

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
MARCH 12, 2013**

The Health & Human Services Committee met on Tuesday, March 12, 2013 in the Committee Room, located on the second floor of the Administration Building, beginning at 3:32 p.m. Mr. Matthews, Committee Chairman, presided.

Members Attending:

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

Absent: M. Kent Collins

\*Mr. Collins was not present during the meeting.

Also attending: Joe Mergo, III, County Administrator; John Fechtel, Deputy County Administrator; Randy Poston, Chief Financial Officer; 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.

**State Homeland Security Grant Program Award - Public Safety/Fire Service - David Kerr, Public Safety Director** - Mr. Kerr presented a request to accept the State Homeland Security Grant Program award in the amount of \$19,728. There is no County match required. The funds will be used to cover a portion of the annual maintenance for cell towers and fiber optics for one year for the Narrowbanding Project.

A motion was made by Mr. Kinard, seconded by Mr. Townsend to recommend full Council to approve staff's request to accept the award.

In Favor: Mr. Matthews Mr. Kinard  
Mr. Townsend

Absent: Mr. Keisler was not present at the time the vote was taken.

**Meeting of December 11, 2012 - Approval of Minutes** - A motion was made by Mr. Kinard, seconded by Mr. Keisler to approve the December 11, 2012 minutes as submitted.

In Favor: Mr. Matthews Mr. Kinard  
Mr. Keisler Mr. Townsend

**Old Business - Narrowbanding Update** - Mr. Kerr reported an assessment report has been forwarded to Council. The FCC website is currently outdated and verification of compliance

issues is very difficult. He said the FCC will conduct an audit of all licenses and by next year the website should be updated. In the meantime, Mr. Kerr contacted a few of the neighboring counties and municipalities to inquire about their compliance status:

- City of Charleston - Compliant (No longer use VHF - 100% Career Departments)
- North Charleston - Compliant (No longer use VHF - 100% Career Departments)
- St. Johns Fire District - Compliant (No longer use VHF - 100% Career Departments)
- Dorchester County - Compliant (Fire VHF system narrowbanded - Significant degrading of VHF coverage - Converting to 800 mHz - Still paging on narrowbanded VHF)
- Aiken County - Compliant (Prior VHF system upgrade/expansion - ahead of Lexington County in upgrading their system)
- Orangeburg County - Compliant
- Clarendon County - Compliant (No system upgrade - Significant degrading of VHF coverage - using e-911 to supplement their paging)
- Greenville City - Compliant, no system upgrades.

Mr. Kerr reported the daily fine for noncompliance is \$16,000, however, violators are not being tracked. The FCC is only responding to complaints. For information only, no action taken.

**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