

MARLBORO COUNTY COUNCIL

MARLBORO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2015

WORKSESSION MEETING

2:00 PM

CHAIRMAN

RON MUNNERLYN

VICE-CHAIRMAN

JASON STEEN

ADMINISTRATOR  
CLERK TO COUNCIL  
COUNTY ATTORNEY

JIM HAYNES  
PATRICIA M. BUNDY  
HARRY EASTERLING, JR. \*

COUNCIL:

JASON STEEN,  
RON MUNNERLYN,  
DR. CAROLYN PRINCE,  
STEVE BLACKMON, AND  
\*

\* WILLIE GLADDEN, \*  
CORRIE H. PLATO,  
KEN ALLEN,  
ANTHONY WOODS

\*Absent

Others Present: Ms. Lynn McQueen, Herald-Advocate, and Ms. Ainsley Moore, Marlboro County Finance Director

A notice of the work session of Marlboro County Council appeared in the February 22, 2015 edition of the HERALD ADVOCATE. Copy of the agenda was emailed to Lynn McQueen of the Herald Advocate, and posted on the front door of the William P. Wallace, Sr. Administration Building and on the county's website ([www.marlbocounty.sc.gov](http://www.marlbocounty.sc.gov)).

Mr. Ron Munnerlyn, Chairman, opened the meeting by advising this would be a work session to discuss some information from staff with the budget coming up in the next couple of months. He stated that there were three categories that would be discussed today: (1) Administration (organizational things); (2) Economic Development; and (3) Recreation. He stated that they would follow up with an Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel matters. Mr. Munnerlyn recognized Mr. Jim Haynes, County Administrator, first to make some comments on organizational matters.

ADMINISTRATION ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

Mr. Haynes stated that in terms of budget, that one matter that staff was beginning to work upon was the EMS/Rescue Squad agreement that expires the end of June, 2015. He stated that the millage rate may be affected according to the needs of EMS/Rescue Squad folks.

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He reported that reports are not being provided which the contract calls for but that he has requested the same and would review them once received. Mr. Haynes stated that with the plans of our local hospital, Marlboro Park Hospital, being uncertain for the future as to whether or not we will even have a local hospital, will certainly affect the budget for the EMS/Rescue Squad agreement. He stated that if the local EMS/Rescue Squads would be asked to pick up patients and transport them to other facilities out of the county like Scotland, Florence, Cheraw, or other counties, this would increase the mileage and time for each run and also may limit the number of EMS vehicles available for the other residents of the county. This may affect the services and the costs of the services which we depend upon EMS/Rescue Squad for our citizens.

Mr. Haynes also stated that staff had found that the management of the airport contract had expired and that staff will begin making contacts with the management company about the renewing of the same which will affect our 2015-2016 budget.

Mr. Haynes stated that the Local Government Fund and the Consumer Price Index (CPI) may affect our millage rate for the upcoming budget. He stated that any increase in the county's millage rate is based upon the CPI. He stated that we are looking at an increase of about .8% and that gas probably kept the CPI from increasing any more than that.

Mr. Haynes also mentioned that expected revenues for the upcoming budget year are estimated to be pretty much the same as this year. He stated that there may be some additional funds received from Harbor Freight but that we would just have to wait and see what that turns out to be.

Dr. Carolyn Prince asked if staff anticipated the railroad fund revenues to be about the same as the current year and Mr. Haynes confirmed that he did. He estimated that the railroad revenue funds would be anywhere from \$450,000-\$600,000.

Mr. Haynes also stated that he saw some concerns in other counties as to how the departments were affected and it got him to thinking about our current set up. He stated that many departments work independently and there was not much integration between them. He stated that this is normal but sometimes difficult to manage in that many offer services separately when certain services could be combined and beneficial to many departments as a whole. He mentioned the mapping services and how the Tax Assessor's office and E-911 currently have three to four different mapping programs in the county. He stated that staff had done some research on this and found that one mapping program could be combined by all of these offices to provide a more up to date and nice looking program for use by all departments.

Mr. Anthony Woods stated that departments may have their own ideas and twerks and that staff should consider getting the department heads together to discuss the possibility of upgrading to a program that could be used by all to see what their thoughts on this would be.

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Chairman Munnerlyn stated that he thought that if a better program could be purchased for use by all departments rather than have a budget for a mapping program for each department, it could possibly save the county money.

Mr. Haynes stated the mapping program that he has researched would be beneficial but would require all departments to input and update information as it is received. For example, the tax office would be required to update the system as new information is received. Without updating it as information is received would result in the maps not being up to date. He stated that another benefit of updating to this type system would be that the system could be accessed by the public from their home computers or ipads. The public could access certain properties and obtain tax cards and tax values from the one program. Mr. Haynes that the new program for this would cost somewhere around \$100,000 and he understood that this was a lot of money.

Dr. Carolyn Prince asked if the \$100,000 was the cost just for Marlboro County to have the program and Mr. Haynes confirmed that it would cover our county only.

Chairman Munnerlyn agreed that it would cost a lot of money to start from scratch.

Mr. Haynes stated that the system would require a lot of updates each time a deed or map is filed with the Clerk of Court's office and would require someone with skills and understanding of how it would work. The mapping program would be able to show sewer and water lines, railroads, fire hydrants or whatever else you may need it to show. It would be graphed by a layering system so that you could show as much or as little as you may need to view.

Mr. Haynes stated that another point of discuss what departments would do should a department head die or leave suddenly. He stated that the county needed a plan as to how to move forward and who would step up and keep things rolling. He stated that it was an unfortunate thought but that this does happen and we need to think about how we can prepare for these type situations. Mr. Haynes mentioned that years ago when he worked for a county in North Carolina, they lost their Finance Officer suddenly and that it really affected the county as a whole because so much information was retained and known by this one person and no one else knew it. He stated that the county met each payroll as needed but that by not knowing the information they needed to know, it set them back about two years in their financial planning. He stated that this would be long-range planning. Mr. Haynes used Mr. Roy Allison of E-911 as an example and stated that he has retired and has come back for another five years but we are well into the five years and he will be gone in the next two or three years. We need to start planning now to have someone to be able to step up and handle his responsibilities once he is gone. He also mentioned the Tax Assessor's office and stated that things are better now but they still have a long way to go. Mr. Haynes confirmed that he encouraged training for all employees and that many trainings can be obtained a minimal cost to the county.

