

**COMMITTEE of the WHOLE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
AUGUST 25, 2009**

The Committee of the Whole met on Tuesday, August 25, 2009 in the Committee Room, located on the second floor of the Administration Building, beginning at 1:45 p.m. Ms. Summers, Committee Chairman, presided.

Members Attending:

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

Also attending: Katherine Hubbard, County Administrator; Joe Mergo, Deputy County Administrator; Larry Porth, Finance Director/Assistant 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.

Local Matching Funds for the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (Goals 1,2) - Central Midlands Council of Governments - Mr. Norman Whitaker, Executive Director - Mr. Whitaker presented a request from Central Midlands Council of Governments for assistance with local matching funds for the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The South Carolina Emergency Management Division has awarded the CMCOG a grant for \$85,000 to cover 75% of the cost of the plan update. CMCOG is asking the four participating counties (Lexington, Richland, Newberry, and Fairfield) and the City of Columbia to provide approximately \$4,200 or 1/5 of the required matching amount. The Committee asked Mr. Whitaker if CMCOG has this money in their budget, which he indicated it was in the CMCOG's current budget. He said the CMCOG was committed to do the project whether they receive the local matches. CMCOG is requesting assistance due to state budget cuts. Mr. Whitaker plans to provide the Committee of those who can or will participate in the funding. The Committee will take the request under consideration. For information only, no action taken.

Auxiliary Administration Building Space Allocation - Veterans Affairs - Gary Baker, Director and Dean Crepes, Director of Registration and Elections - The Veterans' Affairs and Registration and Elections offices have requested use of the space left by the Magistrate's office at the Auxiliary Administration building as additional work space. The Committee referred the request to the Space Allocation Committee for review and recommendations. For information only, no action taken.

Demonstration of a Classroom Response System - Planning and GIS - Charlie Compton, Director - Mr. Compton presented a hands on demonstration of a Classroom Response System. The response system is planned to be used at the Transit Summit meeting on Friday, October 16, 2009. Mr. Compton explained that the response system has multiple applications, one of which could possibly be used as an electronic voting record system for Council sessions. The system can be utilized by a remote control device or cell phone. For information only, no action taken.

United Way Pace-Setter Campaign Update - Joe Mergo, County Deputy Administrator - Mr. Mergo presented an update on the United Way Pace-Setter Campaign. He reported \$1,200 was donated during the dunking booth fund raising event held on Wednesday, August 19, 2009. Dunking booth participants included elected officials and department heads. The campaign will conclude at the end of August with prizes for the winning teams. For information only, no action taken.

Telecommunications Subcommittee Update (Goals 1,2,3) - Information Services - Mike Ujcich, CIO and William Byrd, Communications Subcommittee Member - Mr. Ujcich and Mr. Byrd presented an update on the Telecommunications Subcommittee. Mr. Byrd is also a member of the South Carolina Education Broadband Service Commission. Mr. Ujcich reported the committee has been researching a number of different types of technologies primarily around wireless delivery of data throughout the County by mobile users. He said there has been some events as it relates to technology and activity at the State level that provides an opportunity to bring this technology forth. Currently the County uses aircards, phones and hotspots located throughout the County for local wireless connection that is limited in range. The subcommittee has been looking at the WiMAX technology that can deliver more efficient bandwidth use and allow higher data rates over longer distances. The Subcommittee is seeking permission to move forward with research on the WiMAX technology and pursue grant funding that may be available through the Stimulus Bill. The South Carolina Association of Counties is forming a communications committee with representatives from Lexington, Richland, Orangeburg, Greenville, and Charleston counties. Mr. Ujcich said the County needs to advise the State of their interest in the excess broadband capacity in order to reserve any licenses needed. The County Administrator will keep the Committee updated on any action needed. For information only, no action taken.

EMS Funding Request (Goal 1) - Public Safety/EMS - Brian Hood, Coordinator - Chief Hood presented an update on the EMS request for new positions for the EMS's night shift. He reported that after researching the revenue sources and the projected five percent call volume increase EMS would have sufficient funds for additional staffing needs. Chief Hood also presented a proposed rate increase for EMS transport services. Currently the EMS base fee for County residents is \$496 and non-County residents is \$551. (Mileage is \$9 per loaded mile and no-transport charge is \$110.) Staff has proposed new rates for the EMS base fee of \$500 for County residents and \$600 for non-County residents. (No changes to mileage and no-transport charges.) The projected revenue is estimated to be \$863,000 and would cover the cost of the

\$287,000 requested for the additional night shift staff. The Committee requested that in the future when staff presents a request before Council they be better prepared without requiring multiple meetings. The Committee discussed the proposed rate increase, collections and Medicare reimbursements for transport.

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Jeffcoat to recommend to full Council to approve staff's request for the proposed rate increase for both in-county and out-of-county transport fees and approve the additional staff for the EMS night shift.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Approval of Minutes - Meeting of July 28, 2009 - A motion was made by Mr. Kinard, seconded by Mr. Cullum to approve the July 28, 2009 minutes as submitted.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Possible Executive Session if Time Permits - A motion was made by Mr. Kinard, seconded by Mr. Davis to go into Executive Session to discuss 5 personnel and 7 contractual matters.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Summers reconvened the meeting in open session with no motions to be considered.

Old Business/New Business - Tax Installment Payments, Local Contractors Procurement Incentives - None.

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