



MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY
CAPITAL PROJECT SALES TAX COMMISSION
January 22, 2014

MEMBERS

Mr. Russell Price, Chairperson, County Representative
Ms. Thelma Miller, Vice Chairperson, City of Walhalla Representative
Ms. Brenda Davis, City of Westminster Representative
Mr. Don Fuller, County Representative
Mr. Glen McPheeters, County Representative
Ms. Mollie Smith, City of Seneca Representative

The Oconee County Capital Sales Tax Commission [CPSTC] met at 6:30 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all representatives present [except Ms. Smith] and Clerk to Council Elizabeth G. Hulse 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 [upon request] to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Member of the press present: Ray Chandler – Anderson Independent, Carlos Galarza -The Daily Journal.

Call to Order:

Mr. Price called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Price asked those in attendance to keep the Barron family in their thoughts and prayers after the death of Council District III Representative, Archie Barron, on Monday, January 20, 2014.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. McPheeters made a motion, seconded by Ms. Miller, approved 4 – 0 [Ms. Davis had not yet arrived] to approve the minutes from the January 16, 2014 meeting.

PROJECT PRESENTATIONS:

Oconee County Library System Enhancement: Project #5

Mr. Price recognized Oconee County Public Library [OCPL] Board Chair, Mr. Danny Day, who addressed the Commission utilizing a PowerPoint presentation and handouts [copies filed with the project] highlighting the following areas:

- Usage Continues to Grow
- Libraries = Community Centers
- Traditional Media Grows, Too
- Offers Internet Accessibility
- Libraries Help Find Jobs
- Branches Work Together
- Our Libraries Don't Meet SC's Essential Standards
- Libraries Years Behind
- Training & Meeting Space Needs
- Provide Marketing Tool for New Business/Residents
- Strengthen Economics
- Neighbors Investments in Libraries
- Libraries Need Support
- Project Covers Entire County

- Discussion followed regarding several key aspects of the project to include [question – *answer*]:
- Will the proposed plan serve the entire county – *Yes*
 - Is there a potential for grants and/or other funding to assist with this project – *Always looking for additional funding sources*
 - Has the Board purchased land for needed projects – *No, after approval appropriate land will be identified and purchased where necessary*
 - What projects were used for sizing requirements – *Basic SC State standards were used*
 - Citizens have previously voiced concerns that the Seneca Branch project is too expensive – *the size is necessary to meeting the needs based on state standards*
 - Is the entire block owned by the county where the current Seneca Branch exists – *No, but the City has in the past stated their willingness to give the property to the Board for a library expansion*
 - Has the board worked with the municipalities to identify the best location for new facilities [Salem, Fair Play] – *No*
 - The Oconee County Council and Planning Commission previously turned down the Seneca Branch as too expensive; has the Board looked at ways to save money on the project – *the plan meets minimum standards for space, computers, meeting rooms, etc.*
 - Has the Board identified any municipal funding to help with any of these projects – *No, it is very difficult to approach a municipality to request funding for a county owned building/operation*

Recess

Mr. Price announced a 10 minute recess to allow for set up for the second presentation.

Reconvene

Mr. Price reconvened the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Oconee County Indoor Recreation / Aquatic Center: Project #4

Mr. Price recognized Oconee County Parks, Recreation & Tourism [PRT] Director, Mr. Phil Shirley, who addressed the Commission utilizing a PowerPoint presentation [copy filed with the project] highlighting the following areas:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Goals ◦ Location of Facility ◦ Map of Hospital Site with Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Focus Areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Aquatics ✓ Fitness ✓ Wellness ✓ Special Areas |
|---|---|

- Discussion followed regarding several key aspects of the project to include [question – *answer*]:
- Has the relationship with the YMCA been formalized – *In process*
 - What types of usage do you expect in addition to memberships – *birthday parties, swim meets, etc.*
 - Has a task force been formed for this project – *PRT and the county are working closely with the YMCA and other stakeholders [municipalities, school district, etc.]*
 - Do you have any corporate sponsorships at this time – *Not a present, however in discussions with several. This will be a major effort after project approval.*
 - Will the facility be a YMCA or County named building – *Unknown at present but anticipate the county is some form in the name*

Other Business

Scoring Sheet Discussion

Mr. Price led discussion regarding specifics related to scoring for each project. The consensus of the group was that scoring would be zero for all answers “no” and “n/a” on the questionnaire. In addition, Mr. McPheeters requested that each reviewer prepare a paragraph for submission outlining either their support for or rejection of the project.

Follow Up Request from Staff

Mr. Price asked Ms. Hulse if she had any follow up information related to the requests made at the last commission meeting. Ms. Hulse reported the following:

- The Commission can recommend a specific part of a project or a specific cost for a project as part of their recommendation.
- Project #1: Ms. Hulse notified the entity that the Commission would not be considering the project for funding. In addition, the summary project list was updated to reflect this projects removal.
- Project #12: The County Administrator stated that they are not designed to become a direct retail ISP provider and to do so would be in violation of the Federal Grant. Based on this and direction from the Chair, Ms. Hulse notified the entity that the Commission would not be considering the project for funding. In addition, the summary project list was updated to reflect this projects removal.

Adjourn

Mr. Fuller made a motion, approved unanimously by the Commission to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council