



**MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
WORKSHOP MEETING**

March 17, 2010

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Joel Thrift, District IV, Chairman

Mr. Paul Corbeil, District I

Mr. Wayne McCall, District II

The Transportation Committee met Wednesday, March 17, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, Oconee Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all members 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: Ray Chandler – Anderson Independent & Carlos Galarza – Daily Journal.

Call to Order:

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

Minutes:

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 2 – 0 [Mr. McCall had not yet arrived] to approve the minutes from the December 2, 2009 meeting as presented.

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 2 – 0 [Mr. McCall had not yet arrived] to approve the minutes from the January 14, 2010 meeting as presented.

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 2 – 0 [Mr. McCall had not yet arrived] to approve the minutes from the March 3, 2010 meeting as presented.

Keowee River Project: Follow-up Report from Planning/Road Departments:

Mr. Art Holbrooks, Planning Director and Mr. Mack Kelly, County Engineer/Roads & Bridges Department, updated Council regarding review of potential variance requests related to this project. Mr. Holbrooks noted that based on review to date there are no safety issues identified and that continued review would be ongoing as the project moves forward. Mr. Kelly noted that the review to date has been with concept plans only. Discussion followed.

Mr. Thrift noted that he would present to Council for approval the recommendation that the Planning and Road Departments continue to work with the developer and their engineering firm to assure that all public safety issues are identified and resolved.

Ongoing Project Status/Staff Report: County Engineer:

Mr. Mack Kelly, County Engineer, addressed the Committee utilizing several handouts [filed with these minutes] highlighting weather events; emergency service; Solid Waste, Building Maintenance, Sheriff Department & PRT projects.

Mr. Kelly also provided an update regarding the Bennettsville Road and Jenkins Bridge Road projects.

Cobb Bridge conceptual drawings [filed with these minutes] were presented to the Committee for review and discussion. Mr. Kelly reviewed the two drawings and recommended to the Committee that the clear span bridge be approved; noting that the cost was approximately \$200,000 more but that saving would be made on permitting and engineering costs. Discussion followed. It was the consensus of opinion of the committee that the bridge should be replaced with a clear span bridge.

Lastly, Mr. Kelly addressed the following issues:

- Alice Lane: The committee requested that Mr. Kelly approach the residents again to obtain right-of-way on this road.
- Road Closure Status: Mr. Kelly reported that Crooks Road, High Point Road and Dr. Johns Road are in the process of being closed and that he continues to work closely with the attorney to ensure that the process moves forward as quickly as possible. The committee voiced frustration regarding the length of time to close the roads; noting that there are many more roads on the list for closure that have not had the process begun yet.
- Budget Concerns: Mr. Kelly noted that he has approximately \$304,000 remaining in the paving budget and that the CTC has committed verbally to an additional \$860,000. It was the consensus of the committee that Mr. Kelly follow-up with the Delegation Office to obtain written confirmation of the amount.
- BRC Road: Mr. Kelly noted that this issue had legal issues and requested an Executive Session to discuss the issues. The committee agreed to hold an Executive Session at the end of this meeting.

New Business:

Approved Citizen Appearances / Requests

Request to Close a Portion of Stadium Road / Mr. Joe Davis

Mr. Davis addressed the Committee utilizing a map [filed with these minutes] requesting that the Committee approve the closure of the end portion of Stadium Road. Mr. Davis stated that he owns all adjoining property. He stated that he has received approval from SDOC Bus Superintendent, Mr. Sammy Grant; and Mr. Terry Pruitt, Pioneer Water. Discussion followed.

Mr. Thrift stated that the Committee would visit the road and notify Mr. Davis regarding their decision.

Edgewood Drive / Mr. Ronny Kirby

Mr. Kirby did not attend the meeting; therefore the issue was not discussed.

Army Corp of Engineers [COE] Request to take over maintenance of Tee Ben Trail

A representative of the COE was not present but Mr. Kelly was familiar with the request and addressed the Committee. The request is for the County to take over maintenance of a portion of the road near the river. Mr. Kelly stated that his recommendation to the committee was to deny the request. Discussion followed.

Mr. Thrift stated that the Committee would accept the recommendation of the County Engineer and deny the request. The Committee requested Mr. Kelly notify the COE of their decision.

Approved Staff Appearances / Requests

PRT / Mr. Phil Shirley

Mr. Shirley addressed the Committee and reported on the Road Department's assistance with the South Cove Park Retaining Wall Project partially funded by a PARD grant. Mr. Shirley utilized a PowerPoint presentation [filed with these minutes] to show before and after photographs. Mr. Shirley thanked the Road Department noting that their assistance saved his department thousands of dollars with in house assistance.

The Committee commended both Mr. Shirley and Mr. Kelly and their respective departments for working together to save the tax payers money.

Old Business:

Whitewater Lake

Mr. Kelly addressed the Committee utilizing a large map [filed with these minutes] highlighting the requested upgrades by the residents. Discussion followed.

Mr. Thrift asked Mr. Kelly to follow up with the residents to obtain right-of-ways as required.

Tamassee Middle School

Mr. Kelly addressed the Committee noting that he along with the Administrator visited the road with the following report:

1. The road is within the town limits
2. The road is on SDOC property
3. The portion of the road in question is a state road

Mr. Kelly stated that he would contact the sponsoring teacher and provide her with information to contact the state, SDOC and the town to address the safety concerns. In addition, he noted that they could petition for C Funds as monies are designated for municipalities.

Heritage Fair Road Needs

Mr. Tim Donald, Fair Board, addressed the Committee along with Mr. Kelly regarding the road, water and power needs for the fair. Mr. Donald noted that they plan the fair for the first weekend in October 2010. Lengthy discussion followed.

It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend to full Council that funding for any approved road/utility needs be funded from the council contingency account.

Mr. Thrift asked Mr. Kelly, the Administrator and the Economic Development Director to meet with Fair representatives to clearly identify needs and to report back to the committee.

Public Comment:

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed the Committee regarding his memory of the property at the Golden Corner Commerce Park.

Executive Session:

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 3 – 0 to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a legal issue.

The Committee entered Executive Session at 6:21 p.m.

Mr. Thrift noted that no action was taken during Executive Session.

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 3 – 0 to return from Executive Session at 6:41 p.m.

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 3 – 0 to direct staff to pursue a remedy to issues related to BRC road as discussed in Executive Session.

Adjourn:

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, approved unanimously to adjourn at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council