

**COMMITTEE of the WHOLE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
JANUARY 26, 2010**

The Committee of the Whole met on Tuesday, January 26, 2010 in the Committee Room, located on the second floor of the Administration Building, beginning at 2:50 p.m. Mr. Kinard, Committee Chairman, presided.

Members Attending:

James E. Kinard, Jr., Chairman
William C. Derrick
Debra B. Summers
Johnny W. Jeffcoat

William B. Banning Sr., V Chairman
George H. Davis
Bobby C. Keisler
M. Todd Cullum

Absent:

*John W. Carrigg, Jr.

*Mr. Carrigg was not present due to illness.

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.

Burton Center Request - Mr. Sam Martin, Burton Center's Director of Procurement, has requested a resolution for Council's approval. The Burton Center is applying for a Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) grant to the South Carolina Department of Mass Transit for assistance in the purchase of a 15-passenger bus to be used in transporting individuals with disabilities and special needs. The request also indicated the bus would be made available to other agencies when not in use by the Burton Center. The Committee discussed a recommendation made by the Transit Summit to form a committee to review all of the different van services within Lexington County and possibly the Midlands area. It was recommended to approve the Burton Center resolution plus a request made for a comprehensive listing of all the federally funded vehicles in Lexington County for the Committee's review.

A motion was made by Mr. Derrick, seconded by Mr. Banning to recommend that full Council approve the resolution for the Burton Center.

The vote was in favor. Mr. Jeffcoat was not present when the vote was taken.

New Business - Lexington County Voting Precincts - Registration and Elections - Mr. Dean Crepes, Director - Mr. Crepes presented information on additions to the Lexington County Voting Precincts. He reported after the 2008 General Election there were concerns about the voting precinct lines and operations. The Registration and Elections Commission

looked at the possibility of creating new precincts with the use of Electronic Voter Registration Lists (EVRL). Mr. Crepes said Senator Knotts introduced Senate Bill 963 that would split 14 precincts creating 14 more precincts using EVRLs at a cost of approximately \$100,000. A meeting was held today with Senator Knotts, Commission members, Registration and Elections staff, and Bobby Bowers with the Office of Research and Statistics for the SC Department of Budget and Control. They conceded to creating four new precincts; 1) Pine Ridge, 2) Park Road, 3) Barr Road, and 4) Red Bank South. The cost to Lexington County to equip the four new precincts is estimated at \$20,000 and would need to be operational by June 2010. Mr. Crepes reported that Senator McConnell indicated it is not a problem to split precincts as long as you use the Voter Tabulation Districts but you cannot change the existing lines. Staff is requesting allocation of funds to create and operate the four precincts. Mr. Crepes said after the census and redistricting more precincts may be created after June of next year. The Committee inquired about the cost of staffing additional poll workers needed for the new precincts. Mr. Crepes responded that costs for poll workers, rent, and rovers are fully refunded from the State and the political parties pay for the primaries in June. Equipment cost is to be paid by the County. The Committee asked about the current State law that requires splitting precincts. Mr. Crepes answered the State law is 1,500 or more registered voters, however, Lexington County is faced with locations for new precincts within the communities. The Committee asked about consolidating precincts. Mr. Crepes said he could not consolidate at this time because it would change the lines of two existing precincts but he will research this information for the Committee. The four new precincts were identified by the availability of facilities located within the new precinct areas. The Committee requested staff to return with a budget for the February 9, 2010 meeting. For information only, no action required.

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

Possible Executive Session if Time Permits - Executive Session/Legal Briefing - A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Derrick to go into Executive Session for seven legal matters.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Kinard reconvened the meeting in open session with no motions to be considered.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy R. Busbee
Assistant to the Clerk

James E. Kinard, Jr.
Chairman

Diana W. Burnett
Clerk