



MINUTES
LAW ENFORCEMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH &
WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING
March 3, 2010

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, March 3, 2010 at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Committee Members present [except Mr. Suarez], Interim Administrator Gene Klugh and Elizabeth G. Hulse, Clerk to Council present.

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

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.

Call to Order:

Chairman McCall called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall approved 2 – 0 that the minutes from the January 26, 2010 meeting be adopted as printed.

Department Reports / Updates:

Emergency Services:

Mr. Burdette reported on several projects to include:

[1] South Cove Project: Mr. Burdette noted that he received a letter from Mr. Scott Jolly denying the request to place a boat storage building at South Cove Park. Committee members asked Mr. Burdette to identify other potential areas for storage to include but not limited to SDOC facilities in the area.

[2] Foxwood Hills Property Donation: Mr. Burdette noted that the POA has donated property within their subdivision for a fire department substation.

Fire Chief Association:

Mr. Jess Neville, Emergency Services Commission Chair, reported in preparation for the FY 2010-2011 budget on the Commissions priorities for the coming fiscal year.

[1] 2.9 Mills for Unincorporated Areas: Mr. Neville voiced concerns that taxes are being collected from the unincorporated areas of the county at 2.9 mills but funds are being disbursed to the fire stations at 4 mills.

Mr. Thrift requested the Administrator to look into this and report back to the full council regarding this issue in preparation for the upcoming budget meetings.

[2] Request the County Maintain Full Time / Part Time Paid Firefighters: Mr. Neville requested that the County maintain the full and part time paid fire fighters as they are of great benefit to the volunteer stations both at the scene of a fire and for assistance in their individual stations.

[3] Request for Additional Substations: Mr. Neville identified three areas where substations would be of benefit:

- a. **Foxwood Hills** - property can be donated by subdivision if County agrees to build building [2-bay] – water & sewer in place
- b. **Holly Springs** – County owns land in area – need 2-bay building – utilities unknown at present
- c. **Whetstone & Chatooga Ridge Roads** – property donated to Mt. Rest Fire Department – need 2-bay building – all utilities in place

Public Comment:

Mr. McCall did not open the floor for Public Comment at this meeting.

New Business:

County Vehicle Take Home Policy:

Mr. McCall asked Mr. Burdette if any employees who live outside of Oconee County were routinely taking county vehicles home. Mr. Burdette stated that this did not routinely happen; however, if a staff member had training out of the area they were permitted to take their vehicle home for the night.

State Forestry Wildland Training:

Mr. Burdette noted that 18 fire fighters completed the State Forestry wild land training. These fire fighters are now part of a strike team who will be the first to respond to any wildfires in the County. He noted that the Forestry Commission will give the County a trailer [with hand equipment] to assist in any responses.

Winter Storm Responses:

Mr. Burdette stated that he had good cooperation with other County departments during the recent winter storm events. He stated that he worked closely to stage key personnel and materials throughout the county.

Old Business:

None discussed at this meeting.

Adjourn:

Mr. Thrift made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved unanimously at 8:11 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council