

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES
MARCH 13, 2012**

The Health & Human Services Committee met on Tuesday, March 13, 2012 in the Committee Room, located on the second floor of the Administration Building beginning at 2:40 p.m. Mr. Matthews, Committee Chairman, presided.

Members Attending:

K. Brad Matthews, Chairman	Debra B. Summers, V Chairman
Frank J. Townsend, III	Bobby C. Keisler
James E. Kinard, Jr.	

Also attending: Joe Mergo, III, Interim County Administrator; Larry Porth, Finance Director/Assistant County Administrator; Jeff Anderson, County Attorney; 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.

Request for Consideration of Amending the Section of the Lexington County Animal Control Ordinance Pertaining to Restraint and Confinement - Mr. James Matthews -

Mr. Matthews, Lexington County resident, presented a request for consideration to change the Lexington County Animal Control Ordinance relating to the restraint definition. He read the section from the Lexington County Code of Ordinances - Article II. Animal Control Section 10-31. Definitions. Restraint - # 2 - Under the control and obedient to the owner/custodian's commands within the property limits of the owner/custodian. Mr. Matthews wants the definition of restraint to be changed to indicate that dogs should be on a leash or in a fenced area or the definition dropped completely. Mr. Matthews recited an incident that occurred to him by an unconstrained dog in his neighborhood while walking. He expressed concerns that the dog may be on the pet owner's property but be out of the view of the owner, not responsive to verbal commands or bolt out of the yard at any time. He also expressed others in the neighborhood cannot enjoy the freedom of worry when walking when dogs are out. Councilman Matthews asked what is the next step, after the initial complaint for repeated violations. Mr. Mergo responded there are two situations; 1) if an animal leaves the property a complaint must be signed and filed about the violation and complainant be willing to go to court, and 2) if the owner is outside with the animal and it has not left the property then there is no violation. The Lexington County Animal Control ordinance has been adopted throughout Lexington County, both incorporated and unincorporated areas, with the exception of inside the city limits of West Columbia and Cayce. Mr. Mergo said he was available to meet with Mr. Matthews to explain the ordinance. For information only, no action taken.

Communications Narrowbanding - Public Safety/Admin - David Kerr, Public Safety

Director - Mr. Kerr presented a request for funding the unfunded state mandate for

Communications Narrowbanding. The mandate must be completed by January 1, 2013 or the County may face potential enforcement actions. Staff has been approved to move forward with contract negotiations to install a three tower VHS simulcast system for Lexington County. The new system will ensure the same, if not better, radio coverage for the County's first responders. Mr. Kerr said staff was asked to explore possible funding sources. Due to the mandatory deadline approaching it must be implemented into the current FY11/12 budget and completed in the FY12/13 budget to ensure project availability across two fiscal years. If approved by Council, Administration will establish a capitol account fund. Staff is requesting approval for first reading of a supplemental appropriation, which requires three readings and a public hearing, in an amount not to exceed \$520,000 to be taken out of fund balance from the Fire Service portion of the General Fund. The Committee asked what is Spartanburg, Greenville and Charleston counties doing. Mr. Kerr provided a handout listing eight counties from South Carolina and North Carolina that gave a general idea of what they are doing in this process and reported that Lexington County is ahead in the narrowbanding process. The Committee expressed concerns in using Fire Service funds for the project. Mr. Kerr reminded the Committee that the fines for not meeting this mandate are potentially \$16,000 per day. He reported that staff has applied for a grant of \$162,000 that includes backup equipment. The narrowbanding would be used by Fire Service and EMS first response staff and not the Sheriff's department. This would be a onetime non-reoccurring expenditure with the maintenance being a reoccurring cost. Mr. Kerr said cost involved would be \$17,000 for maintenance and \$24,000 per year in tower rentals. The County owns the pager units to be used, which are used primarily for Fire Service volunteers. No motion required. For information only, no action taken.

Meeting of December 13, 2011 - Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Mr. Keisler, seconded by Ms. Summers to approve the December 13, 2011 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

K. Brad Matthews
Chairman

Diana W. Burnett
Clerk