



**MINUTES**  
**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**February 19, 2009**  
**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**  
Mr. Joel Thrift, District IV, Chairman  
Mr. George Blanchard, District I  
Mr. Wayne McCall, District II

The Transportation Committee met Wednesday, February 18, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, Oconee Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all members present, Mr. Mack Kelly, County Engineer, Mr. Dale Surrett, County Administrator & 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](http://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 Thrift called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**Minutes:**

Mr. Thrift noted that all members of this committee are new as of January 2009 therefore the minutes from the November 18, 2008 meeting will be accepted as information as printed.

**Discussion Items:**

**Mountain Rest Fire Department / Grading:**

Mr. Surrett opened discussion outlining that requests for staff to do this type of work [some for private individuals which are turned down and some for public organizations] have been done in the past as in house projects. Mr. Kelly outlined the request from the Mountain Rest Rescue Squad and Fire Department as follows:

- Stump removal
- Debris cleared and removed from site
- Fill dirt added to Fire Department grade
- Storm drainage needs to be created
- Transportation & in house labor costs need to be identified
- Hydroseeding

Mr. Kelly provided the Committee members with a spreadsheet [filed with these minutes] outlining exact cost estimates and materials needed for the project. Discussion followed. Mr.

Blanchard asked if Mr. Kelly could provide additional information to include site plans for review at a future Committee meeting. Mr. Kelly stated that no plans were available. It was also suggested that representatives from the Mountain Rest Rescue Squad and/or Fire Department might want to attend next meeting to address specific questions regarding intended use of the property.

No action was taken on this matter at this time.

### **Coneross Point HOA / Tree Cutting:**

Mr. Kelly briefly described the County's procedures for maintenance of right-of-ways as it relates to tree cutting/trimming, limb removal, downed trees, removal of structures, etc. He noted that approximately 80% of the county roads have prescriptive easements = meaning there is a recorded historical pattern showing county maintenance on the road. Discussion followed.

Mr. Kelly noted that for the Coneross Point subdivision the county has 50 foot right-of-way. A citizen in the subdivision has complained about the county's cutting of trees in the right-of-way. This citizen has started a petition to have the county stop maintenance of the right-of-way; however, Mr. Kelly noted that there is concern that there may be multiple signatures from the same properties and the HOA is looking into this at this time. Mr. Kelly stated that he met with the Home Owner's Association [HOA] and rode through the community for approximately 2 hours. After the meeting, Mr. Todd Fink, HOA President, stated that he would review all the information with the HOA at the next meeting and that he would get back to Mr. Kelly.

Discussion followed regarding imposing regulations that would require that if a citizen or HOA stop the county from maintaining the right-of-way that they become financially responsible for any and all damage. Mr. Kelly presented a draft letter for the Committee's consideration [filed with these minutes].

No action was taken on this matter at this time but the Committee asked Mr. Kelly to report back on any status change regarding this issue.

### **Road Paving Ordinance Review:**

Mr. Kelly briefly reviewed with the Committee Ordinance 2008-19. He highlighted Articles #3-6 and #6 F. Discussion followed.

No action was taken on this matter at this time but the Committee asked that this Ordinance be placed on the next agenda for further discussion.

### **Proposed List of Roads for Paving:**

Mr. Kelly briefly reviewed with the Committee the list of roads approved at the October 10, 2008 Transportation Committee meeting. He asked that this group take this list forward to the full council for approval so that work may begin. Discussion followed. Below is a summary of the roads/work to be completed:

*It was the consensus of the committee to authorize the Road Department to pave in house the following roads: Deerwood Lane, Cherokee View Drive, Briar Creek Drive and Brushy Mountain Road.*

*It was the consensus of the committee to authorize the Road Department to bid out for paving the following roads: Cartee Road, Edgewood Drive and Wisteria Drive.*

Mr. Thrift stated that he would bring this to the next full Council meeting to be held on March 3, 2009 for approval.

### **Purchase of Asphalt:**

Mr. Kelly noted that also at the October 20, 2008 meeting the Committee approved a trial period for the purchase of asphalt. A copy of the motion made was as follows:

*Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Blanchard, approved 3 – 0 to authorize the Road Department to implement “Standard Operating Guidelines for Roads & Bridges Department to Purchase Asphalt Materials” for a six month trial period. The committee requests that a report be made at the end of the trial period to determine if the Guidelines should be recommended to Council to be made a permanent policy.*

Mr. Kelly stated that he will report back to this Committee in April regarding the success of implementing these standards during the prescribed 6 month trial period

### **Corp of Engineer’s Request to Accept Choestoea Road:**

Mr. Kelly briefly reviewed with the Committee the Corp of Engineer’s request to take over this road which is off Dr. John’s road and leads to a community boat ramp. Mr. Surrett noted that they have agreed to finish the road to county standards prior to turning it over to us for future maintenance. Discussion followed.

No action was taken on this matter at this time but the Committee asked that this be placed on the next agenda for further discussion.

### **Planning for Future Meetings / Review of Outstanding Issues:**

1.] Ms. Elizabeth Hulse, Clerk to Council, briefly reviewed with the Committee three outstanding issues that need action by the committee [copy of summary filed with these minutes]. She asked that each member review the material so that these issues can be scheduled for discussion by the Chair at an upcoming meeting.

2.] Mr. Surrett suggested to the Committee that they consider establishing a regular meeting schedule. Mr. Thrift stated agreement and asked that this issue be placed on the next agenda for scheduling for the balance of 2009.

3.] Mr. Kelly stated that he has received phone calls from citizens regarding paving for Gnatts Hollow and Louie Lane. He stated that letters have been sent and that not all of the right-of-ways have been obtained therefore paving can not be scheduled.

### **Davis & Floyd / Replacement of Jenkins Bridge at Toxaway Creek / \$31,400:**

Mr. Thrift added this item to the agenda for discussion. This was discussed at the Council meeting held on February 17, 2009. Additional discussion took place with the County Engineer and the County Administrator regarding the specifics of this approved item.

Mr. Surrett stated that he would work with the Engineer and Procurement to identify other options to potentially reduce the costs associated with this issue and that he would report back to this committee at a future meeting.

**Next Meeting:**

Mr. Thrift did not schedule the next meeting at this time but stated it would be advertised once a date/time have been chosen within the next few weeks.

**Adjourn:**

Chairman Thrift motioned to adjourn at 5:37 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Elizabeth G. Hulse  
Clerk to Council