



# MINUTES

## TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

October 25, 2011

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Joel Thrift, District IV, Chairman

Mr. Paul Corbeil, District I

Mr. Wayne McCall, District II

The Transportation Committee met Tuesday, October 25, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, Oconee Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all members present [except Mr. McCall], Administrator Scott Moulder 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.oconeesc.com/council](http://www.oconeesc.com/council)]. In addition it was made available to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Member of the press present: None present.

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

**Minutes:** Mr. Corbeil noted he was not present for the last meeting, therefore, a quorum of those present at the August 30<sup>th</sup> meeting was not present at this meeting necessitating the deferral of approval of the August 30, 2011 minutes to the next scheduled meeting.

### Citizen Appearances

#### **Ridge Road Widening Request / Ms. Judith Christian**

Ms. Judith Christian addressed the Committee requesting that Ridge Road in Salem be considered for widening due to safety concerns and she requested that the ditches be reviewed as some are very deep and dangerous. Ms. Christian thanked the Road Department on behalf of the residents for the brush cutting and the apron work that was completed.

Ms. Brian Poppa addressed the Committee regarding safety concerns.

Mr. John Poppa addressed the Committee regarding safety concerns on this road.

Mr. Mack Kelly, County Engineer, addressed the Committee reading from a prepared statement [copy filed with these minutes].

Discussion followed.

Mr Thrift asked the County Administrator to work with the Roads & Bridges Department and the County Attorney to identify if right-of-ways can be obtained and to identify options for widening the roadway. Mr. Kelly stated that in regards to the ditch issue he would visit the site and work with the technician to see if a solution can be identified to address this concern. Discussion followed regarding options to include widening a portion of the roadway, making the road one way with a cul-de-sac, etc.

Mr. Moulder addressed the Committee outlining discussion held with the County Attorney regarding the pros and cons of improving a portion of Ridge Road. Mr Moulder stated that the attorney recommended not improving only a portion of the road as this increases the county's liability. Mr. Moulder stated that the attorney reiterated that the County is prohibited by law from working on private property without a right-of-way easement in place.

Condemnation was discussed with the Chairman stating that it is not the current policy of this Committee or Council but if safety issues are identified and citizens are not willing to work with the

County to help remedy the safety concerns that the Committee/Council may have to review this policy in the future.

Lengthy discussion followed.

Mr. Thrift directed the Administrator and County Engineer to continue working with the residents to identify a solution to ease the situation and to try to fix the roadway as much as possible and to report back at the next meeting.

### **Ongoing Project Status / Staff Report**

Mr. Kelly read from a prepared statement [copy filed with these minutes] highlighting ongoing projects.

Mr. Kelly also reviewed with the Committee a draft press release [copy filed with these minutes] regarding upcoming citizen meetings to be held to identify needed road projects in the county and to provide information to interested citizens. The Committee voiced support for the project.

### **New Business:**

#### **Consultant Review of Road & Subdivision Ordinances**

Mr. Kelly requested direction from the Committee for the focus of the Consultation regarding areas for improvement in the road and subdivision ordinances. Discussion followed. Mr. Kelly stated that he would work with the consultant and try to bring forward suggestions to the next meeting.

Mr. Thrift noted that we need to make the process better for staff and citizens. He stated that there is not a one size fits all solution to the various terrains within Oconee County.

#### **Abandonment of Doug Hollow Road**

Mr. Kelly reviewed with the Committee a handout [copy filed with these minutes] and requested action by the Committee to be taken to full Council for a vote.

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 2 – 0 to recommend to full Council that the County not oppose abandonment of a portion of Doug Hollow Road.

#### **Kelly Ridge Road / Paving / In House Paving List**

Mr. Kelly noted that during discussion with residents related to the Doug Hollow Road issue that they identified that the County has full right-of-way for Kelly Ridge Road. Mr. Kelly asked that the Committee approve adding Kelly Ridge Road to the bottom of the in-house paving list to be completed when funds become available. Discussion followed.

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 2 – 0 to recommend to full Council the addition of Kelly Ridge Road to the bottom of the Road Department's In House Paving list noting that the project will be done only when funds become available.

### **Old Business:**

None discussed at this meeting.

### **Adjourn:**

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, approved unanimously to adjourn at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Elizabeth G. Hulse  
Clerk to Council