COMMITTEE of the WHOLE COMMITTEE MINUTES MARCH 24, 2009

The Committee of the Whole met on Tuesday, March 24, 2009 in the Committee Room, located on the second floor of the Administration Building, beginning at 4:05 p.m. Ms. Summers, Committee Chairman presided.

Members Attending:

Debra B. Debbie Summers, Chairman William C. Billy Derrick Bobby C. Keisler William B. Banning, Sr. James E. Kinard, Jr., V Chairman George H. Smokey Davis John W. Carrigg, Jr. M. Todd Cullum

Absent:

*Johnny W. Jeffcoat

*Mr. Jeffcoat was not present due to a conflict in his schedule.

Also attending: Katherine Hubbard, County Administrator; Joe Mergo, Deputy County Administrator; other staff members, citizens of the county and representatives of the media.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda was sent to radio and TV stations, newspapers, and posted on the bulletin board located in the lobby of the County Administration Building.

Economic Stimulus Package Overview (Goal 3) - Katherine Hubbard, County

Administrator - Ms. Hubbard provided an overview of the Economic Stimulus Package that will be available to Lexington County. The funds include entitlement funds, competitive grants, and other stimulus opportunities. Staff presented the following:

Community Development - Mr. Ronald Scott, Community Development Director, reported on stimulus funding through the CDBG Program. He said that they are receiving \$385,148 in additional CDBG funds because they are an existing entitlement through HUD and an additional \$588,970 has been allocated for a homeless prevention fund. Mr. Scott said he is working with the County Administrator to research the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant for energy efficiency improvement projects for County facilities.

Sheriff's Department - Col. Allan Paavel, Sheriff's Department, reported South Carolina is eligible for an additional \$21 million in law enforcement and justice grants as a result of the stimulus money. He said the only entitlement funds are through the County JAG funds, which have been increased to \$260,971, and that other funds would have to be applied through the State or Federal government. Col. Paavel reported that all the grants

are one hundred percent funded. Grants already applied for can be reopened in order to make modifications such as removing the twenty-five percent match. Most of the State run grants' deadlines are April 1, 2009. The Sheriff's Department will present six grant applications at the next meeting and those are: Court Security Enhancement Grant, Violence Against Women Act Grant, Records Management Grant, Gang Initiative Grant, Regional DNA Forensic Lab, and COPS Hiring Grant.

Other Stimulus Funding - Ms. Hubbard reported on other stimulus package opportunities that are available. She said that the County is looking at Economic Development assistance programs, the FEMA Fire Fighter Assistance Grant, grants for airport discretionary funds, and funding for the County's radio replacements for the 800 MHZ portable and other radios. These are all County initiatives discussed under the County's objectives. Ms. Hubbard said other stimulus package funding opportunities that are being investigated are: a lead hazard reduction program, a weatherization assistance program, as well as a distance learning telemedicine and broadband program under the Telecommunication's Sub-Committee. She said the County will focus on items already identified before looking at new programs and as additional stimulus funding rules continue to be released, updates will be provided to Council. For information only, no action taken.

Approval of Minutes - Meeting of February 10, 2009 - A motion was made by Mr. Banning, seconded by Mr. Kinard to approve the February 10, 2009 minutes as submitted.

The vote was in favor. Mr. Carrigg was not present at the time the vote was taken.

Old Business - Tax Installment Payments - None.

Old Business - Boards and Commissions - Ms. Summers reported staff was in the process of preparing updated information for the Boards and Commissions.

New Business - Tri-County Home Health & Services, Inc. - Mr. Banning presented a letter for Council to sign endorsing Tri-County Home Health & Services, Inc.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy R. Busbee Assistant to the Clerk Debra B. Debbie Summers Chairman

Diana W. Burnett Clerk