

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
AUGUST 24, 2010**

The Justice Committee met on Tuesday, August 24, 2010 in the Committee Room, located on the second floor of the Administration Building beginning at 1:25 p.m. Mr. Davis, Committee Chairman, presided.

Members Attending:

George H. Davis, Chairman	William C. Derrick
Bobby C. Keisler	James E. Kinard, Jr.

Absent:

*John W. Carrigg, Jr., V Chairman

*Mr. Carrigg was not present due to a death in his family.

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.

Clerk of Court Translator Services - Beth Carrigg, Clerk of Court and Marsha Moore, Senior Deputy Clerk of Court - Ms. Moore presented a request for approval for full-time interpreter/translator services. She reported that with the fast growing Hispanic community in Lexington County the requests for translator services have increased. Ms. Moore said under Rule 511 of the South Carolina Supreme Court it is the responsibility of the Clerk of Court to furnish translators. Translation services are billed through the Clerk of Court office to the South Carolina State Court Administration (Court Administration) from funds allocated by the General Assembly for all 46 counties. When these funds are depleted, the County has to pay for the translation services. Staff recommends a pilot position, with the current qualified Clerk of Court translator, to provide translation services for the Clerk of Court, Solicitor, Master-In-Equity, Probate Court, Magistrates, private attorneys, and other individuals at \$45 per hour, with a two hour minimum, plus mileage. This service would be billed through Court Administration until the funds are depleted. Ms. Moore reported the service could net a profit of an estimated \$88,000 which would come from billing other County departments and outside attorneys. The estimate is based on 2,080 hours worked by the current employee at \$45 per hour. The translation services are being provided by a Clerk of Court employee with other regular office duties. Ms. Moore said Court Administration provides a manual with a list of interpreters for each county, however, those listed for Lexington County are either out of business or will not provide services because they are not being paid by Court Administration. Mr. Ed Lewis, Magistrate Court Services, reported they utilize Court Administration and local interpreters for

translation services and their invoices are sent to Court Administration for payment and on occasion there maybe one that is not paid if the interpreter is not certified through Court Administration. However, sometimes they use a private agency outside of Court Administration which is paid for through the County. Mr. Lewis confirmed that all their translation services are being met. The Committee requested the Clerk of Court meet with the various departments to access everyone's translation needs and return with staff recommendations during the budget process unless there is an urgent need before the budget session. Staff was asked about prioritizing translation services to give top priority for County services and require private attorneys to utilize the Court Administration directory or contract with another outside source. For information only, no action taken.

Approval of Minutes - Meeting of July 27, 2010 - A motion was made by Mr. Derrick, seconded by Mr. Kinard to approve the July 27, 2010 minutes as submitted.

The vote was in favor. Mr. Keisler was present but did not vote.

Old Business/New Business - None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy R. Busbee
Assistant to the Clerk

George H. Davis
Chairman

Diana W. Burnett
Clerk