

MINUTES

FULL BOARD MEETING COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS CONFERENCE ROOM JUNE 25, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ed Elliott, Ernest Riley, Dennis Claramunt, Terance Roberts, Judy Gilstrap, Rick Laughridge, Eddie Moore, Mike Forrester, Henry Jolly, Elbert Tillerson, Grady Butler, Bill Wylie, Bennie Cunningham, Rufus Foster, Bob Winchester, O'Neal Mintz, Chet Morris, Carthel Crout, Don Godbey, Reg Dexter, Loretta Smith, Jane Hall, Thomas C. Alexander, and David Sudduth.

STAFF PRESENT:

Steven Pelissier, Joe Newton, Becky Hall, Beverly Allen, Carol Andersen, Chip Bentley, Dan Wagner, and Glenda Manigault.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Elliott. The invocation was offered by Mr. Foster. A new Board member from Greenville City Council, David Sudduth, was introduced. On motion by Mayor Godbey, seconded by Mr. Foster, the May 28, 2010, meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Executive Director's Annual Report to the Board

Mr. Pelissier reported a \$29.7 million return on investment in the Appalachian region and highlighted activities from FY 2010, which included InfoMentum, ADRC website, and Lt. Governor's Office on Aging's Spartanburg Hospital Discharge program. Issues over the fiscal year included the Aging Director's departure, building repairs not proceeding yet, and the 15-year Tri-County landfill to be sold. Challenges included WorkLink becoming more efficient and financially solid. Final revenue and expenditures are both one half million dollars less than original projections and revenues were \$65,000 over expenses--in the 1.5 percent range. He reported that there were funds in the reserve to cover six months of expenses. He praised Ms. Hall along with the Finance Department staff for the challenges faced in FY 2010, and stated that the 2011 budget would include a reduced level of staffing and elimination of the long term disability insurance benefit .

Mr. Pelissier stated that 2010 was a successful year, even with the challenges that were faced, and that he and staff looked forward to FY 2011.

FY 2011 Work Program

Mr. Pelissier highlighted areas of work for Governmental Services, in which staff will continue to provide direct technical assistance, policy guidance and training. Grants Services staff will continue to identify sources of funds available through CDBG, ARC, ARRA and EDA and will continue to provide grant administration. Planning staff will continue work on CED's, transit coordination, Anderson Home Consortium, and local government projects. Information Services has applied for a \$50,000 EDA grant for Info Map 2, which is a web-based economic development tool. Staff will continue to work with Oconee GIS, and Ten at the Top. Aging Services staff will continue their work with the CMS Hospital Discharge Grant, I-Care, advocacy, and will educate consumers on health care reform and initiate an ADRC website. WorkLink staff will continue the management of contracts and monitor and provide technical assistance. Staff will continue to provide support to the board and committees by coordinating meetings, arranging for training/consulting, and provide technical expertise. Appalachian Development Corporation will continue to operate loan funds including ARC Loan Fund program under contract with ACOG, the USDA's IRA loan program, and is a Certified Development Corporation for the US Small Business Administration. Staff has requested \$750,000 from USDA to fund a micro-loan lending program for loans under \$35,000. Each of these work programs was approved and recommended by the Executive Committee. On motion by Mr. Wylie, seconded by Sen. Alexander, the Board unanimously approved the FY 2011 work program.

Changes to ACOG Personnel Policies

In Rev. Sanders' absence, Mr. Riley presented the following projected changes to the ACOG Personnel Policies, as recommended by the Executive Committee: 1) change in health insurance from Med 500 to Med 1000 plan; not covering tobacco use surcharge; discontinuing long term disability insurance policy; deleting requirement that all job vacancies be advertised in the three major newspapers—after a question it was stated that newspaper advertising was not prohibited, but will not be required for ACOG positions and that Internet posting would be adequate); moving expenses for new employees retitled to “expenses for new employees”; defining “immediate family” in the sick leave entitlement; reduction in force restated to take into account if former staff are not qualified for rehire for a position that may be open; 2) salaries and merit increases for 2011 (employees beneath range will receive a 2% increase and 2% increases if merited for other staff members) was deferred by the Executive Committee to the Personnel Committee for action, who was meeting immediately following the full Board meeting.

On motion by Mr. Riley, seconded by Ms. Smith, the Board approved amendments to the ACOG Personnel Policies, with the issue of the salaries and merit increases for 2011 to be taken up by the Personnel Committee.

FY 2010 Operating and Capital Budget Amendments and Designation of Surplus Funds

Ms. Gilstrap and Ms. Hall presented the proposed FY 2010 amendment to the contractual budget. The FY10 budget was amended to allow an increase in the budget to replace a leased truck used by Grants Services by \$2,000, from \$12,150 to \$14,150. This reduced the projected surplus of \$70,063 to \$68,063. Included in the amendment was a revision in the revenue projection for Evidenced Based Disease Prevention of \$5,846, a reduction of \$1,949 in revenue; \$7,795 had been presented to the Executive Committee. This reduction was reflected in the total revenues figure and reduces the excess of revenues over expenditures by the same amount.

On motion by Ms. Gilstrap, seconded by Mayor Godbey, the Board voted to accept amendments to the FY 2010 budget, approving \$35,000 of the surplus designated to the Building Maintenance and Repair Funds, and any excess over \$35,000 going to the Undesignated Fund Balance.

On motion by Mayor Godbey, seconded by Ms. Gilstrap, the Board voted to accept the Executive Committee recommended FY 2010 budget, along with amendments.

FY 2011 Operating and Capital Budgets

Ms. Gilstrap and Ms. Hall presented the proposed FY 2011 Operating and Capital Budget. Ms. Hall is projecting what is essentially a balanced budget of \$3,834,839 with revenue over expenditures of \$6,557. Ms. Hall noted that the debt service loan on the building had eight remaining years. On motion by Ms. Gilstrap, seconded by Ms. Smith, the Board approved the 2011 Operating and Capital Budget.

Mr. Pelissier again expressed his appreciation to the Finance staff for their work, and the additional work required of Ms. Hall with regard to WorkLink.

Legislative Update

Mr. Newton provided a report on legislation before the General Assembly, with emphasis on issues of importance to local government, which included: FY 2011 budget and vetoes, texting, water withdrawal, and voter ID. There were 107 budget vetoes by the House, 56 vetoes overturned by the Senate, which upheld the House's veto overrides; \$265 million cuts in the budget as a result of the vetoes; and an estimated 2011 budget of \$4.8 billion.

Project Areas for the Fall 2010 Statewide CDBG Competitive Process

Mr. Wagner reported that Community Development Block Grant funding is available in two categories, Community Enrichment and Village Renaissance programs. In the Community Enrichment program, there are three priorities: workforce development, safe and healthy communities; and obstacles to economic development. There is \$4 million available in funds, with a grant maximum of \$500,000 for public facilities and \$300,000 for public services.

The Village Renaissance program involves a five-year, three-phased program of planning and implementation of neighborhood revitalization and activities designed to implement the revitalization plan. There is \$2 million available in funds, with a grant maximum of \$500,000.

For both the Community Enrichment and Village Renaissance programs, application requests are due August 20, 2010, at 5:00 p.m., and applications are due September 20, 2010, at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Wagner also discussed the Ready to Go Program, which is designed to stimulate the local economy by addressing priority community needs and encouraging timely implementation of CDBG-eligible projects. CDBG funds may only be used for construction. There is \$4 million available in funds, with a grant maximum of \$500,000. Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis and funding will occur throughout the year, based on funding availability, when all application documentation have been received.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Pelissier highlighted the Village Renaissance program and encouraged local governments to apply for funds, which requires a small investment. He expressed a desire to see one or two applications in the Appalachian region.

The Personnel Committee would be meeting following the Board meeting. Mr. Pelissier asked Mayor Jolly to join this meeting. Also, Mr. Pelissier noted that former director Bob Strother had requested that consideration be given to extending the retiree health insurance coverage for the three current retirees, in light of the many years of service provided by them.

Mr. Newton was given the floor to announce that he would be retiring in October 2010. He stated he planned to start school working on his doctorate. Mr. Newton expressed his appreciation and pleasure with working with the Board and staff over his 26 years with the Council of Governments.

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The next full Board meeting will be held August 27th.

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

Chairman

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