

MINUTES

FULL BOARD MEETING
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS CONFERENCE ROOM
FEBRUARY 27, 2009

Members Present:

Judy Gilstrap, Wallace Shaw, Ed Elliott, Gracie Floyd, Dennis Claramunt, J. W. Sanders, James Batchler, Janie Wilson, Joe Dill, Ernest Riley, Bob Winchester, Reg Dexter, J. Connie Bowers, Heyward McDonald, Randy Crenshaw, Renee Cariveau, Dale Culbreth, Elbert Tillerson, Bob Briggs, and Loretta Smith.

Guests Present:

Fletcher Perry, Pickens City Council; Vickie Fletcher, Pendleton Tourism Committee; Dell Bagwell, Town of Blacksburg; Mike Burns and Brandon Norris, McNair Law Firm; Brian Boughner, V.P., BB&T Asset Management; and Dan McLeod, Bond Counsel, McNair Law Firm.

Staff Present:

Steve Pelissier, Joe Newton, Dirk Reis, Becky Hall, Carol Andersen, Vickie Williams, Dave Mueller, Chip Bentley, Ron Smith, and Debbie Courson.

The meeting was called to order by Chairwomen Gilstrap. The invocation was offered by Rev. Sanders. On motion by Ms. Cariveau, seconded by Mr. Batchler, the minutes of the January 23, 2009, meeting was unanimously approved.

Analysis of the South Carolina and Upstate Economic Climate and Local Government Options for Financing Public Facilities and Services

Mr. Boughner and Mr. McLeod provided an overview of the economic outlook for South Carolina and provided a briefing on implications to local governments of the state's current fiscal climate, as well as options for the financing of public facilities and services.

Response to State Cuts to the Regional Aging Service Program

Ms. Williams stated that in November, ACOG was informed that the region would receive an \$11,000 cut in state funds to the aging program. In January, the agency was informed of an additional \$19,000 reduction. At the February 25, 2009, meeting of the Regional Aging Advisory Committee, staff presented recommendations to re-allocate under-utilized funds to address the state cuts. Since the Aging Advisory Committee took no action, the recommendation was presented as information only.

Proposed Amendments to the FY 2009 ACOG Budget

Mr. Pelissier stated that at the January meeting, Mr. Bowers presented a recommendation from the Finance Committee for amending the ACOG FY 2009 budget to add the following capital items: From the ACOG general fund, Cisco Network Switch for \$5,000; From Workforce Investment Act Incentive Funds, an automobile, computer server, ADA computers for Liberty and Seneca One Stop offices and furniture totaling \$26,069. On motion by Mr. Riley, seconded by Rev. Sanders, the Board unanimously approved the recommendation from the Finance Committee.

Proposed By-Laws Change

Mr. Pelissier stated that at the January meeting, the Board discussed a proposed change to the By-Laws that would move the date for the Board Chair to make committee assignments from February 29th to April 30th. For years in which new Board officers are elected, this change would allow the in-coming chair to make appointments; whereas the current by-laws assign that responsibility to the out-going chair. On motion by Mr. Dill, seconded by Mr. Bowers, the Board voted unanimously to approve the By-Laws change.

The Economic Stimulus Package

Mr. Pelissier provided a briefing on the final economic stimulus legislation passed by Congress and signed by the president. He stated that there is a total of \$787.2 billion in stimulus money, \$575.4 billion in discretionary and mandatory spending and \$211.8 billion in tax incentives. Stimulus funds for South Carolina will go to the Department of Transportation, Workforce Investment Act, Community Development Block Grants and Energy Programs.

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Legislative Update

Mr. Newton stated that the proposed FY 2010 budget developed by the House Ways and Means Committee totals \$5.6 billion. He stated that there will be major cuts to state agencies, some additional spending to secure federal funds, and a \$122 million cut in local government funds.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Chair

THE APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS HAS COMPLIED WITH THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IN SCHEDULING AND CONDUCTING THIS MEETING.