

**MINUTES
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2010**

Present: R. David Brown, David L. Ferguson, Sr., Mary Lynn Kinley, Kamau Marcharia, Dwayne Perry, Carolyn B. Robinson, Council Members; Philip L. Hinely, County Administrator; Shryll M. Brown, Clerk to Council

Absent: Mikel R. Trapp

In accordance with the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80 (e), as amended, the following persons and/or organizations have been notified of the time, date, and location of this meeting: The Herald-Independent, The State, and Winnsboro Cablevision, and forty-nine other individuals.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:11 P.M.

2. INVOCATION

Council Member Kinley led in the invocation.

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Presentation: Safety Improvement Intersection, Ridgeway, SC – Mr. Reginald Simmons, Transportation Director, Central Midlands COG

- Project Status. Being considered by the COG's Rural Transportation Committee for funding. The PE on the project is about 30% complete. Estimated cost is about \$1.4 million dollars. The question to be answered is does the project need to move forward or stop at this point.
- One of the confusing points about the project is that it was initially called US 21 @ SC 34 and there appeared to be two intersections with that same name in the Town of Ridgeway—one inside the town limits and this one, which is outside the town limits.
- Project Background. DOT brought the project to the COG in 2006 as a safety improvement. Currently looking at potential right-of-way impact. Gas station in the middle of the intersection may have to be purchased.
- Was asked to speak with the Town of Ridgeway to get their feeling and impression of what they want done. Met with the town on December 9, 2009. They expressed as their concern was the potential economic impact of losing the gas station and possibility of trucks being re-routed through the town. The town made a request to the COG to not to proceed forward with the project.
- Notes. This intersection is not within the town limits. The project intends to enhance the safety aspect; not intended to re-route the truck traffic. The designated truck route that comes through the middle of town will be impacted by making this improvement. The intersection creates a v-shape intersection, which is very dangerous. The proposal is to turn it into a t-shape intersection at Bishop Squirewell Road. There will be a dedicated left turn lane off US 21 at Bishop Squirewell Road and Longleaf Road. The throat widths will be increased of both intersections. At the point behind where the gas station is currently located, a t-shape

intersection will be created. The US 21 connector, past the elementary school, will be taken out; leaving the only access will be to come up US 21; left turn and come over and come up US 21 connector.

Questions:

- Where will the funds come from?
- Behind the gas station, will there be a traffic signal there?
- What was the purpose of trying to cut off the v-shape?
- Did you look at any accident numbers that the Highway Department did on that intersection?
- Can you explore a school signal by Geiger School that was previously discussed.
- Who is responsible for this? Who made the request?
- What is the status of the project now?
- Did the Town of Ridgeway clearly understand that this will not take traffic away from downtown or were they misunderstanding the whole project?

It was moved by Council Member Ferguson; seconded by Council Members Kinley and Perry that County Council recommend to SCDOT and the COG to keep the project on schedule; take it out of holding pattern and proceed with the project. The motion carried unanimously.

{At this time, Chairman Brown introduced Mr. Wes Hickman, Piedmont Regional Outreach Director for Senator Graham's Office}.

B. Discussion of Agenda Items For March 10, 2010 Capitol Hill Visit

Mr. Kyle Michel led the following discussion:

- Federal Fiscal Year 2011 Appropriations Requests.
- Have some information about community facilities programs at the U. S. Department of Agriculture.
- Last year, submitted an appropriations request on behalf of the county for the Peach Road Industrial Development Park and for the Fairfield Memorial Hospital Adult Day Care Facility. Neither of those were funded by Mr. Spratt's office or by Mr. Graham's office. Hospital potential has since gone away because that space is being used for something different. The Peach Road project is going forward.
- Met with Town of Winnsboro. They are going to pursue the same grant request for their water system; not for the parallel line, which has already been funded partly with stimulus funds and partly with non-stimulus funds. They are also going to resubmit the request for the Town Clock project. They also have a set of law enforcement needs that they are requesting, which includes new police vehicles, in-car computers and in-car cameras.
- Broad River Water Line Project. The first phase of the \$10 million dollars is a study; the second phase is construction. The Corps suggested that the county ask for an appropriation for the study. The town is going to make the request; however, the county is recommended to join in the request with the town.
- Other Needs. One suggestion that has been talked about in the past is that Congress funds the Homeland Security Appropriations Bill each year a number of emergency operations centers for local governments. Under FEMA, a lot of them are called emergency operations centers or they can be for pre-disaster mitigation. This came out of a combination of discussions last year in Washington as well as listening to the concerns of the western part of the county and a meeting with Mr. Gaither back in December. There is little communication capacity outside the fence of the SCANA facility so that if there were some kind of emergency, it would be difficult for first responders to communicate in a coordinated fashion. There is an opportunity to address that issue. The first step would be to put together a communications plan. NRC requires that SCANA have a plan; however, not certain whether all the police, fire, EMS, etc. have ways to communicate

between the edge of Winnsboro and when they get to the SCANA facility. The discussion involved doing mapping of where communication towers need to be, etc.

- Airport Grants. How much more work is left to be done at the airport?
- Library and Other Community Facilities. Funding is available, separate and apart from these appropriations. USDA has funding now. Loans are available for 85% of community facility projects (libraries, community centers, facilities that serve the public). Loans are at 4% for 40 years.
- These projects need to be submitted to Mr. Spratt's office by the end of next week and to Senator Graham's office by the beginning of March.

Proposals:

- Way to fund suitable fire station on Highway 215.
- Board of Disabilities looking for low interest loan to erect building at old jail site.
- Redo emergency room concept, the lab and radiology departments at the hospital.

Mr. Gaither was asked to obtain a copy of the USDA summary and guidelines. Mr. Gaither reported that Wayne Shuler is working on a report of EMS stations and fire station projects.

Mr. Michel pointed out that eligible USDA projects include: health care facilities (hospitals, nursing homes, residential care facilities, dental clinics, medical clinics and rehabilitation centers); public safety facilities (jails, fire stations fire trucks and police stations); public service facilities (libraries, schools, roads, bridges, street improvements, day care facilities, airports, community centers, county courthouses), and other essential community facilities.

Council's Consensus On Agenda Items To Take To Washington:

Number one project is:

- Water Line
- Peach Road Industrial Park
- Town Clock (Winnsboro Request)
- Airport
- Assign someone to look at the other projects discussed tonight (Disabilities and Special Needs Hospital, and Library) to determine what the feasibility is. *Mr. Hinely was asked to give Mr. Gaither the directive to follow up on these projects.*
- Communications System. Planning study of disaster preparedness with regard to communications in the western part of the county. Funds requested would be able to pay for either planning and/or purchase equipment and install communications system. *Mr. Hinely, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Gaither and Mr. Michel were asked to collaborate on this matter and submit the project for consideration accordingly.*

Mr. Gaither's Report:

- Broadband Grant. Council expressed interest in this project. Have made strides toward this. Met with SYSCO, who is drafting a plan to develop a structure for the county; building an infrastructure system so that the county can be self sufficient, with Truvista and others being partners to expand services for safety. This is separate from the WIMAX broadband. Attended another meeting relating to this.
- Emergency Grants. Four completed in one week. Mrs. Watkins reviewed these to determine what would be most feasible for the county. The Siren Grant appears to be what is most needed, particularly along the Jenkinsville area, serving the nuclear plant.
- Needs Assessment. The original draft has already been approved by Council. The final outcome, detailing input from the community, along with a recap of the percentage of each survey item, will be presented to Council at the next meeting.
- Airport. Ongoing.
- Energy Grant. Pending.
- Quick Jobs. Still working on.
- Water Projects. Mitford, Mid-County and Ridgeway completed. More coming from the State.

- Homeland Security. Have applied for some grants. Do not have definitive answer on whether the county will receive the grant.
- Census. Making every effort to ensure the citizens are receiving the information about the importance of completing the census form.
- Working on water and infrastructure grants for the spring cycle.

Mr. Hinely reported that, since Mr. Gaither has been employed with the county, he has had his fingerprints on many projects, either directly or with other departments or other initiatives. To date, \$5,432,721 came to Fairfield County with Mr. Gaither's fingerprints on it.

4. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M., upon the unanimous approval of Council.

SHRYLL M. BROWN
CLERK TO COUNCIL

RUSSELL DAVID BROWN
CHAIRMAN