

## COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL AS A WHOLE REPORT

### **Council Members:**

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

### **Staff in Attendance:**

Gerald Wilson, County Administrator  
Meagan Bradford, Clerk to Council  
Ken Roper, County Attorney

**The Committee of the Whole met in the Main Conference Room, at the Pickens County Administration Facility, on Monday, April 8 at 6:15 p.m, after the Special-Called Meeting. 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. Vice Chairman Chris Bowers led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:**

Chairman Roy Costner stated we will be moving around the order of the Committee of the Whole agenda this evening and start with *Log No. 118 – Hagood Mill*.

### **Hagood Mill – Log No. 118**

- Administrator Gerald Wilson stated the revenue stream is not what they anticipated this year for Hagood Mill and he would like the Finance Director, Ralph Guarino, to update Council on the finances for Hagood Mill.
- Finance Director Ralph Guarino presented council with a finance spreadsheet with revenue and expenses from Hagood Mill from 2016-2019. He went into detail on FY 2016, FY 2017, FY 2018 and FY 2019 Actuals.
- After Mr. Guarino's discussion, Mr. Wilson stated our costs are down by 2/3, and we need to figure out a way to balance those costs a little better. He stated there are a couple options on how to fix this. He stated the Hagood Mill Board is in the process of making a business plan, with Jay Pitts and Billy Crawford's help. He stated in his opinion, one of the places they have failed over the years for Hagood Mill is we had no plan for continuity. He stated they did not prepare for this day and they did a great job years ago saving money and applying for grants, but he feels that has fell off over the last 5-7 years. He stated he feels they have made a lot of progress discussing the last few weeks, but they aren't where they need to be. He stated they followed the county's financial policy and immediately froze all unnecessary spending. He stated they have also eliminated the need for any MAU Employees until we get additional funding in place.
- Betty McDaniel, Chairman of Hagood Mill Foundation Board, presented some of her notes to Council for a new business plan and new responsibilities for Hagood Mill. She stated Council was kind enough to give the board some money to start off, and for that they are thankful, but they have felt they have had no direction on how to manage the money. Some of her discussion included, but was not limited to: responsibility for Hagood Mill between the County and Hagood Mill Foundation Board, funding options,

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- 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday events, volunteers, field trips at Hagood Mill, etc.
- Councilman Wes Hendricks stated he would like to brag on Ms. McDaniel for the job she is doing. He stated it has not been easy dealing with the situations she has dealt with. He thanked Ms. McDaniel for the great job she is doing.
  - Councilman Ensley Feemster stated maybe Ms. McDaniel could talk with some of the general stores on Highway 11 for advertising purposes.
  - Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked Mr. Guarino how long the 501-C3 boards have been in existence. He also asked Mr. Guarino if he has financial numbers prior to 2016. After some discussion, Councilman Whitehurst stated he is looking at a financial spreadsheet of profit loss. He stated revenues have gone down since the board has been in place, and costs have sky rocketed. He asked Ms. McDaniel and Billy Crawford, Hagood Mill Director, how much money they have in their account.
  - Mr. Crawford stated around \$31,000.
  - Councilman Whitehurst stated the whole reason for creating the 501-C3 boards were to give independence and guidance. He stated he is hearing from them that they want the county to give them the facility, and the board the facility. He stated his problem is the track record doesn't tell him that as an investor of county tax dollars, they are not a good investment.
  - Mr. Pitts stated they have not been in existence for a full year yet. He stated the board is starting to come together since the past year. He stated they did not see this coming.
  - Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated when he thinks of Foundation, for example the Hospital Foundation Board or Tri-County Foundation Board, he thinks of foundation in his mind is a fundraising arm of an organization and he believes that was his intent of setting up this Hagood Mill Foundation Board. He stated the board should be raising money to offset the cost that has doubled in the years. He stated he appreciates the passion, but he feels the volunteers and the HMF Board are being combined and there is no separation. He stated the HMF Board wants to act as the arm of the organization but Mr. Jay Pitts, the Tourism Director, is in charge of running Hagood Mill.
  - After much more discussion between Council, Hagood Mill staff, Finance Director Ralph Guarino and Administrator Wilson, Mr. Wilson stated that Hagood Mill is an asset to Pickens County and we need to find a way to make this work. He stated that staff will be receiving a business plan in the next few weeks from Hagood Mill staff and will forward to council.
- ❖ No action taken by Committee.

### **E911 – Log No. 105**

- Mr. Wilson stated Ms. Tasha Todd, E911 Coordinator, and Rick Clark, Sheriff, are with us this evening to discuss the updates to E911. He stated he has been forwarding the EMD monthly summary report to Council each month with the progress that the dispatchers are making. He stated last month, they achieved a 99% rate.
- Sheriff Clark stated the cooperation between the Sheriff's Department and E911 has been great. He stated Mr. Chase Campbell, EMD Manager, has been great to work with and Chase's emails he sends out are very professional. As an overall view, Sheriff Clark stated it has been a success and it all came down to teamwork and cooperation.
- Ms. Todd stated at the beginning, in order for them to keep the certification, they had to have an EMD manager to monitor the quality control calls and that is where they saw an issue because they were not doing that at all. She stated when it came to the forefront, they spent around \$5,000 and everyone except one is certified now. She stated everyone will have to recertify in two years, and must have a certain number of training hours to recertify. Ms. Todd stated there are ten requirements for the EMD protocol as far as quality control and that is how they get their percentage rate each month. After scored, they meet with every telecommunicator to discuss what they have done well and what they need to work on. She stated they are working with EMS on some of the cards to make it more precise. She stated before she leaves, one of the

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things they need to get together is the CAD Vendor is riding the interface with the EMD that Pickens County uses. She stated when they bring up a call, if it is an EMD call, there will be a button that will launch the automated process. She stated the feedback they are getting back from EMS is because they are asking all the questions, there is a lot of information that they have before they get there. She stated the biggest place they see this is with pediatric patients because the medicine is different, etc. She stated they are able to do a lot on the way and get a lot of information. Ms. Todd stated they have had zero complaints from the people in the seats and they work very hard every month. She stated they have seen improvement in the fast-paced environment they work in. After much more discussion, Ms. Todd stated she believes Pickens County is going in the right direction and that is because of the people in the seats.

- Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked if there was a way to prevent the admin calls from coming in with the 911 calls.
  - Ms. Todd stated if someone is on the phone with an admin call and a 911 call comes in, they absolutely put the admin call on hold to answer the 911 call. She stated the problem is they need a couple of full time positions to get to where they would like to be. She stated 70% of the calls are admin calls, which are non-emergency.
  - Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked Ms. Todd if there was one thing she could change or do before she leaves the county, what would she do.
  - Ms. Todd stated she would like to see a 911 center only handle 911 calls, which means that every call they take, it is emergency only.
  - After much more discussion, Councilman Whitehurst asked if it was possible to do this.
  - Ms. Todd stated yes, if they had more employees. They went into discussion on other ways this could happen and how it could happen.
  - After more discussion with Council, Sheriff Clark, Tasha Todd, Creed Hashe, Scott Smith and Administrator Wilson, Mr. Wilson stated that one of the requests Ms. Todd had was to leave this Log Item on the COW Log for future discussion in a few months.
  - Vice Chairman Chris Bowers thanked the Sheriff's Office, dispatchers, and Ms. Todd for all their work. He stated he is very grateful that in the last four months, they have come this far and it is very exciting for the citizens of Pickens County.
- ❖ No Action Taken by Committee.

### **Recreation Funding Requests – Log No. 88**

- Chairman Roy Costner stated the Recreation Advisory Board have their last meeting this evening to finish up their recommendations for the recreation funding. He stated the funding requests that will be discussed have to do with the budgeting process from last year. Going forward, as they start to discuss the budget process, they do need to talk about Recreation Funding.
- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated he would like to talk about an idea for Recreation in Pickens County. He stated around a month ago, Council discussed what recreation funding needs to look like and how the different recreation departments/parks need to spend the money. He stated he would like for Council to think about doing a program called Moby Rec (Mobile Rec) in Pickens County. Vice Chairman Bowers stated this is a program funded by cities and counties across the Country. He stated it is where recreation departments or government agencies take a van/trailer of recreation equipment (basketball goals, footballs, baseballs, etc.) around different areas of the community. He stated not everyone lives close to a recreation center, which means some kids cannot participate. He stated obesity, heart disease and cardiovascular disease is a big issue in our county and activity is one way to prevent these diseases. He stated the Moby Rec goes out on weekends, when school is out throughout the week, during festivals, etc. and sets up a mobile play area/play ground in that community. He stated he has been looking at preliminary costs and different ways to fund this program. Vice Chairman Bowers stated he reached out to some of the recreation departments and

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there have been rec. departments willing to donate some equipment. He stated it will not cost much financially, and if all districts put some money from their recreation funding in it, it will not be much. After much more discussion, Vice Chairman stated Leadership Greenville started a Moby Rec in Greenville County through their recreation department and they do have more information on their county website. Vice Chairman Bowers stated he feels recreation is much more than just recreation departments.

- Councilman Wes Hendricks asked if he has done a civilian survey and interest in the Moby Rec.
- Vice Chairman Bowers stated he has spoken to people he has known, and he did reach out to his recreation department to see what feedback he could get. He stated his recreation department in Easley sees great availability to resource this to people who cannot afford to let their children play recreation sports through the recreation department. He stated he has spoken to teacher groups, parents/teachers while on a field trip, and some people who attend his church. He stated in the minimal he has asked and has received very positive feedback. He stated he would like for our recreation departments in the county to utilize and use this as well.
- Councilman Hendricks asked what the preliminary cost would be.
- Vice Chairman Bowers stated he feels that \$10,000 is a high number but somewhere around there would be a good place to start. He stated this is for equipment only, and this does not include personnel. He stated he feels a lot of the equipment is already here and we do not realize it.
- After much more discussion between Council, Vice Chairman Bowers advised staff to look into what it would cost to start up this program and report back to council.

❖ No action taken from Committee.

### **Fiscal Year 2020 Budget – Log No. 120**

- Administrator Wilson stated Council received an email last week outlining the Budget. He stated the following highlights regarding the FY2020 Budget:
  - Balanced budget with no tax increase
  - All citizens will see a small tax decrease around 1/10 of a mill – jail bond
  - Unincorporated areas of Pickens County will see a decrease due to retirement of sewer bond. He stated staff is still calculating, but hope to be close to ½ of a mill
  - Recreation Funding to be included in the budget
  - Built in a re-occurring capital fund of
  - 2% COLA for Employees
  - Anticipating property, liability and health insurance to be a flat renewal
  - Upstate Alliance
  - Crosswell Fire District board recommending raising their fee by \$10 per household
  - Etc.
- After more discussion regarding the budget, Chairman Costner announced that there is a budget work session scheduled for Tuesday, April 9, 2019 and council will be going into more discussion with the budget then.

❖ No action taken from Committee.

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### **Memorandum of Understanding – Log No. 119**

- Chairman Roy Costner asked for motion to convene into Executive Session as defined by S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (a), to discuss the proposed contracts. Motion was made by Councilman Carl Hudson, seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).
- Chairman Costner called the Committee of the Whole meeting back to Order and asked for a motion to make a recommendation to instruct staff to move forward with the following MOU proposed contracts: #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7 and #9. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers, seconded by Councilman Carl Hudson, and carried unanimously (6-0).

### **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 Carl Hudson and carried unanimously (6-0). The Committee of the Whole stood adjourned at 8:34 p.m.