

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
DECEMBER 10, 2013**

The Justice Committee met on Tuesday, December 10, 2013 in the Committee Room, located on the second floor of the Administration Building, beginning at 2:05 p.m. Mr. Kinard, Committee Chairman, presided.

Members Attending:

James E. Kinard, Jr., Chairman	Johnny W. Jeffcoat, V Chairman
M. Kent Collins	Debra B. Summers
Bobby C. Keisler	

Also attending: Joe Mergo, III, County Administrator; Chris Folsom, 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.

Pretrial Service Program Grant Application - Magistrate Court Services - Ed Lewis, Chief Court Administrator - Mr. Lewis presented a request to apply for the Pretrial Service Program Grant in the amount of \$274,657. It would require a 10 percent match of \$30,517. If approved, the funds would be used for the implementation of Phase II of the Pretrial Service Program which would be the first of its kind in the state and intended to be used as a state model. Mr. Lewis reported there were representatives from the Lexington County Sheriff's Department, Solicitor's Office, Magistrate Court Services, and Information Services available to answer Committee questions. Also available for questions were Ms. Renee Lipson, South Carolina Court Administration Staff Attorney, and Mr. John Clark, Pretrial Justice Institute Senior Project Associate. Mr. Clark was available via Skype. Mr. Lewis provided a brief overview of the one-year pilot program as outlined in the information provided. The Pretrial Services Program would provide Magistrates with a risk assessment tool to determine a defendant's risk level during the bond hearing. The Committee heard lengthy discussions regarding the program from Solicitor Hubbard, Judge Reinhart and Chief Kirchner. Ms. Lipson confirmed that Chief Justice Jean Toal supports the program as well as Supreme Court Justices from all 50 states who have signed a resolution in support. Staff said the request presented today was only for approval of the grant application that may take up to six months to process.

A motion was made by Ms. Summers, seconded by Mr. Kinard to recommend that full Council approve staff's request for the grant application and move forward with an opportunity for us to improve the services to the people of Lexington County.

Mr. Jeffcoat commented that as the longest serving council member he has never not supported law enforcement but he said he just did not believe in the program. He said Judge Rienhart,

Judge Jeffcoat and Judge Myers do most of the bonds and he has a lot of faith in all three. Mr. Jeffcoat said he has always supported the Magistrates. Judge Rienhart said he appreciates that, however, making a bond decision is a very hard thing to do and any time he has the opportunity for him or for any of the other judges to give them extra information to make the appropriate decision, he is going to fight for it all he can. Mr. Hubbard said the Solicitor supports the program as well.

In Favor: Mr. Kinard Ms. Summers
 Mr. Banning

Opposed: Mr. Jeffcoat Mr. Collins
 Mr. Keisler

Tie vote, motion fails.

Advanced Impaired Driver Enforcement (AIDE) Grant Application - Sheriff's Department - Col. Allan Paavel - Col. Paavel presented a request to apply for the Advanced Impaired Driver Enforcement (AIDE) Grant in the amount of \$171,005. There is no County match required. If approved, the funds will be used to cover costs for two AIDE officers' salaries, operating supplies and two LIDAR Speed Measurement devices. This grant must be applied for annually. If not approved, the Sheriff's Department will fund from tax revenue and other grant funds as available. Col. Paavel reported this was a continuation of grant funds and all personnel in these grant positions are notified the position may be eliminated at any time due to lack of funding.

A motion was made by Mr. Keisler, seconded by Mr. Jeffcoat to recommend to full Council to approve staff's request to apply for the grant.

In Favor: Mr. Kinard Mr. Keisler
 Mr. Jeffcoat Ms. Summers

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

Drug Parcel Interdiction Unit Grant Application - Sheriff's Department - Col. Allan Paavel - Col. Paavel presented a request to apply for the Drug Parcel Interdiction Unit Grant in the total amount of \$83,863. The grant will require a 10 percent County match at \$8,386. If approved, the funds will be used for a drug parcel interdiction investigator. This application is for the upcoming FY2014/15 Budget.

A motion was made by Mr. Keisler, seconded by Mr. Jeffcoat to recommend to full Council to approve staff's request to apply for the grant.

In Favor: Mr. Kinard Mr. Keisler
 Mr. Jeffcoat Ms. Summers

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

Highway Interdiction Drug Enforcement (HIDE) Grant Application - Sheriff's Department - Col. Allan Paavel - Col. Paavel presented a request to apply for the Highway Interdiction Drug Enforcement (HIDE) Grant in the total amount of \$666,105. The grant will require a 10 percent County match at \$66,610. If approved, the funds will be used for four drug enforcement investigators. This is a new application for the upcoming FY2014/15 Budget.

A motion was made by Ms. Summers, seconded by Mr. Keisler to recommend to full Council to approve staff's request to apply for the grant.

In Favor: Mr. Kinard Ms. Summers
 Mr. Keisler Mr. Jeffcoat

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

School Resource Officer (Meadow Glen Middle) Grant Application - Sheriff's Department - Col. Allan Paavel - Col. Paavel presented a request to apply for the School Resource Officer (Meadow Glen Middle) Grant in the total amount of \$139,419. The grant will require a 10 percent County match at \$13,942. If approved, the funds will be used for the Meadow Glen Middle School SRO's salary, operating and capital costs. Col. Paavel reported this is a grant position and not a contract position. The application is for the upcoming FY2014/15 Budget.

A motion was made by Mr. Keisler, seconded by Ms. Summers to recommend to full Council to approve staff's request to apply for the grant.

In Favor: Mr. Kinard Mr. Keisler
 Ms. Summers Mr. Jeffcoat

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

School Resource Officer (River Bluff High) Grant Application - Sheriff's Department - Col. Allan Paavel - Col. Paavel presented a request to apply for the School Resource Officer (River Bluff High) Grant in the total amount of \$90,040. The grant will require a 10 percent County match at \$9,004. If approved, the funds will be used for the River Bluff High SRO's salary and operating costs. The application is for the upcoming FY2014/15 Budget.

A motion was made by Mr. Keisler, seconded by Ms. Summers to recommend to full Council to approve staff's request to apply for the grant.

In Favor: Mr. Kinard Mr. Keisler
 Ms. Summers Mr. Jeffcoat

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

Meeting of October 8, 2013 - Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Mr. Keisler, seconded by Ms. Summers to approve the October 8, 2013 minutes as submitted.

In Favor: Mr. Kinard Mr. Keisler
 Ms. Summers Mr. Collins
 Mr. Jeffcoat

Meeting of October 29, 2013 - Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Mr. Keisler, seconded by Ms. Summers to approve the October 29, 2013 minutes as submitted.

In Favor: Mr. Kinard Mr. Keisler
 Ms. Summers Mr. Collins
 Mr. Jeffcoat

Old Business/New Business - None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy R. Busbee
Assistant to the Clerk

James E. Kinard, Jr.
Chairman

Diana W. Burnett
Clerk