



MINUTES
LAW ENFORCEMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH &
WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING
July 22, 2009

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Wayne McCall, Chairman, District II
Mr. Mario Suarez, District III
Mr. Joel Thrift, District IV

The Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee met on Wednesday, July 22, 2009 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Committee Members present [except Mr. Suarez], Interim Administrator Kendra Brown and Elizabeth G. Hulse, Clerk to Council present.

Oconee County Staff present: Mr. Rodney Burdette, Emergency Services Director

Press:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting, date, time, place of meeting and agenda were posted on the bulletin board at the County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC, and the County Council website [www.oconeese.com/council]. In addition it was made available to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Member of the press present: Ray Chandler-Anderson Independent, Carlos Galarza-Daily Journal and Dick Mangrum-WGOG Radio.

Call to Order:

Chairman McCall called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall approved 2 – 0 that the minutes from the May 13, 2009 meeting be adopted as printed.

Discussion of Distribution of County Funds to Volunteer Departments:

Mr. Burdette provided a three handouts [filed with these minutes and copies provided for all Council members] related to the dispersing and requirements for each volunteer department to receive county funds. He reminded those present that each station has to be accountable for the public money spent and that timely reporting of distributions is also important. Mr. Burdette read over each item and outlined the need for accurate and timely reporting. Discussion followed.

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 2 – 0 to approve these requirements. Mr. McCall noted that he will present this issue at the next County Council meeting for full Council approval.

Discussion of Part-time Fire / Rescue Personnel:

Mr. Burdette provided a handout [filed with these minutes and copies provided for all Council members] related the addition of seven [7] part time staff who would work eight [8] hours per day for three [3] days per week for a maximum of 24 hours per week. He noted that they would be funded from the Emergency Services 2.9 mil taxes. Mr. Burdette read over each bullet point and outlined the full structure and the assistance that these part time staff members would provide for the stations that they would be assigned to. Discussion followed.

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 2 – 0 to approve these new part time positions. Mr. McCall noted that he will present this issue at the next County Council meeting for full Council approval.

Thermal Imaging Cameras:

Mr. Burdette provided a copy of an Agenda Item Summary that will be presented at the August 4, 2009 Council meeting for consideration regarding the purchase of seven MSA Thermal Imaging Cameras. Discussion followed.

Discussion of ISO Report from Walhalla & Westminster Fire Chiefs regarding rural areas:

Chief Ekaitis [Walhalla Fire Chief] was present to discuss the ISO letter received [filed with these minutes and provided for all Council members] that stated that the Walhalla/Westminster substation located at 254 Camp Road will improve the ISO rating for two areas bringing them down from an ISO of 10 to and ISO of either 4 or 5. It was noted that this was accomplished by a cooperative effort by all parties involved. Discussion followed.

Mr. McCall noted that the will provided this as information at the next County Council meeting.

Old Business: None discussed at this meeting.

New Business: None discussed at this meeting.

Public Comment:

Mr. Michael Mason addressed the committee noting that additional substations would greatly improve the ISO rating in his district and asked that the Committee make funding for additional substations a priority in the next budget.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 25, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room, Oconee Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC.

Adjourn:

Mr. Thrift made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved unanimously at 7:47 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council