspected as they should

and Mr. Webb said it was state law that they be inspected – in the County, not the Town of Ridgeway but he believed the County agreed to inspect some buildings in Ridgeway. Mrs. Swearingen said they had one full-time at Community and one full-time at Greenbrier and wanted to know how far apart they were and he said he did not know. She said they could not be that far apart and he agreed. She suggested the Greenbrier staff be split in the Feasterville/Blair area. He said part of the reason for the heavier coverage in some areas was due to the industrial buildings (M Lily and other plants). Mr. Pauley said Mr. Webb agreed to look into options but his ability to make any changes would depend on whether or not Council agreed to grant him his budget requests. Mrs. Swearingen asked for the ISO rating for Feasterville/Blair and he said they were a countywide 5/9. Mr. Webb said he hoped they would strongly consider the Fire Marshal position. He thought it would be a great asset to the county and would help with the growth and industry they were trying to bring in.

Mrs. Williams said another question from the last meeting regarded the temporary position requested by the Probate Judge's office. The position was for a temporary, as needed position for the entire fiscal year. They did not want the position to disappear after the fiscal year because it may be utilized in subsequent years based on need and caseload. Mr. Pauley asked how many staff were in that office and Mrs. Johnson said two full-time and one temporary, which was Judge Renwick (she was training the new Probate Judge). He requested the temporary position remain in case of increased caseload or consulting needs. Mrs. Johnson reminded Council that they could not decrease an elected official's budget unless they agreed to it. Mrs. Greene said if they agreed to the temporary position, they could not take it out. Mr. Ruff asked how long did Judge Renwick plan to train and how many days per week did she train. Mrs. Johnson said she did not know how many days Judge Renwick was there and that the request came from the newly elected Probate Judge, Mr. Caulder.

Mrs. Williams said there was also a question regarding the total cost of the health insurance increase for the entire County. Mrs. Mozie said it was \$88,623.24. She used the health care costs for fiscal year 2022 as a base and 5% was the amount of the budget for fiscal year 2024. The total cost would be approximately \$1,861,088.00 with the increase being \$88,623.24. Mr. Pauley asked per year, unless it went up the next year, the budget would go up \$1,861,000.88. Mrs. Mozie said it would go up \$88,623.24 but would make the total cost of healthcare approximately \$1,861,088.00. He asked if it included everything that the County paid and

she said it included all the healthcare benefits – dental, medical, health savings, the money plus – all of the benefits associated with healthcare.

Mrs. Williams said another question was about the child support delivery funds and whether or not the County was getting paid for the delivery of child support paperwork. She said the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office received \$16.50 for each successful service and they served approximately 15-20 per month, which was between \$200-\$300 per month. Those funds were directly deposited into the Treasurer's Office. Family Court also received money from the Department of Social Services for that service. There were some specific regulations as to what the money could be used for.

Another question regarded what percentage of Transit was not grant funded. Mrs. Mozie said the percentage varied based on the total number of miles driven for County citizens who used public transportation. Transit had a continued pattern of increase in public transportation routes and offerings for citizen transports. Currently, the reimbursement rate was 70% for any expenditures that involved public transportation, whether it was administrative costs, operations, office or electronic equipment. That was good news because in recent years, the percentage was only 8%. Since the director started, the percentage continued to increase. Also, large capital purchases and travel were reimbursed at 100% while prevented maintenance associated costs were reimbursed at approximately 90%. Mrs. Swearingen asked if she had a total of what the County was paying and she said if they paid 70% then the County paid 30%. It varied monthly depending on how many miles were driven. Mrs. Swearingen asked if she had a dollar amount and she said they would have to get back to them with that information.

Mrs. Williams said regarding the question about the end date of the County's contract with the MUSC emergency room, there was no termination date but there were terms as to how either party could get out of the agreement. They signed the agreement with Providence Hospital in November 2017. In that agreement, the County agreed to pay \$10 million total - \$4 million up front and \$1 million over the following six years. The last payment would be that year – the end of calendar year 2023. They also signed amendments with MUSC. The most recent amendment - same terms but they went through it every year – it was signed in April 2023.

The question was asked if the old administration building could be sold, torn down or if it was tied up in bonds. The answer was yes, it was tied up in the County's IRB bond but they had three options. They would meet with

their bond attorneys that week Friday to go over those options. One option was to sell the building and use the proceeds to pay down the bond, second was to seek the release of the building from the bond so they could sell it and use the proceeds how they saw fit and the third was combination of the first and second option. They would provide updates as they received more information.

Mrs. Williams said another question regarded the County Engineer position approved with the Rural Stabilization Fund. The job description for the position was developed towards the end of last year when Council approved the position and at the same time, the HR department lost two key positions. The positions in the HR department were filled and they were directed to get it finalized and they hoped to advertise soon.

Mrs. Williams said the final question regarded the request for an additional part-time legislation delegation staff – Council wanted to know the duties of the current staff, who she reported to, and how she reported to the County as far as her time/schedule. The position did not accrue any leave, the hours were from 9a-1p and it was a direct report to Senator Fanning although she worked for Representative McDaniel as well. Mrs. Greene asked if the position would stay because it fell under an elected official. Mrs. Johnson said it was a good question and she would get an answer. Mrs. Swearingen asked if it was a year-round position and Mrs. Johnson said yes. Mrs. Swearingen said the Senate and House did not stay in session long and asked what the person did during that time. Mrs. Johnson said the position did not report to them although they paid for it. Mrs. Williams said she knew that citizens were able to contact/meet with Senator Fanning thru that position but they would get more information regarding specific duties during non-sessions. Mr. Gilbert asked if the position was originally created to report to both Senator Fanning and Representative McDaniel. Mrs. Johnson said her understanding was it meant for both. Mr. Robinson said he thought it was a law that they were supposed to provide a person.

Mr. Ruff asked if they found out whether or not the incinerator could be used elsewhere or could they sell it. Mrs. Johnson said in her opinion they needed to sell it. She and Director Burroughs looked at it and it was very old and small. Citizens complained about it, it was sitting and they had no other place to put it. If Council agreed, they would like to sell it. He asked how much it cost and she said she could not remember.

Mr. Pauley asked regarding their "homework" if those items they were in favor of would be put on a motion's list. Mrs. Johnson said they would review the list and those things that the majority of Council was in favor of

would (by the second reading) reflect in the updated numbers. They would vote at that time. Mrs. Williams said based on that meeting, they would make the necessary adjustments and have new updated budget numbers at the second reading scheduled for June 12th. At the third and final reading, they would make adjustments from the second reading and they could make a second motion's list based on any additions before third and final reading. Mr. Pauley asked in reference to the items before them if a decision was not made that day, when was the latest date. Mrs. Johnson said they would have another work session on the 24th. Mr. Pauley said he might be out of order but he was in favor of adding Veteran's Day to the holiday calendar. Mr. Robinson said he was a veteran but he thought they already had 12 holidays including Juneteenth and asked if adding another would make it 13. Mrs. Williams said that was correct and it would be the same as the state. Mr. Robinson said the state recognized Confederate Day and Mrs. Johnson agreed. She said their history was if they added a holiday, they would take one away (Mr. Robinson agreed) but there was nothing in writing. The additional holiday was recommended as an employee incentive. Mr. Ruff agreed with Mr. Robinson and did not know if he was in favor of another holiday although he fully supported veterans. Mrs. Swearingen asked how much a holiday cost the county. Mrs. Johnson could not give a dollar amount but said it was no additional cost with the exception of the officers that worked. Mrs. Swearingen asked how many veteran employees the county had and Mrs. Johnson said she did not know that. Mrs. Greene asked if it was possible to give a choice and allow employees to choose 12 of the 13 and Mrs. Johnson said it would be cumbersome. They would need someone to monitor every employee and it could lead to some smaller departments being short-staffed. Mr. Pauley asked if it could be put on the motion's list and she agreed.

Mrs. Johnson referred to the list in front of Council and said the first item was the toughest because it set the stage for everything else – a millage increase. The eight millage increase was already calculated in the numbers and it was very important that it be discussed because it would determine any needed budgetary changes. If there was no increase or if the increase was small, Administration would have to decide what they would cut – capital and agencies. Mrs. Swearingen said if they did not fund EMS, fire and police to take care of the residents, how could they expect anyone to want to live there, especially with Scout coming. She thought they needed to fully fund them so they would all be protected – she felt like they did not have a choice. Mr. Roseborough said he was not in favor of a millage increase and asked if they could use the fund balance. Mrs. Johnson said that was what Council had done for the last few years. In 2020, \$4.2 million

was budgeted and \$4 million was used. In 2021, \$5.3 million was budgeted and \$2 million was used. She said costs were going up and their main source of revenue was taxes – grants and other similar funding sources were not reoccurring. Some capital items in their budget books were very old and were requested in the past but not approved. They received a millage cap report annually and it showed how much each county could increase taxes. Fairfield's cap was eight percent and some counties could go up to 13%. Mrs. Swearingen asked the increase on a \$200,000 house and Mrs. Johnson said there were examples in their books and the increase on a \$200,000 home was about \$64. She said she included in her budget letter that it included the local option sales tax being applied (property tax credit). It was based on the property assessed value. Mrs. Swearingen said it was a small price to pay for a peace of mind. Mr. Gilbert said they could use the fund balance and but would have to find a way to rebuild it. The citizens said that wanted services and departments have said their equipment was adequated. No one wanted taxes to increase but they had to find a way to survive. They had to do what they had to do.

Mrs. Williams said compared to other counties, everything went into their (Fairfield) general fund millage so when they purchased capital, they transferred out. Therefore, it made their general fund millage seem high compared to other counties. Some had millage dedicated to only capital, public safety, fees, etc. when those things were calculated, Fairfield was not the highest but rather in the middle with counties their size. Mr. Pauley agreed with Mrs. Williams and said he looked at that same information earlier. He said no one wanted to increase the millage but it had not been done since 2014 or 2015. He was not suggesting to raise it 8% but they had to look at ways to offset the times they were in – to retain employees and provide services to the citizens. Mr. Ruff asked the amount of the last millage increase in 2014/2015 and Mrs. Johnson said she only went back as far as 2016. Mrs. Swearingen said a \$32 increase on a \$100,000 home divided by 365 days only equaled to eight cents a day. Mrs. Johnson said if increases were done gradually, it would not be that noticeable but because it had not been done in so long, it seemed like a lot.

Mr. Gilbert asked what amount of the requested millage increase would go toward capital. Mrs. Johnson said she suggested a lease purchase agreement in the approximate amount of \$4 million and it would take approximately five mills to cover the recommended capital requests. The repayment would be close to \$750,000 for the next seven years although it could be extended to 10 years. Mr. Roseborough asked if a ladder truck was included in her recommendations. She referred to the capital request

sheet in their budget book, which included her recommendations. Mrs. Swearingen said if they had gone up at least one millage per year since the last increase, they would basically be where they were at that point and Mrs. Johnson agreed. Mr. Roseborough said a \$64 increase might not seem like a lot but to a person on a fixed income it could be. Mrs. Johnson said it could be less based on the assessed value of the property - the biggest increase would be paid by companies. Mrs. Swearingen said those on a fixed income would get the Homestead Exemption.

Mrs. Johnson reminded them that anything in the budget could be changed and the motion's list was being created during the meeting. Mr. Pauley asked how much money would the eight mil increase equal to per year and Mrs. Williams said \$1.2 million with a 96% collection rate. He asked how much would that amount decrease if they included the three and five percent COLA increase and Mrs. Johnson said \$694,828. She said a portion of the fund balance would still be used - the suggested increase was to offset using as much. Mr. Pauley asked if she was keeping the outside agencies where they were last year and she said they were decreased by 10%. Although department budgets were cut last year by 10%, the agencies were not. She suggested cutting their budgets by 10% and mentioned that they received other sources of funding. They funded agencies with \$2.7 million. Mrs. Greene said last year when they looked at the agencies, ARPA funding and COVID played an important role in their budgets staying the same. She suggested giving some funding to Communities In Schools and Love Never Fails. Mrs. Johnson agreed.

Mrs. Swearingen said the fund balance was like a savings account and one could not continue to take from the savings without putting money in it. Mrs. Johnson said that was the reason she suggested a millage increase. They could not predict to the dollar how much money would come in because the calculations were based on the current assessed values, which could/would change. Regarding the new Administration building, they were about a year and half into a seven-year lease and needed to start thinking about whether they wanted to stay there, find another building or construct a new one. At the end of the lease, they would have spent \$4.2 million not including maintenance.

Mr. Pauley asked if they did not approve the millage increase, would that mean that they would not get any new positions or any capital requests fulfilled and Mrs. Johnson said that was correct. She said if Council decided not to approve a millage increase but wanted Administration to provide in one area, she would have to cut in another area. Mr. Roseborough asked the amount that would be taken from the fund balance if the capital

requests were taken from that account and Mrs. Johnson said it would be about \$750,000. She would remove the \$3.5 million out of the budget and take \$750,000 instead because of the lease purchase agreement – that would be the payment over the next seven years. It would not include infrastructure (bridges) – only equipment.

Mrs. Swearingen asked what the issues were surrounding the eight millage increase request. They had not had an increase since 2016 and people wanted/needed services. Mr. Roseborough said people did not want their taxes increased. He thought they needed to go back to having individual fire departments/fire chiefs. He said the county was too big and rural to have a fire department for the whole county. Mr. Ruff said he did not like the idea of raising taxes but he did not see where they had a choice. The cost of everything was increasing and they needed to provide services for the citizens. Mr. Gilbert said he did not think they needed to put the decision off until the next week. Mr. Robinson asked if the capital requests were needs and not wants and Mrs. Johnson said they went through the requests and tried to present those most needed. He said in the past there were more wants than needs requested and he knew times changed. Mrs. Greene said she would love to be in agreement but she lived in a high tax neighborhood and there was a lot of pushback. She knew they wanted the services and thought it was important do some public relations to let the citizens know why it was necessary at that point – to make the case for the millage increase.

Mrs. Williams said the millage cap was based on inflation – the Consumer Price Index. In previous years, counties were allowed one or two percent of their millage cap but last year, theirs was 4% and the current year it was 8%, which showed the state was looking at inflation. They could go up 12 mills based on the millage cap. Going forward, it may help Council if they looked at the millage cap every year and considered the one or two percent recommendation to avoid having to make tough decisions like the one at present. Mrs. Williams said at the next budget meeting, they could have a presentation that explained how a millage was calculated, what the millage cap meant, and what it would look like on a \$100, \$200, \$500 thousand dollar or one million dollar home. Mr. Robinson asked if they could get a comparison with other counties and she agreed. She said the SC Association of Counties also had an updated document that showed the current millage and the fees associated. Mr. Roseborough said he thought a tax increase would be a hard sell to the public and they did not see services changing. Mrs. Johnson said additional services would need

additional funding and just to sustain what they had currently would still need additional funding.

At 4:57pm, Mr. Robinson requested a 10-minute recess. Mr. Pauley called for the recess. Mr. Pauley called the meeting back to order at 5:15pm.

Mrs. Johnson said regarding personnel requests, they had already gone over the reinstatement positions requests so they would move on to the new positions. Mr. Pauley said he knew it was ultimately the Council's decision, but he would like Administration's input on the needs of the departments to help with the process. Mrs. Johnson referred to their books and said her recommendations were in the "yes" column. Regarding the delegation position, she thought they were okay with not filling that position and they agreed. She said they needed the Fire Marshal position and asked for their input on the four requested firefighter positions. Mr. Robinson asked if they would be putting the cart before the horse by adding the firefighters. Mrs. Johnson said according the Interim Director Webb, they would be placed at the existing fire stations. She said they would table that for the next meeting. She said the part-time recreation position was for the new Ridgeway Recreation Center. The consensus was not to fill the Magistrate's Bailiff position. Mr. Robinson said he would like to have a PIO position. Mrs. Johnson said Mrs. Williams currently worked in that position but did not receive additional pay and did not have the time to fully devote to the position. Mrs. Williams said she researched the position in the Columbia area and the average salary was \$70,000 but the range went from \$50,000-\$90,000. Some of the responsibilities were communicating with the media, public and other agencies, providing timely information about things happening in Fairfield County, regularly interact with the public, create newsletter, and expound the social media outlets. That person would attend and promote county events, write press releases, give accurate information about the county's programs and policies and be responsible for giving information regarding disasters or if the EOC was activated. Mrs. Greene asked if the stabilization funds could be used to fund the position. Mrs. Williams said they would check into it and the Rural Stabilization Fund might be able to cover it in the short term. In the long run, the county might have to absorb that cost. Mrs. Greene asked if regarding the Magistrate requesting a Bailiff, if the Sheriff's Office helped them out and the answer was yes. Mr. Robinson said the Sheriff's Office had a part-time program for deputies to assist in that area but he did not know what happened with the program.

Mrs. Johnson said regarding allocations, they were cut by 10% with the exception of the Solicitor and the Public Defender. The Railroad Museum, the Chamber and the Olde English District also would not change because their funding came from the state Accommodations Tax. Mrs. Greene asked if Love Never Fails and Communities In Schools could receive funds within the \$3,000-\$5,000 range. Mr. Pauley said he worked with Love Never Fails and it was a great organization. He wanted to ensure that the Council received results of the funding they provided. Mrs. Johnson said she and Mrs. Williams met with the Director of Love Never Fails and gave him some suggestions as to ways to collect data and statistics. Mr. Pauley said he was not singling them out – he witnessed their work. He was speaking in general about any organization going forward. Mr. Robinson said the Director of Transitions impressed him with his presentation and he worked well with the Sheriff's Office. The director was only asking for \$3,600. Mrs. Johnson said they took their citizens and provided not only housing for all who came but also provided training for jobs to help them gain independence. Mr. Robinson said some of the other agencies received funding yearly and Council never received any reports from them. He suggested taking funds from some of the other agencies and allocating it to Transitions because they provided numbers and statistics. Mrs. Johnson said she could reduce the Good Samaritan by 5% and give the difference to Transitions, which would be an increase of \$1,400. Mr. Pauley asked how the funds were drawn – all at once or in increments. Mrs. Johnson said they had an allocation sheet and depending on the amount, they gave it all at once or a portion per quarter and they had to be non-profit. Mrs. Swearingen asked if the Solicitor stated there would be some services he would not be able to provide if he did not get the funding requested. Mrs. Johnson said they had a ladder they used with their attorneys to have them at certain levels and he also wanted to implement software to assist their processes. He asked for \$171,000 – she did not cut him but kept him at \$114,000. He was losing attorneys due to pay. Mrs. Swearingen asked if they could do something to help. Mr. Ruff said he remembered that the comparison the Solicitor gave involved larger counties with larger budgets. Mrs. Williams said he sent an updated comparison and she would send it to Council. Mr. Pauley said all of the agencies were important but they needed to look at the services provided. He thought Behavioral Health Services did a lot for the county and he knew they received funding from other sources but he felt they should give them what they requested or leave them at their adopted budget from the previous year. Mr. Gilbert agreed with Mr. Pauley. Mrs. Johnson asked if they wanted to keep it the same with no cuts and the answer was yes. The consensus was to give Communities In Schools 3% and no funding for Making a Difference.

Mrs. Johnson said regarding capital requests, they went over them in the last budget work session. Mrs. Greene said there was a question as to whether or not they were selling the Farmer's Market. Mrs. Johnson said they talked about paving the parking lot and updating the sprinkler system. She did not include that in her request because those funds would come from the Accommodations and Hospitality Taxes. Mr. Pauley said he had concerns with the 42-year old fire truck and Mrs. Johnson said she would look into it. She said the bridge replacement would come off the lease purchase agreement list because it could not be paid with that but it would still be replaced. Mrs. Swearingen asked if the Recreation Department would get the two commercial mowers they requested (\$14,000 each) and Mrs. Johnson said she only recommended one but would include the second one. They would get the amount for the lease purchase and recalculate the numbers. She would get more information regarding usage of the ladder truck in fire services and she would remove the bridge replacement and the batwig mower.

Mrs. Johnson said the department requested fee increases was not major. The book in front of Council showed the current fee and what the departments requested. Mrs. Williams said she reached out to Mr. Webb regarding the ladder truck and he said they currently used it for commercial fires and alarms and multi-story houses. They would run it more if they had a better truck. He could run a specific report if needed.

Mrs. Johnson said she would add the Veteran's Day holiday to the list. She received consensus to add the COLA increase (\$60,000 and under 5% and over \$60,000 at 3%) for full time and part-time employees. They could look at an hourly rate increase for temporary employees (recycling attendants, poll workers, firefighters). Mrs. Williams said she would talk to Interim Chief Webb about the funding received for incentives and opportunities for anything additional (sign on bonuses) for recruiting and Mr. Pauley said he thought their monies had to be issued a certain way – they needed to check into that as well. Mrs. Greene said they gave the Sheriff's Office \$100,000 last year for retention and recruitment and she did not know how it was used. Mrs. Johnson said she was told it was spread throughout to all of the employees.

Mrs. Johnson said they would answer their questions via email and asked if it was necessary to have another budget meeting on the 24th. If not, they would make the necessary changes and be ready at the second reading. She would send the changes to Council and they could decide if another meeting was needed.

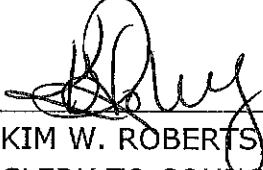
Mrs. Greene said it was mentioned and glossed over about the staff accommodations in the new Administration building. Mrs. Johnson said with EMS moving soon, they reached the maximum for office space and there was no room for growth or storage. Mrs. Greene said she thought they needed to be mindful of that because the future of the county depended on how they managed that.

Mr. Pauley thanked everyone for attending. Mr. Ruff thanked Administration for their work.

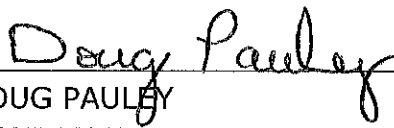
At 6:05pm, motion made by Mr. Ruff to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Robinson.
The motion carried 7-0.

V. ADJOURN

At 6:05 p.m., motion made by Councilman Pauley, seconded by Councilman Robinson, to adjourn. ***The motion carried 7-0.***



KIM W. ROBERTS, Ed. D.
CLERK TO COUNCIL



DOUG PAULEY
CHAIRMAN

- Where would the new fire fighters be housed?

See table:

Station	2022 call volume by station	Currently staffed	Ability to staff	Plan to staff if approved
Headquarters	246		No – offices only	
Ridgeway	240	Yes 1 FT	Yes / not 24/7	Add 1 FT
Community	192	Yes 1 FT	Yes / not 24/7	Add 1 FT *4
Midford	186	Yes 1 PT	Yes / not 24/7	Add 1 FT *1
Greenbrier	109	Yes 1 FT	Yes / not 24/7	
Jenkinsville	79	Yes 1 FT	Yes / not 24/7	Move 1 PT
Southeastern	56	No	No	
Lebanon	52	Yes 1 PT	Yes 24/7	Add 1 FT *2
Blair	39	No	No	
Dutchman Creek	36	No	Yes/ not 24/7	Add 1 FT *3
Feasterville	20	No	No	
Blackstock	6	No	No	
Station 11	SE / DC	No	No	
Station 13	Community	No	Yes/ not 24/7	Move 1 PT
Station 14	Greenbrier	No	Yes Shared EMS	
Station 15	DC	No	No	

Currently the following stations are scheduled to be staffed full time Monday thru Friday 8a-4p: Community, Ridgeway, Greenbrier, and Jenkinsville.

Mitford and Lebanon are staffed 3 days a week with a part time employee at each. With four more fulltime firefighters, I would put a fulltime Monday thru Friday firefighter at Mitford, Lebanon, Dutchman Creek and add a second to Community, as they are in the middle of the county and could respond in any direction. I would move one of the part time firefighters to Jenkinsville 3 days a week to help on the western side of the County and move one to Community Substation/ Training Center 3 days a week to add coverage.

This is my current plan but this plan is flexible. I want to ensure the citizens of Fairfield County are provided the best service possible with the resources we have available.

- How many volunteers are there at the Dutchman Creek Fire Station?
Dutchman Creek has 8 active volunteers on their roster.
- Who will be assigned to the River Rd Fire station?
The new River Road station will be a substation of Southeastern Fire Department, meaning they share the same roster of volunteers. We also have 3 other sub-stations throughout the county; the Peach Road station is a substation of Greenbrier Fire Department, the training center on 321 is substation of Community Fire Department and the River Road station, closest to 21 N, is a

substation of Dutchman Creek Fire Department. Substation is an internal term used for stations that do not have a separate roster of volunteers. For ISO purposes they are each considered a fire station. With that being said, since we are a consolidated countywide department, if a volunteer or paid staff member is close to a station when a call goes out, they respond to that call, no matter what station they are assigned to. Also, just a reminder that funding was not provided to finish the station side of the new River Road station, only the bay side. Meaning the station will not be able to house personnel without additional funding and work.

- What are the differences between the Fire Marshall and Deputy Fire Chief duties?

Fire Marshall Duties:

- Inspects all public building and structures within the County. (per state law all public buildings must be inspected quarterly and yearly)
- Locates fire code violations.
- Test fire protection systems.
- Perform plan reviews and occupancy certifications for new buildings, renovations, and - occupancy changes.
- Document all inspections and violations.
- Investigates structure fires.

Deputy Fire Chief Duties:

- Serves as the operations chief- Coordinates the operation of the Fairfield County fire service programs; coordinates duties of volunteer (currently around 110) and paid (Currently 4 fulltime, 3 part-time and 3 maintenance) firefighters. Coordinates duties include instructing; assigning, maintaining standards; coordinating activities.
- Ensures all County fire equipment is in good operation order and meets applicable standards. Operates and ensures the maintenance of a variety of specialized equipment such as fire engines, trucks and other motor vehicles, firefighting apparatus, two-way radio, breathing apparatus, hand tools, etc.
- Serves as Safety Officer for the department.
- Responds to emergency scenes for fires and hazardous materials incidents during business hours and after.
- Conducts fire and arson investigations to assist the Fire Marshall or in their absence- - Keeps abreast of new technology, methods and regulations for fire prevention and suppression operations.