

**COMMITTEE of the WHOLE COMMITTEE  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2010**

The Committee of the Whole met on Tuesday, September 28, 2010 in the Committee Room, located on the second floor of the Administration Building, beginning at 2:30 p.m. Mr. Kinard, Committee Chairman, presided.

Members Attending:

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

**Lexington County Law Enforcement Memorial - Lexington Town Police Chief Terrance Green and Special Agent Michael Lynch, SLED** - Chairman Kinard introduced Ms. Jewitte Dooley, Chair for the Lexington Beautification Foundation. He said since the proposed Law Enforcement Memorial would be surrounding the Judicial Center fountain, he asked for an update on the fountain project. Ms. Dooley said the Beautification Foundation's goal is beautifying Lexington County and the Town of Lexington to create a sense of community pride. The Foundation wants to take on the fountain project to not only honor Judge Westbrook and his law clerk, Randall Davis, but also beautify the Courthouse grounds. Their idea is to create a memorial plaza with the foundation as the main focal point adding greenery and seasonal plantings. She said there are enough funds to proceed with the fountain. Ms. Dooley provided a Power Point rendering of the proposed memorial plaza showing the fountain along with the four corners as additional memorial sites. She said the Foundation is willing to oversee and assist as a design review board for the memorial plaza project with Council's approval. Ms. Dooley described the proposed fountain as a no maintenance fountain and that the Foundation would maintain the seasonal plantings. Police Chief Green, Town of Lexington Police Department, provided information on the proposed Law Enforcement Memorial planned at the Judicial Center to remember the men and women who have given their lives protecting the citizens of Lexington County. He introduced all those in attendance representing various law enforcement agencies within Lexington County. Chief Green presented a brief video of the proposed memorial. Special Agent Lynch described the details of the monument and that it would be compatible with the Judicial Center fountain. Chief Green said the projected completion is May 2011 so it would correspond with Law Enforcement Memorial Week. The cost for the

proposed black granite monument is estimated at \$65,000 to \$75,000. The Lexington Beautification Foundation and Law Enforcement Group have worked together to combine their ideas for one memorial area. Chairman Kinard said he looks forward to working with both groups and seeing this happen in the near future. Council will make its final decision after careful consideration of the information provided. For information only, no action taken.

**Reorganization of Precincts Update - Registration and Elections, Dean Crepes, Director - Mr. Crepes** reported on the reorganization of the four new precincts for the upcoming November elections. The new precincts are Barr Road 1, Barr Road 2, Park Road 1, and Park Road 2. Mr. Crepes said new voter registration cards have been mailed for the new precincts. He said he would have someone at the new precinct areas to assist voters and check to be sure they are at the correct voting precinct. The changes have been posted on the County's website and the local media has been notified. The Committee asked if Registration and Elections were completely prepared with the necessary staff, training, and equipment for the upcoming election so there will not be any problems with absentee ballots or other issues. Mr. Crepes responded that staff was prepared for the November elections. He reported the County's costs for the new precincts were for actual equipment cost, postcard print cost, and mailing cost to voters in the new precincts totaling approximately \$12,000. The State Voter Registration office printed and mailed the postcards this past August. The Committee expressed their concerns with only postcard notifications. Ms. Vicki Shealy, Lexington Chronicle, confirmed there will be a news article in this week's issue. Mr. Kinard requested the County Administrator and Mr. Crepes to follow-up with the news media and publicize in as many places as possible to inform the public about the precinct changes. Ms. Hubbard reported a budget amendment resolution is scheduled for the afternoon meeting transferring money into the Registration and Elections budget for two temporary positions to assist in the office prior to Election Day. For information only, no action taken.

**Health Care Reform - Human Resources - Lori Adler, Director and Ryant Johnson, Risk Manager - Ms. Adler and Mr. Johnson** presented an overview of the Health Care Reform and how it will impact Lexington County's current insurance program for 2011. Staff provided a Power Point presentation and a handout outlining changes. Ms. Adler reported that the new reform will require coverage for dependent children up to age 26 and that the County's current plan allows up to age 19 or 19 to 23 if a full-time student. She said there are approximately 405 dependants from age 19 to 23 now. Ms. Hubbard, County Administrator, reported this presentation is to inform Council on the items that the County must change with its current plan by January 2011 before sharing with employees during open enrollment next month. She said Human Resources is working with Finance to look at what needs to be changed in order to litigate some of these changes. Ms. Hubbard said there are a lot of changes all at once that will cost more especially for self-insured companies like the County. Ms. Adler reported on the plans to update all plan documents, summary plan description booklets with distribution to all employees; provide a 30-day Special Enrollment Period to coincide with the Open Enrollment session from October 11 - November 12, 2010; and to communicate changes to employees. She briefly covered changes that included lifetime and annual limits; over-the-counter drug changes; reporting value of benefits on W-2 Forms; effective appeals process; preventive health care service changes; emergency care benefits changes; ob-gyn services;

and required disclosures to government regulators. Ms. Adler said they were still gathering information on the new health care reform changes and will return with additional changes as they are confirmed. She concluded with a timeline of events. The Committee asked if the County had a choice in offering insurance benefits. The County does have a choice, however, there are certain penalties for employers who do not offer any insurance such as monetary penalties, i.e., \$2,000 charged per employee. For information only, no action taken.

**Old Business/New Business - Local Contractors Procurement, Fire Service Volunteer Incentives - None.**

**Possible Executive Session if Time Permits - Executive Session/Legal Briefing -** A motion was made by Ms. Summers, seconded by Mr. Davis to go into Executive Session to discuss five contractual and four 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