



MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
June 30, 2009
COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Mr. Joel Thrift, District IV, Chairman
Mr. Wayne McCall, District II

The Transportation Committee met Tuesday, June 30, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at the Oconee County Airport, 365 Airport Road, Seneca, SC with all members present, Kendra Brown, Interim 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]. In addition it was made available to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Member of the press present: Dick Mangrum – WGOG Radio

Call to Order:

Chairman Thrift called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Tree Cutting / Road Paving Project Issues [Mr. Ed Pugh]:

Mr. Ed Pugh addressed the committee and provided them with several handouts [written statement, aerial photograph and plat – filed with these minutes]. Mr. Pugh requested two things of the committee; [1] have the Road Department to continue to work with him regarding tree removal on the west side of the property, and [2] to grant a waiver to allow trees in the right of way to not be cut down as part of the road improvement project on Briar Creek Road. Mr. Pugh stated that he still may wish to pursue this issue through the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Mr. Mack Kelly, County Engineer, stated that if this committee takes action that there would not need to go the Board of Zoning Appeals as they would no longer have jurisdiction as outlined in the ordinance. He stated also that it is still his recommendation that all trees be removed from the right of way as they are a potential liability to the county if not removed. He noted that trees left in the right of way after a ditch has been pulled may die after their roots are disturbed and this can cause a hazard.

Mr. Cecil Foster, neighbor of Mr. Pugh's on Briar Creek Road, addressed the committee noting that pegs put out by Mr. Pugh's surveyor are not accurately indicating the 25' right of way in places – in some places they are only showing a 16' right of way. Mr. Foster noted that the right of way was already deeded when Mr. Pugh bought the property and that he wants the road improvement project to continue as planned.

Mr. Thrift stated that he does not want to set precedent by issuing a waiver to alter the right of way on this project. He stated that the Committee has full faith in the information provided by the County Engineer. In addition, he stated that as the right of way has been established that this project needs to go forward.

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 2 – 0 to deny a waiver regarding the right of way for Mr. Pugh on Briar Creek Road and to instruct the Road Department to begin work again on this project starting Monday, July 7, 2009. Mr. Thrift advised Mr. Pugh that if he wished to move the trees he was free to do so during this interim period before the 6th.

Adjourn:

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved unanimously to adjourn at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council