



MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

October 26, 2010

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Joel Thrift, District IV, Chairman

Mr. Paul Corbeil, District I

Mr. Wayne McCall, District II

The Transportation Committee met Tuesday, October 26, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, Oconee Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all members present, Administrator Scott Moulder, County Engineer Mack Kelly 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, Dick Mangrum – WGOG Radio & Carlos Galarza – Daily Journal

Call to Order:

Chairman Thrift called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes:

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 3 – 0 to approve the minutes as amended from the September 2, 2010 meeting.

Mr. Thrift announced that he would address the agenda out of order to allow the citizens present wishing to address the Committee to appear first.

New Business:

Approved Citizen Appearances / Requests

Doug Hollow Road & Lake Keowee Restaurant / Mr. Richard Cottingham

Mr. Cottingham addressed the Committee updating the plans [road relocations site plan map filed with these minutes] and timeline for construction of the Lighthouse Restaurant to be located off Doug Hollow Road on Lighthouse Road. He stated that the plans for the restaurant will proceed with or without the county agreeing to accept a portion of Doug Hollow Road.

Mr. Cottingham stated that the restaurant is currently slated to open in May 2012 with construction to begin in the summer of 2011. He stated that he anticipates the hiring of 20+ employees [both full and part time] with an economic impact to Oconee County of approximately \$4-5 million. Mr. Cottingham stated that he has a lease with Duke; a portion of which requires plantings and shoreline stabilization. Lastly, Mr. Cottingham stated that his plans comply with the 2006 Duke Shoreline Management Plan for Lake Keowee and any deed restrictions on the property.

Mr. Cottingham requested from the Committee its recommendation to full Council that the county accepting 477 feet of Doug Hollow Road from the state; his groups development of a new intersection at Kelly Ridge Road; the building of Lighthouse Point Road to county standards, and the county abandoning the old portion of Doug Hollow Road after the project is complete. Discussion followed.

Public Comment regarding this issue:

Mr. Steve Kelly, Doug Hollow Road resident, addressed the Committee in opposition to the movement of the road; closure of the boat ramp that his family and neighbors have used since creation of the lake, and Mr. Cottingham building a restaurant/bar in their residential neighborhood.

Ms. Cathy Kelly, Doug Hollow Road resident, addressed the Committee stating that Mr. Cottingham was not accurate on the need for a new turnaround on the roadway and her opposition to a restaurant/bar in her neighborhood.

Ms. Pam Kelly, Doug Hollow Road resident, addressed the Committee stating that she had an easement from Crescent Realty providing access to and from Lake Keowee.

It was noted that Mr. Cottingham had not provided the requested letter [requested at the September 2, 2010 meeting] from Duke stating [1] their desire to have close a portion of Doug Hollow Road, [2] verify that public lake access at this location is unauthorized.

The Committee stated that they would have Mr. Cottingham make a formal presentation to full Council regarding specifically the road issues only and potentially schedule a public hearing on the matter to include input from Duke Energy and the public.

Lakewood Drive / Mr. Bruce Justice

Mr. Bruce Justice along with Mr. Bob Hester and Mr. John Martin addressed the Committee regarding their belief that Lakewood Drive is a county owned roadway. Mr. Justice outlined this belief stating he had documentation from the developer stating the road was a county road, plats, GIS maps, E-911 directory, etc. Mr Justice requested a formal decision by the Committee as the citizens if denied acceptance for county maintenance are prepared to file legal action. Mr. Moulder outlined the plan process for a subdivision noting that roads can only be accepted by Council and that a deed would have to be prepared and accepted by Council prior to acceptance into the county road system. Lengthy discussion followed.

Mr. Thrift instructed Mr. Justice to provide all documentation to the Clerk to Council for forwarding to the County Attorney for his review and opinion.

Damascus Church Road / Mr. Craig Ewing

Mr. Ewing addressed Council [and provided an email letter & map – copies filed with these minutes] regarding his concerns about the condition of Damascus Church Road. Mr. Ewing noted that previous attempts by the Road Department to obtain the right of way from residents for paving had been unsuccessful. He stated that at present he felt sure that most would agree to give the county right of way with the understanding that the road would be straightened, widened and paved. Mr. Ewing felt this was an urgent matter as a proposed logging operation on private property across the road from his property may have a negative impact on what he stated is an already sub standard gravel roadway. Discussion followed.

Mr. Thrift asked the Road Department to [1] review the road and to report their findings at a future meeting.

Approved Staff Appearances / Requests

None at this meeting.

Road Closure Litigation: 2010-CP-37-865 / Clark Drive [SE-229]

Mr. Kelly stated that he will review the road noting the attorney has to respond on behalf of the County to the lawsuit within 30 days of acceptance of service dated, October 14, 2010.

Further discussion of this matter was deferred to a future meeting.

Ongoing Project Status/Staff Report: County Engineer:

Mr. Mack Kelly, County Engineer, addressed the Committee utilizing a handouts [filed with these minutes] highlighting special projects completed and special projects assigned.

Mr. Moulder and Mr. Kelly noted concerns of a citizen related to the Cobb Bridge replacement project. Mr. Moulder stated he will report at a future meeting on this matter.

Proposed Ordinance Review/Discussion:

Ordinance 2010-26:

Discussion of this matter was deferred to a future meeting.

Old Business:

None at this meeting.

Adjourn:

Mr. McCall made a motion, approved unanimously to adjourn at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council