

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
APRIL 28, 2009**

The Health & Human Services Committee met on Tuesday, April 28, 2009 in the Committee Room, located on the second floor of the Administration Building beginning at 1:50 p.m. Mr. Jeffcoat, Committee Chairman presided.

Members Attending:

Johnny W. Jeffcoat, Chairman  
James E. Jim Kinard, Jr.  
Debra B. Debbie Summers

William B. Banning, Sr., V Chairman  
Bobby C. Keisler

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.

**FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant Application (Goal 3) - Fire Service - Chief Russell Rawl** - Chief Russell Rawl presented a request to apply for the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$273,000. The grant requires a twenty percent County match of \$54,600. The funds would be used for a new automated Firefighter Accountability System that would replace the existing system. Chief Rawl reported that Fire Service is required to track personnel on emergency scenes to be able to account for them at any time. Firefighter accountability is a requirement of the National Fire Protection Association and South Carolina OSHA. The current manual system has been in use since the late 1980s and does not allow for updates. The new automated system would be compatible with the system used by the South Carolina State Fire Mobilization Plan including over thirty-five fire departments in the state. Staff has included the match in next year's budget.

A motion was made by Mr. Keisler, seconded by Mr. Banning to recommend to full Council to approve staff's request to apply for the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Rapid Key Entry System (Goal 2) - Fire Service - Chief Russell Rawl** - Chief Rawl presented a request to implement a rapid key entry system as allowed in the International Fire Code section 506. Mr. Robert Risinger, Fire Marshall, presented a model and explanation of the Knox Box Rapid Entry System. The system is designed to provide fire departments with a key to the box which in turn provides a key to allow entry into a building and quick access to the sprinkler or fire alarm room in the event of an emergency. This is a nationally recognized system and is currently used by other local and state fire departments including Irmo Fire Department, the City

of Columbia and Horry County. Mr. Risinger said that Fire Service is at a point in staffing where it is a workable system for the County Fire Service and is ready to implement for new construction only, which is required if they have a fire alarm or sprinkler system required in the building. This has been in the fire code since its adoption in 2000. The minimum cost of the box is \$250 to be paid by the building owner. Fire Service will have a master key to the lock box which will be in the battalion chief or captain's pass-down keys they exchange every morning. Mr. Risinger said the key system will also be used for gated apartment and subdivision complexes for gate entrance.

A motion was made by Mr. Keisler, seconded by Mr. Banning to approve staff's request to implement the rapid key entry system.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Note:** Before the Solid Waste Committee meeting commenced, Mr. Jeffcoat referred back to the Rapid Key Entry System. He said staff confirmed that it was already in the Building Code, therefore no vote was necessary. Fire Service staff was only advising the Committee that they were implementing the system.

**Ordinance 08-16 - An Ordinance to Amend the Lexington County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 14, Building and Building Regulations; by Adding a New Article Therein for the Purpose of Establishing Regulations and Requirements Related to Smoking in Retail Food Establishments in the Unincorporated Areas of Lexington County** - Staff presented a revised draft of Ordinance 08-16 with restrictions for retail food establishments and exemption of bars with patrons limited to 21 years or older.

Ms. Summers discussed replacing Ordinance 08-16 with a new smoke-free workplace ordinance and schedule a public hearing for the new ordinance. She said it was in the best interest of the people in the unincorporated areas of Lexington County, to protect non-smokers from the involuntary exposure to second-hand smoke.

A motion was made by Ms. Summers, seconded by Mr. Banning to incorporate an ordinance for a smoke-free workplace. As described, the workplace is any enclosed indoor area or structure, building, or facility open to the public with one or more employees that perform a service for their employer. Smoking to be allowed outside the facility.

Staff requested to provide proposed draft of new ordinance for next meeting.

In favor:        Ms. Summers            Mr. Jeffcoat  
                      Mr. Banning

Opposed:        Mr. Kinard                Mr. Keisler

**Approval of Minutes - Meeting of March 10, 2009** - A motion was made by Mr. Banning,

seconded by Mr. Keisler to approve the March 10, 2009 minutes as submitted.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Old Business/New Business** - None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy R. Busbee  
Assistant to the Clerk

Johnny W. Jeffcoat  
Chairman

Diana W. Burnett  
Clerk