

MINUTES

FULL BOARD MEETING
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS CONFERENCE ROOM
FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2016 – 10:30 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jane Hall, Dennis Claramunt, Neil Smith, Ted Mattison, Cindy Wilson, Mack Durham, Ed Elliott, Rufus Foster, Henry Jolly, David Cauthen, Grady Butler, Don Godbey, Willis Meadows, Joe Dill, Ernest Riley, Bob Winchester, Reg Dexter, Ensley Feemster, Mike Forrester, Elbert Tillerson, Jan Scalisi, Roger Nutt, and Thomas Foster.

GUESTS PRESENT:

Brian Boughner, Parallel Financial Partners; Jack Allison, Cherokee County; Anthony Mahfood, Amy Turner, Eloise and Kay, Senior Centers of Cherokee County; Mary Mason Jolly, Cherokee County; and Elizabeth Edwards, Cong. Duncan's office.

STAFF PRESENT:

Steve Pelissier, Doug Burns, Don Zimmer, Chip Bentley, Dirk Reis, Cricket Jenkins, and Debbie Courson.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hall. The invocation was offered by Mr. Tillerson. On motion by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Mr. Godbey, the minutes of the February 26, 2016, meeting were unanimously approved.

Resolution Honoring Mr. Jack Allison for Forty Years of Service to the Appalachian Council of Governments.

Chair Hall presented Mr. Allison with a resolution honoring him for a lifetime of service to his community, ACOG and the state. Mr. Allison has been a deacon at church for 78 years, served on the Board of Directors of Senior Centers of Cherokee County for 25 years, and has been a member of the S.C. Silver Haired Legislature for 15 years. He has also provided 40 years of dedicated service as an ACOG member, past chair of the Regional Public Safety Committee, as well as a member and currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Regional Aging Advisory Committee.

US and South Carolina Economic Forecast

Mr. Boughner, Principal of Parallel Financial Partners, provided a presentation on economic factors impacting the nation and South Carolina. He stated that the US economy continues to be sluggish and wage growth non-existent. The commodity export companies are underperforming while the commodity importing companies are outperforming. We continue to be underweight and very selective on which countries we have exposure. Interest rates have stayed low and credit spreads have contracted; A strong dollar is bad for the market in that foreign countries and multinational companies that either export or have operations overseas suffer; seasonality – stock market is entering the best two months of the year.

Mr. Boughner stated that his group cannot predict the future, but look to the current weight of evidence to determine how we are exposed to the market. At this point, we still maintain that this is on a correction and the market will continue to move higher.

Aging Services Procurement

Mr. Pelissier provided an update and follow-up information on the Spartanburg Aging Services procurement from the February meeting as well as information on the regional catering procurement. He stated that three proposals were submitted; the Spartanburg Regional Foundation, Senior Solutions, and Senior Centers of Cherokee Counties. The proposals provided detailed information on organizational capacity, the respondent's service delivery model for each service to be provided, organizational procedures and policies, financial management, community partnerships, budget, and letters of support. Mr. Pelissier stated that all three proposals submitted were strong; however a few factors weighed heavily in Spartanburg Regional Foundations' favor because of the detailed information on its strategy for outreach, marketing, and service development as well as strong letters of commitment from community service agencies and funding partners.

All three bidders have the ability and capacity to do more for Spartanburg County and its seniors than the former of Senior Centers of Spartanburg. He stated that SENIOR Solutions is currently providing services in Spartanburg, County Senior Centers of Cherokee County has years of experience in providing senior services and they have shown their willingness to work in Spartanburg. Spartanburg Regional Foundation has spent months working to collaborate with other agencies to provide senior services to Spartanburg County.

Regional Transit Program Update

Mr. Bentley stated that staff is currently working on two transit initiatives, the prioritization of applications for Sec. 5310 Rural and Small Urban Transit funds, which are available from SCDOT, and the preparation of an update to the Regional Long Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Bentley briefly explained that each year the ACOG Board of Directors is tasked with approving the list of applications submitted for 5310 Transit funding for the federal designated rural small urban areas of the ACOG region. He stated that there is only one request for small urban funds totaling \$48,000, from the Anderson County DSN Board. For rural funds there are three requests totaling \$134,000.

Mr. Bentley stated that staff will be updating the Long Range Transportation Plan, which addresses funding shifts and enhancing coordination with the MPO's plans and local input.

These two items will come to the Board for their approval later this spring.

2016 South Carolina Legislative Update

Mr. Burns provided an update on activities of the South Carolina General Assembly, with emphasis on items of interest to local governments, which are: road funding, business license, local government fund, and schools.

Seating of New Board Chair

Out-going Chair Hall thanked members and staff for their dedicated service and commitment to the organization during her term as Board Chair. Chairman Claramunt thanked Ms. Hall for her service as Chair and presented her with a plaque honoring her term and outstanding job and expressed appreciation for the confidence shown in him through his selection as Board Chairman.

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

Chair

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