

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
MARCH 13, 2007**

The Public Works Committee met on Tuesday, March 13, 2007 in the Committee Room, located on the second floor of the Administration Building beginning at 2:45 p.m. Ms. Summers, Committee Chairman presided.

Members Attending:

Debra B. Summers, Chairman
Bobby C. Keisler
William C. Billy Derrick

M. Todd Cullum, V Chairman
John W. Carrigg, Jr.

Also attending: Katherine Hubbard, County Administrator; Larry Porth, Finance Director/Deputy 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.

Pine Plain Road Condemnation – Public Works – John Fechtel, Director – A motion was made by Mr. Derrick, seconded by Mr. Cullum to recommend to full Council to proceed with the South Carolina Department of Transportation’s request for the condemnation of tract #43 on Pine Plain Road. Total cost of condemnation, including land value for tract 36, previously approved, and tract 43, is estimated to be \$22, 031.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Private Road Discussion – Public Works – John Fechtel, Director – Mr. Fechtel presented an issue of the County assuming responsibility of private roads. It was mentioned that if citizens who live on private roads pay a road maintenance fee to the County, then they should be able to have the county maintain their roads. Currently there are 100 miles of potential “dirt” roads that are privately maintained or privately owned. Per Mr. Fechtel, in 1980 County Council had took the position of not accepting anymore roads into the County system unless they met County standards, i.e., some sort of pavement. Staff will review information and return to Committee for further discussion. For discussion only. No action.

Road Maintenance Fee Update (Goals 2, 3) – Public Works – John Fechtel, Director – Mr. Fechtel updated the Committee on the road maintenance fee proposal. In order to meet County Council’s objective of paving thirty (30) miles of road by 2011, a road maintenance fee of \$25 per vehicle would be needed. This was computed by using approximately 208,000 vehicles that currently pay taxes, adding in 11,000 vehicles that currently do not pay taxes (exception is government vehicles) and exempting 19,000 vehicles due to age 65 or older status. It is estimated that a total of 200,000 vehicles annually at \$25 each would equal \$5,000,000 of projected revenue. The road maintenance fee, along with the “C” Fund revenue of \$3,980,000 would provide \$8,980,000 annually for improvements for public roads. Mr. Fechtel provided the current road paving priority list by rank, a list divided by Council district and a list with the current approved paving list. The lists meet the total mileage of 30 miles of paved road

objectives. Mr. Fechtel to come back to Committee for further discussion. For discussion only. No action.

Victor Road - Public Works – John Fechtel, Director – Mr. Fechtel advised the Committee that the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) has received bids for the paving of Victor Road. The total construction for cost for the project is \$779,450.67 and a check as been issued to SCDOT in the amount of \$63,919 for preliminary engineering only, with a balance of \$715, 531.67. The additional funds can be paid on a quarterly basis with the first quarterly amount of \$178,882.92 due by March 15, 2007. It is staff's recommendation that County Council concur with the bid and forward the first quarterly check to SCDOT for \$178,882.92. A decision must be made by March 15, 2007 for SCDOT to honor this bid.

A motion was made by Mr. Derrick, seconded by Mr. Cullum to recommend to full Council staff's recommendation to proceed with the bid and pay SCDOT for the paving of Victor Road.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Approval of Minutes – Meeting of February 13, 2007 – A motion was made by Mr. Cullum, seconded by Mr. Keisler to approve the February 13, 2007 minutes as submitted.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Old Business/New Business – Lawn Mower Exchange – Synithia Williams gave a quick presentation on a Lawn Mower Exchange event scheduled for April 21, 2007 at the South Carolina State Museum in conjunction with Earth Day. Richland County, South Carolina Department of Health and Environment Control (SCDHEC), Keep the Midlands Beautiful, and Neuton Lawn Mower Company are partnering together for this event. Neuton is offering cordless electric mowers with mulching kit and free shipping/handling for \$299, originally \$452. Total cost for the Lawn Mower Exchange event is \$7,500. Richland County and SCDHEC have contributed \$2,500 each to cover their share of the event cost. Public Works has \$2,500 available under professional services to participate with this event. Solid Waste Management will assist in recycling the old lawn mowers.

A motion was made by Mr. Derrick, seconded by Mr. Cullum to allow Public Works to use \$2,500 from Professional Services to participate in the Lawn Mower Exchange on April, 21, 2007.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy R. Busbee
Assistant to the Clerk

Debra B. Summers
Chairman

Diana W. Burnett
Clerk