



MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
April 28, 2009
COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Mr. Joel Thrift, District IV, Chairman
Mr. Wayne McCall, District II

The Transportation Committee met Tuesday, April 28, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, Oconee Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all members present, Mr. Mack Kelly, County Engineer & 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]. 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 5:30 p.m.

Minutes:

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 2 – 0 that the minutes from the March 23, 2009 meeting be approved as printed.

Presentation by Citizens:

Merry Branch Road / Mr. Steven Wells:

Mr. Thrift asked Mr. Wells and Mr. Daniel Draisen [Mr. Wells son-in-law] to step forward. Mr. Wells outlined his position that the county has altered the way it maintains Merry Branch Road and that because of run off his personal driveway is being adversely affected. Mr. Draisen also addressed and referenced emails between himself and Mr. Kelly [filed with these minutes]. Mr. Kelly outlined research done by his staff regarding the road status and the portion of the road to be maintained by the County. Mr. Wells and Mr. Draisen stated that they are willing to do whatever it takes to help to clear up this situation. Discussion followed.

Mr. Thrift stated that follow-up with the County Attorney, Mr. Tom Martin, will be required before any recommendation can be made. Mr. Kelly will contact Mr. Martin to obtain his legal advise / opinion.

Edward Lane / Mr. Jack Rochester Jr.:

Clerk to Council notified the committee members that she was unable to reach Mr. Rochester to notify him of the meeting.

Mr. Kelly outlined the issue that he was aware of regarding a stopped up culvert pipe and silting issue. He stated that the county does not have right of way and that the trees in the outfall of the culvert pipe are on Mr. Rochester's private land. Mr. Kelly stated that he contacted Mr. Rochester and stated that a replacement pipe could be installed.

The Committee took no further action.

Cedar Creek Lane / Mr. Don Murray:

Clerk to Council notified the committee members that she was unable to reach Mr. Murray either via phone or email to notify him of the meeting.

Mr. Kelly outlined the issues that he was aware of regarding this private road. He stated that there are issues with lights, landscaping and a fountain in the right of way. Mr. Kelly also stated that the road was not in bad shape to his knowledge.

The Committee took no action.

Discussion of Budget related Road Issues / Fees:

Mr. Kelly provided the Committee members with a Summary of Proposed fees [filed with these minutes] outlining pro's and con's for their review during discussion.

Vehicle Road Maintenance Fee:

Mr. Thrift noted that this fee was removed from the FY 2009-2010 budget on a vote in a Budget, Finance & Administration Committee meeting previously.

Road Inspection Fee:

Mr. Kelly outlined with the Committee the Road Inspection Fee proposed in the FY 2009-2010 Administrator's budget. The fee is designed to reimburse for staff time involved in inspecting roads accepted from developers based on \$1/foot with a minimum fee amount of \$600. Mr. Thrift questioned if the fee was too low at the proposed rate. Mr. Kelly stated that he would bring a revised fee structure to the Budget, Finance & Administration Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 29, 2009. Discussion followed.

Mr. Thrift stated that he would propose to the Budget, Finance & Administration Committee that this fee be instituted for FY 2009-2010.

Encroachment Fee:

Mr. Kelly outlined with the Committee the Encroachment Fee proposed in the FY 2009-2010 Administrator's budget. The fee is designed to reimburse the County for all costs of supervising, inspecting and repairing damage to roads and right of ways from developers, utilities, etc. Discussion followed.

Mr. Thrift stated that he would propose to the Budget, Finance & Administration Committee that this fee be instituted for FY 2009-2010.

Sign Construction & Installation Fee:

Mr. Kelly outlined with the Committee the Sign Construction & Installation Fee proposed in the FY 2009-2010 Administrator's budget. The fee collected would help offset some of the costs associated with sign maintenance. Municipalities would be charged for cost of materials and others would be charged 2.5 times the cost of materials. Discussion followed.

Mr. Thrift stated that he would propose to the Budget, Finance & Administration Committee that this fee be instituted for FY 2009-2010.

Old Business:

North Jenkins Bridge Road:

Mr. Kelly requested clarification regarding Council's instruction to hold off on an engineering study for North Jenkins Bridge Road. Discussion followed.

Mr. Thrift stated that he would request at the May 5, 2009 Council meeting as part of his report that Council vote to reconsider the bid approval and table the matter until further alternatives can be identified and discussed.

New Business:

None was discussed at this meeting.

Adjourn:

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved unanimously to adjourn at 6:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council