



**MINUTES
BUDGET WORK SESSION II
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
APRIL 19, 2023**

Present: Shirley Greene, Peggy Swearingen, Timothy Roseborough, Cornelius Robinson, Doug Pauley, Clarence Gilbert, Dan Ruff (Council Members); Laura Johnson, Interim County Administrator; 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 6:02 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

III. INVOCATION

Councilwoman Greene led the invocation.

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. AGENCY PRESENTATIONS

Mrs. Johnson introduced Interim Finance Director, Beverly Mozie. Mrs. Mozie said the agencies that were unable to attend the last budget meeting would present first.

COUNCIL ON AGING

Executive Director, Angi Connor, said they were requesting \$102,000.25 to provide services to the seniors. They recently celebrated 50 years of delivering nutrition services to Fairfield County seniors in 2022. The core services of group dining meals, home delivered and transportation were listed in the federal Older Americans Act as requirements to be provided

within every state. The Council on Aging's most recognizable service was their home delivered meals – Meals on Wheels. They also provided senior center activities, local transportation, group dining meals and a host of other services. They currently served approximately 1,425 home delivered meals each week to seniors all over the county. No one was denied a service because of where they lived. They had established routes in Ridgeway, Greenbrier, Blair, Blackstock, Midford, Winnsboro and all the points in between. Clients had to meet certain criteria to receive the home delivered meals and eligibility was determined by Central Midlands Area Agency on Aging. They estimated by June 30th, they would have delivered approximately 62,000 meals into senior homes. They established a weekend meal program in January 2022. The program was funded by a Community Development Block Grant awarded through Fairfield County. Their clients currently received seven meals per week instead of five. They thought the program would end that month but additional grant funds were secured and the program would continue through the end of August. There was no additional funding for the weekend meals, therefore the program would be discontinued. They provided lunch daily in their building and anyone 60+ could attend the center and receive a hot meal five days per week. They also provided activities to promote socialization. Mrs. Swearingen asked if they paid for the food boxes. Ms. Conner said the seniors paid \$6 for the co-op boxes and the commodity boxes were through a DSS program. There was an age requirement (60+) and it was income-based. Mrs. Swearingen asked if they had to come to Winnsboro to get them and she said they typically had to pick them up because they weighed about 40 lbs. each. She asked how many meals they delivered in the Blair area and Ms. Connor said she did not know the exact number. Mrs. Swearingen asked for the numbers in Blackstock and Midford and she said about 10 in Blackstock and about seven or eight in the Midford/Great Falls area – referrals were important. Mrs. Greene thanked her for their services. She restated that the weekend meals were expected to end at the end of the month. She asked if there were plans to re-implement the program with other funding. Ms. Connor said the program was extended through August and she was searching for grants to keep the program active. Mr. Pauley asked her to explain the budget request for contractual services in the amount of \$36,488. She said they had an assessment nurse that went into the homes, vehicle maintenance, pest control and service agreements. He asked what the rental and lease included. She said they leased vehicles to deliver meals and general office equipment (phones, copiers). Mrs. Greene asked her to restate the contractual services and she did.

MIDLANDS TECHNICAL COLLEGE

President of MTC Ronald Rhames thanked the Council for their support and said their budget request was \$142,929, which was the same as last year. He said they were about workforce development and provided education and training through two primary areas – academic and corporate in continuing education. They also provided training, counseling and courses throughout their entire service area, which included Lexington and Richland and in some high schools. Some of those students graduated with an Associate's degree or certificate, which gave them a head start with college and little to no debt. The Advisory Board met that night to talk about ways to grow participation, especially in Fairfield. Mrs. Swearingen asked if only one student took a course in the spring 2021. Dr. Rhames said it was one student who took the course on campus but it did not include the dual enrollment students. She asked if in 2022, they only had two people come to the building and he said those were students who were taking academic courses – that was correct. She asked how many classrooms there were and he said he believed four. He said there were other students taking classes aside from the ones she referenced. She asked if they were heating/cooling the building for one or two people. He said the Council had access to the building as well and when they offered courses they did not know who would register. Mr. Pauley asked for clarification regarding them providing a building for a teacher and one student. Dr. Rhames said they were providing a means for that student to get an education – that was correct. He said they had Fairfield students that took classes at their other campuses as well. Mrs. Swearingen asked if the \$150,000 budgeted for academic faculty was for one teacher and he said no, it was for the adjuncts and part-time faculty. Mr. Pauley asked how many faculty members were employed at the Fairfield campus. Dr. Rhames said they did not have any employed. When a course was offered, they assigned a teacher for that course. Mr. Pauley asked if someone wanted to register for classes at the Fairfield location, could he/she go to the Fairfield campus to do so and he said yes – they had someone there during office hours who could take care of registration. He said they also had recruiters who came to community events, etc. to encourage citizens to take classes. Mr. Pauley said a citizen told him that she went to register and was told she would have to go the Columbia campus. Dr. Rhames apologized for the misinformation and if he knew who the person was, he would take care of it. Mr. Robinson said he thought the county did the maintenance at the campus (he saw a \$20,000 request for maintenance). Mrs. Johnson said the county's maintenance cut the grass at the facility. MTC's Chief Financial Officer, Debbie Walker said the services provided by Fairfield County included pest control, refuse disposal, and grass cutting but they (MTC) did all of the landscaping,

security, audio/visual maintenance, life safety inspections and burglar alarm responses. Mrs. Swearingen verified that Fairfield staff cut the grass and asked if the charge to trim shrubs was \$17,500. Ms. Walker said that was for a full year. Mrs. Swearingen asked if it was bid out. Dr. Rhames said they sent their grounds crew. Mr. Gilbert said he agreed with Mrs. Swearingen regarding the landscaping. He had a landscaping business and felt \$20,000 was a bit excessive considering the work involved but they knew what it took and they would adhere to that. Ms. Walker said those fees were paid for by Midlands Tech and were not charged to the county. She said the county only paid the difference between the in-county and out-of-county rate for Fairfield County students that took courses. Mr. Pauley asked for a total of Fairfield County residents that took classes at any of the campuses and the number was 253. Mrs. Swearingen asked if it was only three that took classes in Winnsboro and Dr. Rhames said only three took academic classes but they offered many other courses people did not register for them. Mrs. Swearingen asked if they were paying for the heating and cooling of the building for three people and paying \$17,000 for someone to cut the shrubs. Ms. Walker said the county was not paying that, they were. She said their budget request was for students that had already taken courses. When they presented a budget, it was in the arrears. They had already provided the services to the 253 students. Mrs. Swearingen asked what they would use the \$142,000 they were requesting. Ms. Walker said it was part of the agreement that if a Fairfield student took a class at any of the campuses, the county would pay the difference between the in-county and out-of-county rate. Dr. Rhames said the agreement had been in effect for many years and he made the suggestion to two previous Administrators to look at the agreement to see if there were ways to improve it. They were still willing to do that but they have continued to use the same formula to calculate their budget. Mrs. Greene asked if the students were Fairfield Promise students. She noticed some of them were taking advanced courses. Dr. Rhames there were approximately 100 students in the Fairfield Promise program, which allowed students to take high school and college classes at the same time. It decreased significantly the amount owed for college. Mr. Ruff said he thought MTC did a great job with providing students the opportunity for an education. He asked how many students attended the Fairfield campus over the last 3-4 years. Dr. Rhames said when they initially opened, it was in the 100 range – the Dominion project was at its peak and there were courses offered (welding) to accommodate them but since then enrollment decreased, especially with the academic courses. Last year, they experimented with offering free community-based courses (How To Safely Navigate the Internet). They had about 25-30 people enrolled and they offered other classes as well.

CENTRAL MIDLAND COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Missy Labby, Director of Finance, said their budget request was \$17,748. They provided local government services to four Midland counties – Fairfield, Richland, Lexington and Newberry. They provided a regional forum that allowed officials to seek out common goals and deal with regional issues. They offered five basic programs that served local governments and individuals. With transportation, they were working on resurfacing Longtown Road, intersection improvements, working with SCDOT to improve safety in the region and working on the regional bike and pedestrian master plan to incorporate the "Complete Street" initiative. They supported Fairfield County's Council on Aging through their Agency on Aging with home delivered meals, transportation to medical appointments, in-home services, respite care and incontinence supplies. Their planning and economic development program provided local government planning services. They were currently working on Fairfield and Winnsboro's comprehensive plan updates. They developed, applied and administered grants on behalf of the county and they were working on establishing water quality initiatives throughout the state. Their Ombudsman program provided staff to do site visits to senior care facilities, emergency services for transfers and discharges, offered training, and investigated complaints and resolved issues. Their Workforce Initiative and Opportunity Act Group allowed people to come in and search for jobs, apply online, print resumes/cover letters, etc. They also had youth programs and work experiences through internships. They used the budgeted requested funds for grant matches. Mrs. Swearingen asked if each 15-county member paid \$17,748 and she said no, it was based on population.

OLDE ENGLISH DISTRICT

Projects Manager, Lynn Moore, said they were created by state legislature in 1982 to promote tourism and economic development in seven counties – Chester, Chesterfield, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, York and Union. Their budget request was \$23,288 from Accommodations Tax allocations. They worked closely with the Chamber to market the county. They recently held a brochure swap between the seven counties and they were able to distribute them to all nine SC welcome centers without having to pay for shipping. They also did study tours where they took one person from each welcome center and took them to different attractions so they would be better able to promote them. They had a redesigned website (oldeenglishdistrict.com) and they were overhauling their destination guide. Mr. Pauley asked how they could they be ensured that they would get \$23,288 worth of marketing with the six other counties they served. She said they did about \$250,000 worth of marketing and they tried to

divide the time between the counties. Some counties might have more attractions than others and there might be a little more time spent there. She could not say it was a dollar for dollar match but Fairfield got their money's worth by partnering with them. Mr. Ruff asked if the funding amount requested was the same for all counties. She said no, it was dependent on how much Allocations Tax funds were allocated to them and they tried to promote across the board.

SC I-77 Alliance

Interim President & CEO, Christopher Finn, said they were an economic development organization. There were eight regional alliances in SC and what made them somewhat unique was that they did not offer project management. When the SC Department of Commerce sent out a site request on behalf of a company, the I-77 Alliance passed the request directly to the counties as the other alliances might be more reluctant to do so. They received about \$660,000 from the state that could only be used for economic development initiatives and was only eligible if they could match it through private sector investment. The other funding came through the five counties that they represented – York, Chester, Fairfield, Richland and Lancaster. The fees charged to the counties was a base rate of \$25,000 and a per capita rate assessed based on population. They partnered with third-party lead generation firms and helped identify companies that might be looking to expand. The alliance absorbed the cost of travel. Fairfield's Economic Director, Ann Broadwater, was currently in Greenville, SC at an event meeting site selectors, which they supported. She was also in Washington, DC two weeks prior that the alliance paid for and she would be in Chicago at the end of the month with consultants. They paid for enhancements to the county's economic development website and they supported them from a research perspective. Mrs. Greene asked for an estimated number of leads they provided in the last year. He said that was difficult because they did not measure themselves on announcements but on marketing and outreach. He could tell them how many companies they spoke to but could not tell if any of them turned into anything tangible. They set a yearly goal of about 150 companies and 100 site selectors to meet directly and they usually exceeded those numbers. He said Mrs. Greene was one their board representatives as well as Ann Broadwater.

MAKING THE DIFFERENCE

Organization representative, Bashan Johnson, said although he and Jeff Schaffer did not share all of the same beliefs they both believed in this program. The program started because they believed in the youth. Their program dealt with the three C's – character, courage and commitment.

Self-confidence and self-esteem were also very important and could keep a lot of kids out of gangs, which was a big problem. They wanted to better prepare the kids for the real world and be respectful humans. It was not about race and they wanted all kids to have the same opportunities. They had several influential board members but also needed support from Council. Mr. Ruff said he was proud of what they were trying to do. Mr. Roseborough asked how long had they been organized. Mr. Johnson said about six years but as they started to gain momentum, COVID came and shut everything down. They were trying to get it going again. Mrs. Swearingen asked how many people were on their board and he said five. She asked if they visited schools and he said they would go wherever they were needed – schools, churches, etc. They met with the Winnsboro Police Department to have them meet the kids in their group. They felt this would decrease fear on both sides. Mrs. Greene asked for their physical location and he said that was a part of their budget request. They needed office space and support for speakers, etc. Mr. Ruff asked if they requested funding from other sources and he said they received a donation to help them get started. Mrs. Greene asked about their volunteer capacity and he said they had volunteers. Mrs. Greene asked if the five board members would be the ones going out on behalf of the program and he said no, they would have certified, qualified people to work with the kids. She said she did not see training in their budget and he said it should be and they would work on that. Mr. Gilbert said he appreciated his passion and the work they were trying to do. Mrs. Greene apologized because she saw they did have \$1,500 in their budget for training.

Five-minute break

Mrs. Mozie said they would transition into the department heads capital budget presentations. They would start with their operating budgets and then with their capital personnel requests and fee changes if they pertained to their departments. All departments were represented except the Airport and Building Maintenance. They originally put in capital requests but decided to withdraw them for fiscal year 2024. They were left on the spreadsheet for tracking and planning purposes. She explained the sheets that were in their packets.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Interim Administrator Johnson gave the report. She referred to the second page of the budget worksheet, which showed an 8.4% increase. The reason for the increase was due to contractual services. In 2023, it was \$45,000 and the estimate for 2024 was up to \$100,000. About a year ago, they lost

a building official who also acted as the Planning Director. As a result, the county had a month-to-month contract with KCI that would end at the end of the month and would continue with Safe Built. They performed building inspections and plan reviews for commercial and residential areas. They also requested a code enforcement officer – they only had one for the entire county. Council needed to consider that medical costs and retirement increased. Mrs. Swearingen asked for an explanation regarding the \$100,000 she spoke of earlier. Mrs. Johnson said they did not have a building official, although it was advertised twice. Because of that, they entered into a month-to-month contract to fill in the gap – to perform building inspections and look at commercial and residential plan reviews. The amount may seem high but it was contingent upon how much activity and plan reviews the county needed. Mr. Pauley asked the last time the position was advertised and if there was a way to advertise in order to get away from the contractual services. Mrs. Johnson said they intended to continue to advertise until the position was filled, which was the reason the contract was month-to-month. Mrs. Swearingen asked if the salary for the position was an issue and Mrs. Johnson said she did not know. She asked the Human Resources staff and was told only one person applied and that person did not meet the minimum qualifications. Mrs. Greene asked about the position in Community Development that was supposed to be funded via the Rural Stabilization funds. Mrs. Johnson said they were in the process of advertising that position. She said her recommendations regarding capital requests was for a planning plotter – it printed all big documents, surveys, house plans, etc. The useful life of a plotter was about five years. The current one was more than eight years old and falling apart.

CORONER'S OFFICE

Mrs. Johnson said their budget increased by 8.49%. The largest increase was in personnel services and fringe. Coroner, Chris Hill, referenced the packet given to Council. He was asking for \$20,000 for a vehicle for his Deputy Coroner. They were both on call from 6a-6p Monday-Friday. She sometimes responded to calls using her personal vehicle, which was not covered under the county's insurance. Mr. Gilbert asked if the \$20,000 was for a used vehicle and he said yes sir. Mr. Pauley asked if it would be her vehicle only or would it be rotated among the other Deputy Coroners. Mr. Hill said it would be her assigned vehicle. They had a car that the other coroners used and it remained at the office. If she received a call from her area, there would be a lapse in time for her to go to the office and pick up the car. He tried to keep his response time to 30 minutes or less. Mr. Roseborough asked if there was a spare vehicle for her drive home and Mr. Hill said no. Mr. Gilbert asked if it would be a high mileage car and he said

no sir. Mrs. Swearingen said she appreciated the Deputy Coroner being in her area.

DETENTION CENTER

Mrs. Mozie said their budget increased by 14.85%. They were requesting juvenile housing and replacement of their locking system. Director Harriet Squirewell said they were committed to protecting the community, staff and inmates while remaining responsible in meeting the needs of Fairfield County by partnering with the SC Department of Corrections. They strived to protect the citizens by confining offenders in a controlled facility and providing rehabilitation and self-improvement opportunities. Their capital request was for locks, which were crucial for maintaining the safety of the staff and inmates. The estimated cost was \$175,240.28. The benefits were limited escapes, enhancing security and controlled movements. The current locks were about 25 years old. She recalled a facility in Columbia that had doors that were not locking and five inmates left their cells and killed another inmate. Mr. Robinson asked if they replaced locks about five years ago. She said those were air locks that were converted into cylinder locks but were still the same locks. Mr. Gilbert asked if they were still looking to repair the roll-up door and if a pull-chain would be functional and she said no. Mr. Pauley asked if they received quotes from more than one company. She said she called surrounding counties and they all used TSC and that's where the price came from. If they went with another company, they might have to change the camera system because they worked together. Mr. Pauley said he wanted to make sure that the price was documented. In the event it was approved at that price but later the price increased, they would have to come back to Council for additional funding. She said it was an estimate and could change – she was waiting to hear back from the contact person. Mr. Pauley said to Mrs. Johnson he would like follow up with the contact person to ensure they got as close to the cost as possible. Mrs. Johnson said typically, when they received quotes, the paperwork would state how long the quote would be good for.

EMS

Mrs. Mozie said their budget increased 3.88%. Director, Dan Sloan, referred to the detailed packet given to Council regarding their budget. Mrs. Johnson reminded Council that the capital list was long. However, for the past two fiscal years there had been no budgeted capital although they tried to buy capital every year so the lists would not be long. Mr. Sloan said each crew had a paramedic and an EMT and each ambulance was a mobile emergency room. They carried equipment that was above the standard DHEC required. That week they put nitrous oxide onto the trucks – one of the few EMS

systems that practiced that, it was a better alternative for the opioid crisis. They had six units throughout the county. They were the only full-time 24/7 staffed emergency response team for any kind of rescue services, they provided nuclear contamination response for the entire county, they were trained and equipped to respond to vehicle entrapment, trained for swift water and flat water rescue and all terrain rescue capability. Last year, they responded 69 times to Carolina Adventure World. Regarding their call volume, in 2022 they responded to 5,244 various types of calls. He referenced line item 5202 (data processing) – they incorporated a digital narcotics tracking software to be compliant with upcoming DEA regulations. They had narcotics on their trucks and at their stations. Mr. Pauley asked if it was something they had to have and Mr. Sloan said they did not have to have it but it was smart to have it. If they lost a vile of narcotic, it would require an investigation and would have negative consequences. Prior to the software, their tracking system was paper, which made it more susceptible to fraud and diversion of narcotics. He said they had an aging fleet and had not received any new ambulances (except the recently approved) in three years. Their maintenance increased – that year they blew three turbos on their diesel engines. Equipment was aging as well. They asked for an increase in education and training for CPR for the community, personnel and county employees. In that fiscal year, they taught over 400 CPR and first aid classes to the public – not including EMS staff. They were able to decrease line items in utility usage, cell phones, membership and dues, and equipment and maintenance agreements. Mrs. Swearingen said in the past, they did in-house billing and asked why they did not do that anymore. He said it was super complicated and the company they used recovered 85% of their billing. She asked if it was bid out and he said it was established years ago and they had no problems. There was a big increase in gas and diesel fuel – they were already over budget in that area. Mrs. Swearingen asked if staff were at the six locations 24/7 and he said yes, sometimes 48 or 96. He said vehicles were their main request regarding capital – Medic's 1, 4 and 11 in particular and the cost was \$1,110,642. He also went over the personnel requests - \$167,205. Mr. Roseborough asked about their call time and he said 10 minutes and 23 seconds. Mr. Roseborough asked if there were areas in the county where EMS could not respond and he said no, they always responded but some with possible delays depending on the timing of the calls and where they came from. Mr. Roseborough asked if they had always been able to cover the whole county and he said yes. Mrs. Swearingen asked about the personnel request. He said they had six unfilled positions and three frozen and they would need all nine filled to be at full capacity. Mrs. Greene asked if it had been problematic to fill positions. He said they were still recruiting

and hiring almost on a weekly basis but salary was an issue. Mrs. Greene said she just wanted it to be known that most agencies in the state were having trouble hiring people. She asked how long he thought it would take to fill the six positions and he estimated six months. Mr. Pauley restated that he was asking for \$167,205.45 pay increase for EMS employees. He said according to the packet, if the funds were not granted they would have to shut down stations due to not meeting DHEC regulations. Mr. Sloan said regarding recruiting, if they lost employees they would have to shut down. Mr. Pauley said he was asking for \$276,426 for the frozen positions and \$1,264,000 for vehicles and Mr. Sloan said yes. Mr. Pauley asked the last time they received an ambulance and he said Council approved one several months ago – they had not received it yet. He said prior to that, it was 3-4 years ago.

FIRE SERVICES

Mrs. Mozie said their overall budget increased 12.6% mainly due to gas costs. Deputy Chief, Jamie Webb, referred to the packet given to Council and said their biggest request was \$32,000 for a third-party company to perform yearly service on all of their fire apparatus. The overview for capital requests was for 15 fire stations. Last year, they responded to 1,261 calls. They requested an F-250 truck, a consultant for a needs assessment, two 2,000-gallon commercial cab tankers and a used ladder truck. They also requested a full-time fire marshal – state law required quarterly and yearly inspections of every business in the county – and four daytime firefighters to supplement the shortage of daytime volunteers. Mrs. Swearingen asked where the four daytime firefighters would be located and he said throughout the county. He explained that there were a lot of stations in the county that did not have the accommodations for a full-time firefighter – no heating/air, no housing capability. The current full-time staff floated to other areas fulfilling other duties. Mrs. Swearingen said the Feasterville station was not equipped for full-time staff and asked if the lack of a shower would prohibit staff from being there a few hours a day. He said the shower was necessary – it reduced the chances of firefighter cancer and that particular station was a shell. If it was 100 degrees outside, there would be no way for the staff to cool down. Mr. Ruff restated the two 2,000 tankers requested and asked for the delivery time and he said about two years. Mr. Ruff asked if he had located a 100-foot ladder truck and he said no, they would look for one once it was approved. Mrs. Swearingen asked Ms. Johnson if there were any grants to help with the fire department. She said there was a Safer grant that was applied for yearly but as of yet they had not been approved. Mrs. Greene asked for an estimate of their daytime response time compared to the evening/night response and he said he did not have that

information in front of him but he agreed to get it to Ms. Johnson. Mr. Pauley thanked him for stepping in after Mr. Pope's departure. He said he believed they needed a Fire Marshall – one had been requested for several years. He asked that the first responder's directors meet with Ms. Johnson to prioritize their needs to make it easier for Council. Mr. Roseborough asked if the Fire Director was also the Fire Marshall. Mr. Webb said that was allowed by default but very difficult for a person to perform successfully in that dual position.

Mrs. Mozie announced that the general capital projects were not in the budget for fiscal year 2024. When Council was ready to move forward with the projects, they would use the local accommodations tax funds.

RECREATION

Mrs. Mozie said they had a 7.55% increase, personnel and capital equipment requests. Director Lucas Vance referred to the packet given to Council. He asked if there any questions regarding programs and Mr. Pauley asked if they could host tournaments (pickleball, etc.) to recoup funds for their recreation department. Mr. Vance said pickelball was growing fast in the county. They applied for a grant to expand outdoor pickleball with the intent to host tournaments. Drawdy Park had three fields and could accommodate youth athletic tournaments but it needed scoreboards and upgrades to the bathrooms and the concession stands. Regarding their capital requests, he said they were requesting two commercial zero-turn mowers – total \$22,099.99. They had 21 facilities that they maintained and their current mowers ran about 900 hours per year and required quite a bit of maintenance. Mrs. Swearingen asked if the current mowers were working and he said it was hit or miss depending on time spent in the repair shop. She asked if one new mower would help and he said ideally they needed two. Mr. Gilbert asked if the brand of mowers they currently had was Skagg and he said yes along with some other models. Mr. Gilbert asked the size of the engines and he said he believed they were 25's and 32's. Mr. Gilbert said he was trying to understand his reasoning for his quotes. Mr. Vance referred to the packet and said there was a quote for Skagg and the Bad Boys quote was about \$1,000 cheaper. Mrs. Greene asked if it was possible to coordinate with Public Works to cut grass at some of the facilities. He said they had 21 facilities and it would be a lot to ask them to assist because they had their own grounds to maintain. In addition, there were certain maintenance jobs specific to athletic fields. He also requested a work truck at \$34,565 – they wanted to replace the current 2011 model. Mr. Ruff asked if it was a 4-door truck and was it necessary and he said the 4-door was more expensive so they were asking for a 2-door truck. Regarding

personnel, they were asking for an Athletic Coordinator, who would serve as the supervisor for the athletic department, and a Recreational Specialist, which was linked to the Ridgeway Recreational Center. Mrs. Greene asked for information about the Recreation Specialist. He said the position would introduce new programs to the community for youth, adults and seniors and would be housed in the Ridgeway Recreation Center once the building was completed. It would manage and coordinate programs to generate revenue and it would serve as a supervisor for employees. Mrs. Greene said it was mentioned before and she was not sure if it was in the budget but she thought it was a good idea to have a recognition event for the coaches, volunteers and other recreation staff. She thought there might be an opportunity for a corporate sponsor. He thanked her for the acknowledgement.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mrs. Mozie said their request decreased by 1.81% and Solid Waste increased by 2.33%. Director Jonathan Burroughs referred to the packet given to Council that had information about Public Works and Road Maintenance. He said the capital requests for road maintenance was for a batwing mower at \$25,000, a 3-point boom hitch cutter and a bridge replacement (Maggie Harris). There were five bridges out in the county. Maggie Harris was a high priority – it delayed EMS by about 12 minutes. They had to go up into Chester to get to the other side. Mrs. Swearingen asked how soon they could start and he said as soon as they received the money and get the bid out – they already had the design. He said they might have some options regarding the other bridges. He found a company that took old rail cars and after the structure was removed, they would put two rail cars together and they held up to 140,000 pounds. Mrs. Swearingen asked if that would work on Fort Wagner Road and he said absolutely – it would work on everyone in the county. Mrs. Greene asked if it was possible for him to see one already in existence and he said yes, there were only two in the state. Mr. Burroughs said regarding the Solid Waste division, they requested a roll-off truck – they currently had a 2007 model with about 400,000 miles and had probably paid for it twice in repairs. They also requested two roll-off cans. Mr. Roseborough asked how much metal did they recycle – was it about 35 tons. Mr. Burroughs said yes, they started hauling in-house about six months ago and they went from bringing in about \$25,000 per year to almost \$70,000. They were getting to a point where they could not keep up because they were short on drivers and would have to go back to the original way. They would lose money but solid waste was the priority.

TRANSIT

Mrs. Mozie said they had a decrease of 18.33% and were mostly funded by the 5311 Transportation Grant but expenditures were recorded/budgeted in the general fund. When the department was reimbursed, the expenditures were charged back to the grant. Director Diana White said she had a capital request for two vehicles at \$90,000 each – she needed four but two would be grant funded. She was also asking to unfreeze the Office Assistant position. It would be partially funded through SCDOT and her request was for the balance. Mrs. Swearingen asked for the status of the position – full-time, part-time, etc. Ms. White said it was list as temporary – temporary full-time. Mrs. Swearingen asked if the vehicles she requested were worn out and she said yes, one of them had to be towed that day. Mr. Pauley said since they did a lot of transports via Medicaid/Medicare, were there any grants available to help pay for the vehicles. She said she had 100% funding for two of the four she requested.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Mrs. Mozie said their budget increased 11.70%. Chief Deputy Brad Douglas referred to a packet given to Council. Regarding their personnel request, they had the Sheriff, Chief Deputy, Administrator, three Captains and a number of different divisions under those. They were short staffed under all of those divisions except the SRO division – they were under contract to keep those filled. They currently had eight open positions but were recently informed that they would have three persons leaving – putting them at 11 openings. They requested a 6% increase in salaries to try to be competitive. They also requested funding to transition from Chinese overtime (the more hours worked the hourly rate decreased) to traditional overtime that paid one and a half of the pay rate. Regarding vehicles, they requested eight vehicles totaling \$488,000. Mr. Pauley asked if there was a standard for law enforcement vehicles as to when they should come off the road. Mr. Douglas said it was more of an internal determination – he did not know if there was a written standard. Sheriff Montgomery gave some information off mic. Mr. Robinson asked where they implemented the \$100,000 they voted to give them a few months prior. He said it was in conjunction with a 2, 4, 6 increase and the Sheriff gave everyone a fair and equal pay increase. Mr. Pauley asked if they did anything for certified officers based on years of service and Teri Smith answered off mic. Mr. Roseborough asked if it was possible for the Sheriff Deputies to help at the detention center – for overtime, to help boost their salaries. Sheriff Montgomery answered off mic but Mr. Douglas stated the certifications were different for correctional officers and it would be a liability. Mrs. Greene suggested focusing on recruiting female officers and he said they had that discussion.

They posted on Indeed, participated in job fairs, reached out to local colleges, and recently held a career fair but no one came to their table. They recruited however they could.

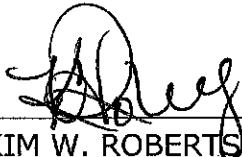
Mrs. Mozie said there were no other presentations or issues to address.

Mr. Pauley thanked everyone for attending/participating.

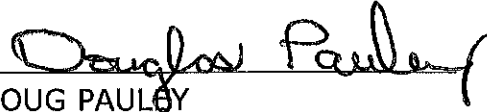
Mr. Ruff said something needed to be done regarding the acoustics because it was sometimes hard to hear. Mrs. Johnson said they were getting quotes – there may be a solution to improve the quality of sound 80-85%.

V. ADJOURN

At 9:24 p.m., motion made by Councilman Ruff, seconded by Councilwoman Greene, to adjourn. ***The motion carried 7-0.***



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



DOUG PAULEY
CHAIRMAN