

**THE LEXINGTON COUNTY PENNY FOR PROGRESS COMMISSION
MINUTES
September 13, 2013**

The Lexington County Penny for Progress Commission held its first meeting on Friday, September 13, 2013 in Council Chambers beginning at 1:30 p.m. Commission Member, Sammy Hendrix chaired the Committee as a Chairman and Vice-Chairman had not been elected.

Members Attending:

Mike Crapps
Sammy Hendrix

Lee Bussell
Jimmy Shealy

Also attending: Bill Banning, Chairman of Lexington County Council; 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.

Note: The following meeting proceedings can be viewed in its entirety on the Lexington County Video Portal at www.lex-co.sc.gov

It is noted that Lexington County Chairman, Bill Banning, helped facilitate the first meeting as elections of officers was delayed until after the three County Council appointed Board members made their appointments to the Board.

Call to Order - Mr. Hendrix called the meeting to order.

Review of Possible Additional Members - Before considering action on additional appointments, Mr. Crapps understands the appointees need to be representatives and live in municipalities in the county.

For clarification, Mr. Anderson replied, correct. It has to be a municipality that is not already represented on the board. The Town of Lexington is represented, so it has to be one of the other towns.

Frank Shumpert - Mr. Bussell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crapps to appoint Mr. Frank Shumpert. Mr. Shumpert represents the Pelion area.

In Favor: Mr. Hendrix Mr. Bussell
 Mr. Crapps Mr. Shealy

Larry Stroud - Mr. Shealy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bussell to appoint Mr. Larry Stroud. Mr. Stroud represents the West Columbia area.

Mr. Crapps noted the area not represented is the Batesburg/Leesville area and asked how we

make sure we have representation and coverage there.

Chairman Banning replied that Mike Taylor from the Batesburg/Leesville area had agreed to serve as the Chairman of the Chamber subcommittee, if the Board chooses to keep that committee, then the Batesburg/Leesville area would have good representation.

In Favor: Mr. Hendrix Mr. Shealy
 Mr. Bussell Mr. Crapps

Review of Penny for Progress Legislation - Mr. Anderson, County Attorney, reviewed the statute and the makeup of the Board and the general process for establishing the capital projects sales tax. He said the Board is comprised of six members. Three members are appointed by Lexington County Council and three from the municipalities. Messrs. Crapps, Bussell, and Shealy were appointed by Lexington County Council; Mr. Hendrix was appointed by the Town of Lexington. The three Lexington County Council appointees and the Town of Lexington appointee appointed Messrs. Shumpert and Stroud.

Mr. Anderson reminded the Board they are now a public body and will have to comply with the Freedom of Information Act. He said the Board's role is to evaluate the projects that are submitted and then present them to County Council. He said anybody can submit a project – the citizen, the municipality, the county, etc. The County will hire an engineering firm that will oversee the projects. The engineering firm (hired by the County) will be responsible to review if the projects can be done and the projected cost of each project. In addition, they will estimate the amount the penny sales tax will create. Once they have the information, the engineering firm will submit a list of projects to the Board to review, evaluate, and prioritize which ones should be on the ballot in priority order (with the project cost) then the Board will submit its recommendation to County Council. At that time, if the majority of County Council votes, by ordinance, to put those questions on the ballot, it will be submitted to the Election Commission to be put on the November 2014 General Election. The statute was designed to have an independent commission and not County Council, not a municipality, etc. to make a recommendation to County Council.

Mr. Anderson provided the Board a copy of statute **Title 4 - Counties; Chapter 10. Local Sales and Use Tax. Article 3. Capital Project Sales Tax Act § 4-10-330. Contents of ballot question; purpose for which proceeds of tax to be used.**

Mr. Anderson said in order for the County to put the recommended list on the ballot, the County must pass an ordinance, which requires three readings and a public hearing, and suggested that the Board have a target date of June 2014 to have the priority list to County Council.

Mr. Hendrix asked if the County will be providing educational information to the citizens i.e. Who can submit a project? Who do they submit it to? How do they submit it?

Mr. Anderson said the County can provide education but they cannot promote the projects. He said it is up the Board on how they want it submitted and this can be a point of discussion.

Mr. Shealy asked if we know the estimated amount the penny tax will generate.

Chairman Banning said DOR (Department of Revenue) estimates it will generate \$35 million a year; \$280 million over eight years.

Creation and Appointment of Subcommittee - Chairman Banning suggested that this be delayed since the two additional appointments had just been made and not present. However, he said when County Council and the Municipalities held a strategic planning session back in November 2012; subcommittees were formed – Municipal chaired by Mayor Randy Halfacre, Chamber of Commerce chaired by Mike Taylor, Recreation and a Transportation Committee.

Determine Future Meeting Dates - The Board set 10:00 a.m., Thursday, October 3, 2013.

The Committee discussed the need to hold public meetings throughout the county to receive public input.

Adjournment - Mr. Crapps made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shealy to adjourn.

In Favor:	Mr. Hendrix	Mr. Crapps
	Mr. Shealy	Mr. Bussell

Respectfully submitted,

Diana W. Burnett
Clerk