



MINUTES
LAW ENFORCEMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH &
WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING
March 19, 2013

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Wayne McCall, Chairman, District II

Mr. Archie Barron, District III

Mr. Joel Thrift, District IV

The Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee met at 5:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Committee Members present, Administrator Scott Moulder, Assistant Administrator Glenn Breed and Elizabeth G. Hulse, Clerk to Council present.

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: None.

Call to Order:

Chairman McCall called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Old Business:

Surplus Coast Guard Boats

Mr. McCall provided Mr. Breed with a copy of an email [copy filed with these minutes] for follow-up regarding surplus Coast Guard boats that might be obtained for use on the county lakes. Mr. McCall asked Mr. Breed to report at a future meeting regarding this matter.

New Business:

Boating Safety Programs: Ray Lewis, DNR

Mr. McCall noted that Mr. Lewis was unable to attend the meeting due to a scheduling conflict; however, members of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary were present to address their programs. Mr. McCall introduced Mr. Ronny Merritt, Flotilla Staff Officer, Recreational Boating Safety Visitor Program, and Mr. Doug Patterson, Flotilla Staff Officer, Lake Hartwell Flotilla who addressed the Committee about key programs they offer as follows:

- **Lake Patrols:** They patrol Lake Hartwell on weekends throughout the summer between Memorial Day and Labor Day; 2-6 p.m. Efforts are underway to initiate a patrol on Lake Keowee also.
- **Program Visits:** The Auxiliary members place boating safety literature in businesses and public areas to increase public awareness and provide educational materials
- **Boating Safety Classes:** The Auxiliary members provide two boating safety classes. There is a cost associated with the classes to cover textbooks and the classes are offered on Saturdays [8 hour class]. They are willing to offer these classes at any location in the county provided they have a sufficient number of participants.

Mr. Merritt and Mr. Patterson noted that the key is to get the word out to the public. They also stated that interested citizens on Lake Keowee are being sought so that a lake patrol on Keowee could be initiated.

Mr. Barron suggested that they contact the three Chamber of Commerce, county libraries, civic groups, HOA's and POA's on the lake to solicit interested citizens.

Mr. McCall suggested that they work with Mr. Breed and Mr. Phil Shirley, PRT Director, to place boating educational material in the three county parks and to post flyers regarding upcoming boating safety classes.

There was discussion regarding boating licenses but Mr. Merritt and Mr. Peterson noted that there is currently no interest in Columbia to move forward with this due to the number of tourist using all SC waterways.

Lastly, as the media was not present, Mr. McCall asked that the Clerk make available to all media outlets a copy of the recording of this meeting.

Adjourn:

Mr. Barron made a motion, approved unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council