



MINUTES
LAW ENFORCEMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING
August 25, 2009

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Wayne McCall, Chairman, District II
Mr. Mario Suarez, District III
Mr. Joel Thrift, District IV

No Recording of this meeting was made.

The Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee met on Wednesday, July 22, 2009 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Committee Members present [except Mr. Suarez] and Elizabeth G. Hulse, Clerk to Council present.

Oconee County Staff present: Mr. Eric Lutz, 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 7:11 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall approved 2 – 0 that the minutes from the July 22, 2009 meeting be adopted as printed.

Approval of Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee Role and Responsibilities:

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 2 – 0 to approve the Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee Role and Responsibility worksheet as present and approved posting same on the Council website.

Department Reports / Updates:

Report on Swine Flu & Upcoming Flu Season/DHEC Representative:

Mr. McCall recognized Mr. Donald M. Peace, Regional Director of Public Health Preparedness, Region 1, who addressed the committee on the current status of swine flu and preparations to deal with additional cases. He discussed cooperative work being done in Oconee County with both the Emergency Services Department and the School District of Oconee County. Mr. Peace utilized a PowerPoint presentation which is filed with these minutes.

Sheriff's Department:

A representative of the Sheriff's Department was not present – no report made.

Emergency Services:

Mr. Lutz provided follow up on several key areas to include:

- **Fire Trucks:** The new trucks for Fair Play and Mountain Rest are being inspected with delivery anticipated soon.
- **Part Time Employees:** The positions were posted on August 17th and will close on August 31, 2009. To date, Human Resources have received 10 applications.
- **Volunteer Fire Department Funding:** The new funding requirements have been reviewed with the Chiefs at a recent meeting and met with little resistance and few questions.
- **South Cove Boat Storage:** We are waiting on a response from Duke regarding the Environmental Study conducted. Will provide an update at a future meeting.

New Business:

Approved Citizen Appearances: None discussed at this meeting.

Approved Staff Appearances:

Jail Study Committee: Major Steve Pruitt, Law Enforcement Center, addressed the Committee and updated those present regarding work being done by the Jail Study Committee. Discussion followed.

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by McCall, approved 2 – 0 to schedule a meeting with the Architect and to schedule a walk through for members of the committee of the current jail. It was suggested by Ms. Susie Cornelius, and agreed to by the Committee unanimously, that each member of the committee select a citizen to tour the jail in order that the public better understand the current overcrowding and structural issues related to our jail facility.

Funding for 6th Radio Tower for Communications: Mr. John Murray, Communications, addressed the Committee and briefly outlined his request that funding for equipment for the tower be approved by the Committee. Discussion followed.

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 2 – 0 to forward this issue to the Budget, Finance & Administration Committee for review, discussion and possible action.

Old Business: None discussed at this meeting.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will tentatively be held on Friday, August 28, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, Oconee Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC.

Adjourn:

Mr. Thrift made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved unanimously at 8:27 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse, Clerk to Council