



**MINUTES**  
**REAL ESTATE, FACILITIES & LAND MANAGEMENT**  
**COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**November 14, 2009, 9:30 a.m.**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Mr. Mario Suarez, Chairman, District III  
Mr. Paul Corbeil, District I  
Mr. Joel Thrift, District IV

The Real Estate, Facilities & Land Management Committee met Saturday, November 14, 2009 at 9:30 AM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all members present & Elizabeth G. Hulse Clerk to Council present.

Staff Present: Judge Blake Norton, Chief Magistrate Judge

**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](http://www.oconeese.com/council)]. In addition it was made available to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Members of the press present: Dick Mangrum

**Call to Order:**

Chairman Suarez called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**Minutes:**

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 2 – 0 to approve [Mr. Corbeil was not on the committee at this meeting] the June 6, 2009 minutes as presented.

**Discussion regarding Committee Roles & Responsibilities:**

Mr. Suarez reviewed with the Committee the draft Roles & Responsibilities. Mr. Corbeil suggested, and it was agreed unanimously, that the responsibility of the committee should also include to develop and maintain a three year facilities use plan.

Mr. Thrift asked the Clerk to work with Administration to obtain a complete facility listing to include all county owned buildings [address, age of building, condition, footage, needs, etc.]. In addition, it was requested that a list of all current rental and lease agreements be provided.

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 3 – 0 to recommend to full Council that Mr. Lake Julian, Facilities Director, identify roof types for the old courthouse to stop any further deterioration of the building.

**New Business:**

**Westminster Magistrate Court / Space Needs Discussion:**

Chief Magistrate Blake Norton addressed the Committee regarding the need to move the Westminster Magistrate Court in the coming months. He informed the Committee that the

current building has been sold to the City of Westminster and their intention is to move their police department into the building forcing the Magistrate Court to find other office space. Judge Norton brought this to the Committee's attention in a proactive manner in order to have sufficient time to identify other space. Discussion followed.

It was the consensus of the Committee that Mr. Thrift contact the City of Westminster Administrator, David Smith, to discuss options to include free space or placement in the joint fire station. Mr. Thrift will keep both Judge Norton and Judge Will Derrick [Westminster Magistrate] informed and involved in the process. He has agreed to report to full council at the December 1, 2009 meeting with a progress report.

### **Request for Funding for Restoration of Historic School / West Union:**

Mayor Nunnery was not in attendance at the meeting. The Committee had lengthy discussion and identified the following questions and concerns regarding this project to include:

- West Union needs to identify funding commitments from West Union and other municipalities. It was felt by the Committee that municipality/community involvement was crucial for this projects success.
- West Union needs to provide information regarding work on this project by any civic groups active and inactive and identification of any funds raised by those groups
- West Union needs to identify potential funding from PRT, ATAX, grants, etc. to assist with this project
- West Union needs to outline future uses and maintenance of the school

Mr. Suarez noted that it is not the intent of the Committee to slow this process, if fact all members support the concept whole heartedly; however in order to make an informed decision the information outlined above is required.

Mr. Suarez directed the Clerk to Council to draft a letter for his signature notifying the Mayor and Town of the Committees request. This letter will be filed with the permanent minutes.

### **Old Business:**

No Old Business was discussed at this meeting.

### **Adjourn:**

Mr. Suarez having no other business adjourned the meeting at 10:04 AM

Respectfully Submitted:

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Elizabeth G. Hulse  
Clerk to Council