

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL AS A WHOLE REPORT

Council Members:

Roy Costner, Chairman
Chris Bowers, Vice Chairman
Wes Hendricks, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem
Carl Hudson
Ensley Feemster
Trey Whitehurst

Staff in Attendance:

Gerald Wilson, County Administrator
Meagan Bradford, Clerk to Council
Ken Roper, County Attorney
Michael Hayes, Risk Manager
Rick Clark, Sheriff
Mike Marling, EMS Director
Chris Brink, Community Development Director
Michael Clark, Roads and Bridges Director
Clay Baldwin, Engineer

The Committee of the Whole met in the Main Conference Room, at the Pickens County Administration Facility, on Monday, January 28, 2019 at 6:15 p.m. All members of the committee were in attendance with Chairman Roy Costner presiding.

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Roy Costner called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order immediately after the Special-Called Council Meeting.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

Chairman Roy Costner stated the first item for discussion is Executive Session.

Council Rules – Log No. 79

- Chairman Roy Costner stated one of the things council looked at was that council would not do individual committees. He stated with four new council members in 2017, they felt it was better to all hear everything in Committee of the Whole. Chairman Costner stated he would like to continue that except he would like to ask council about the possibility of appointing council members to specific items. For example, appoint Councilman Whitehurst to head up the health insurance, Councilman Bowers to head up and work with staff on emergency management. He stated this is a bit of a change in policy so this he would like for council to discuss.
- Councilman Whitehurst stated he sees benefits of having a Committee of the Whole and having the individual committees. He stated congress and the state delegation works with the committees and the idea is to divide up the workload. He stated we run into not getting everything done because we have to look into every single issue as a group. He stated having the committees do serve a purpose and does not exclude anyone from the knowledge. He stated we had four committees and it gave four different people a chance to lead the committee and divide the workload up. He stated there are certain things that always go to the Committee of the Whole, like the budget.
- Councilman Wes Hendricks stated he likes what we are already doing and how no council member is excluded from anything with Committee of the Whole.
- Councilman Chris Bowers stated he is torn between having just Committee of the Whole and

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separate committees. He stated he feels a lot of subjects get bogged down by just bringing it to COW, but he also knows where there have been times committees have met and have been brought back to Committee of the Whole.

- Councilman Carl Hudson stated his predecessor said sometimes things go to Committees, then bring it out of Committees and never get looked at. He stated we get so much on our plate sometimes he feels we should slow down and look at each issue to come up with a good decision before we move on to something else. He stated he is willing to go with whatever council feels is best.
 - Councilman Ensley Feemster stated since over half of council has only been on council for a couple of years, he feels everyone should come to as many of the meetings as possible that way we all understand everything a little better.
 - After more discussion, Chairman Costner stated he will certainly think of all this and decide based on what council would like to do.
 - Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated he appreciates what staff has done for council, but policy is to be created by the council. He stated staff is to implement policy created by the council and it is council's responsibility to create the policy of this county. He stated they did not discuss or talk about any of this. He stated he does not agree with policy being put in their organizational rules and council being asked to vote on it.
 - Attorney Ken Roper stated he is exactly right and this is council's policy.
 - Councilman Wes Hendricks stated in section 2.3, he does not agree with some of the wording. He stated it should say the clerk should report to council as a whole, not just to the chairman.
 - After more discussion, Administrator Wilson stated he feels the clerk is a lot like the administrator. He stated Council has two employees: the Administrator and the Clerk. He stated he is asking council as a whole to take direction through the Chair.
 - Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated he feels the concern is the wording can be misconstrued for chairmen in the future. He stated council is the one who reviews the resumes for this position.
 - Councilman Wes Hendricks stated he feels council as a whole should be involved in the Clerk's annual review.
 - After much more discussion, Council gave Attorney Ken Roper the wording they would like to change in section 2.3 of the Organizational Rules.
 - Councilman Wes Hendricks stated in section 4.3D, is it required by state law to have public forum.
 - Attorney Ken Roper stated it is not required.
 - Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated he feels this is what separates us from other county councils. He stated we allow the public to come forward and discuss their concerns.
 - Councilman Wes Hendricks asked if public forum will also be on special-called meetings and Committee of the Whole meetings.
 - Chairman Costner stated no, just regular council meetings.
 - After much more discussion, Council recommended Attorney Ken Roper rewriting the rules suggested and bringing back to the committee.
- ❖ Council recommends staff rewriting the Organizational rules to make the suggested changes and bringing back for review.

Hwy. 153 Extension Proposal – Log No. 56

- Administrator Wilson stated at the March 2017 council meeting, council approved Resolution 2017-04 to support the Hwy 153 extension with the intention not to obligate county funds until council comes back and approves. He stated this project is still on the table and he recommends we move forward to the next agenda item on the list to figure out how we need to pave our own roads.
- Chairman Costner stated this had made it to the list again because we have word from the state infrastructure bank that they are now beginning to look at this.
- After more discussion, Chairman Costner recommending moving forward to the next agenda item.

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- ❖ No action taken by Committee.

Road Maintenance Fees – Log No. 66

- Attorney Ken Roper did a brief overview of the Road Maintenance Ordinance and explained what it is and what it is being used for.
- Clay Baldwin presented a presentation of Pavement Condition Report to council. He stated all data in this presentation is provided by Data Transfer Solutions, LLC (DTS) out of Orlando, FL. Mr. Baldwin gave a brief overview of DTS, stating that DTS deployed two Mobile Asset Collection (MAC) Vehicles to Pickens County to collect data on all county and municipal roads. He stated DTS collected data on 872 centerline miles of roadway and in addition to road conditions; DTS also collected asset data on all signs and guardrail in the county. Mr. Baldwin went over the features of the MAC vehicles and collected images of road signs in Pickens County. Mr. Baldwin stated all Pickens County roads are rated using Pavement Condition Index (PCI) and are rated in segments of the GIS system. He stated the rating is 0-100; with 0 being the worst, and 100 being the best. He stated currently, the Current Network PCI for county and municipal roads are 65, which are fair, and the Current County PCI is 64. Mr. Baldwin went over graphs and tables explaining the PCI in the county and municipal roads. He stated there are three types of treatment we could do to keep our roads in good condition. These categories are Preservation, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction. He stated the regular paving will be in the rehabilitation category. Mr. Baldwin stated the current budget is based off a \$20/vehicle fee, which generates approximately \$2 million/year. He stated this fee has been in place since 2001. Mr. Baldwin presented more tables and graphs regarding the PCI.
- After more discussion, Administrator Gerald stated \$5,000,000/year is about where we need to be to pave our roads and get on a 20 year cycle. He stated we pave between 17-23 miles of road a year, when we are sitting on a 900 mile inventory. He stated the average road will last around 20 years. He stated \$5 million dollars is a big cost and is where we need to be in the future. He stated the question at hand tonight is road maintenance fees. Mr. Wilson stated he feels everyone in the room will agree our fees aren't where they need to be and it is not realistic. Administrator Wilson stated he would like to recommend four options to council this evening.
 1. **Option A-** Nothing changes
 2. **Option B-** Go back to the original formula, and give the city the funds that are collected in their municipalities, and we keep the funds incorporated in Pickens County. Municipalities pave their roads, and Pickens County paves our roads. Mr. Wilson stated this system is flawed in his opinion because we would be sending Six Mile \$15,000 and they have absolutely no roads. He stated he does not recommend this option.

Option B:

Owner	% fund	Funds
Central	2.4%	\$ 105,334.66
Clemson	7.7%	\$ 337,948.69
Easley	18.1%	\$ 794,398.86
Liberty	2.7%	\$ 118,501.49
Pickens	2.3%	\$ 100,945.71
Norris	60.0%	\$ 2,633,366
Six Mile	70.0%	\$ 3,072,261
County	65.5%	\$ 2,874,758.32
		<u>\$ 4,388,944.00</u>

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3. **Option C-** Mr. Wilson stated this option uses a formula. The money set aside of city and county roadways is \$2.1 million divided by the number of road miles. He stated you multiply that number by the number of miles they own and this would be the portion the municipalities would get.

Option C:

<u>Owner</u>	<u>% fund</u>	<u>Funds</u>
Central	1.7%	\$ 74,612.05
Clemson	7.1%	\$ 311,615.02
Easley	12.2%	\$ 535,451.17
Liberty	2.5%	\$ 109,723.60
Pickens	0.8%	\$ 35,111.55
Norris	0.0%	-
Six Mile	0.0%	-
County	75.7%	\$ 3,320,675.03
		<u>\$ 4,388,944.00</u>

4. **Option D-** Mr. Wilson stated the cities and the county sets the pace on what happens in Pickens County and they have the vision. He stated if it is inside the city limits (with the exception of Six Mile and Norris since they have no Public Works department), we give them the money for the total miles inside the city limits and they determine what they need to be paved based on the survey report. He stated this will be staff's recommended option.

Option D:

Central	2.2%	\$ 96,556.77
Clemson	7.4%	\$ 324,781.86
Easley	13.3%	\$ 583,729.55
Liberty	2.9%	\$ 127,279.38
Pickens	1.7%	\$ 74,612.05
Norris	0.0%	-
Six Mile	0.0%	-
County	72.5%	\$ 3,181,984.40
		<u>\$ 4,388,944.00</u>

- Rick Cotton, City of Clemson Administrator, thanked Council for having him. He stated the way it used to work before two years ago was the county would tell the cities which roads were going to be paved. He stated they did not have a lot of say in it. He stated the problem became the county was not aware of water and sewer lines being replaced in the city. Mr. Cotton gave an example of Heather Drive. He stated for this reason, he would like the allocation handed back to the municipalities to schedule these paved roads. He stated in addition, the city designates \$2 million a year of property tax that they put into sidewalk and street maintenance. He stated this would enhance it dramatically. Mr. Cotton stated he asked for consideration for Clemson and Central because Clemson University is an island and in city limits. He stated they try to get all their paving done in the summer time between May 20 - August 7.
- After more discussion, Tom Cloer, Town of Central, stated he would like council to consider some of the smaller municipalities since the reserves are not as great. He stated he is a firm believer in the counties and municipalities working well together.
- After much more discussion, Chairman Costner made a recommendation to council to work towards Option D and staff work with each of the municipalities on the intergovernmental agreement. He also recommended the municipalities update council with accounting on where they are spending the money and communication in bids to be able to save the county money.

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- ❖ Committee recommends staff to work towards Option D and work with the municipalities on the intergovernmental agreement, with the municipalities updating council with accounting on where they are spending the money and communication in bids to be able to save the county money. Staff will update council at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

Request to Accept Roads in the Minimum Maintenance System – Log No. 95

- Administrator Wilson stated there are three roads he would like to talk about tonight and they are Tara Court, Fire Lane and Greer Drive. He stated the Minimum Maintenance Program was put into place in 2004. Administrator Wilson asked Chris Brink to explain the Ordinance and what a contractor or someone building a roadway is required to do.
 - Chris Brink stated if someone would like to do a residential project, they have certain minimum requirements for road construction. He stated Mr. Baldwin ensures these roads meet the minimum maintenance requirements. He stated these roads are built and they can either keep them as private or after a year of maintenance, turn them over for county maintenance. He stated Mr. Baldwin will put a maintenance bond that is good for a year to ensure the road will hold up prior to it becoming county maintained.
 - Administrator Wilson stated this ordinance was put in place many years ago to help residents who made poor decisions. He stated a lot of places in the county have dirt and gravel roads where people cannot get up to their house anymore. He stated the ordinance has certain requirements. He stated they have taken these roads in and most of the roads are in pretty poor shape. He stated as a government, we should take care of our property owners, but he feels we should treat those roads exactly like we treat the division 2 roads. He stated staff's recommendation is to stop taking in minimum maintenance roads. He stated we have 69 minimum maintenance roads in the system today. He stated he is asking council to consider slowing down the minimum maintenance roads and treat everyone the same. He asked if council had any questions or discussion.
 - Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated he feels the minimum maintenance system is not a sustainable plan because we are bringing in rough roads. He stated we should not be in the business of constructing roads.
 - Administrator Wilson showed council a map of Tara Court and explained what needs to be done.
 - After much more discussion, Vice Chairman made a motion to suspending any further approvals into the minimum maintenance program and staff work on language regarding the issue discussed tonight. Councilman Trey Whitehurst seconded the motion and carried unanimously.
- ❖ Committee recommends suspending any further approvals into the minimum maintenance program and staff work on language regarding the issue discussed tonight.

Greer Drive – Log No. 112

- Administrator Wilson stated he will reach out to the property owners on Greer Drive and explain the situation.
 - After more discussion, Chris Brink stated there have been a couple splits (division of properties) on Greer Drive and it requires a variance granted by them from the Planning Commission because it does not meet minimum county requirements.
- ❖ No action taken by committee.

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ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Committee business, Chairman Roy Costner called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers, seconded by Councilman Wes Hendricks and carried unanimously. The Committee of the Whole stood adjourned at 8:32 p.m.