



APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MINUTES - BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2020 – 10:30 A.M.
ZOOM MEETING
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

Members Present:

Sen. Thomas Alexander, Grady Butler, David Cauthen, Larry Chappell, Dennis Claramunt, Rep. Neal Collins, Ennis Fant, Joe Dill, Mack Durham, Ed Elliott, Jack Elliott, Ensley Feemster, Lilian Brock Flemming, Rep. Mike Forrester, Don Godbey, Ray Graham, Jane Hall, Butch Kirven, Manning Lynch, Dana Moore, E Riley, Jeff Roberts, Cindy Wilson

Guests Present:

Dr. Cheryl Dye, Jeff Cunningham, Brett Sanders, Mark Williamson

Staff Present:

Chip Bentley, Brooke Ferguson, Travis Hatcher, Steve Pelissier, Tim Womack, Arlene Young, Don Zimmer

Chairman Forrester called the meeting to order. The invocation was offered by Mr. Riley.

Chairman Forrester asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes of the August 28th board meeting. Mr. Godbey made a motion to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Riley. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Forrester called on Executive Director, Steve Pelissier to report on the financial statement. ACOG ended the fiscal year with a Revenue over Expenditure figure of \$34,000. With overall revenues of \$ 4.5 million, the overage is slightly less than 1% of revenues and achieves the agency's goal of steadily building its fund balance.

Chairman Forrester noted that the board would recognize staff member, Travis Hatcher, who recently celebrated his five-year anniversary with ACOG. Mr. Hatcher began his employment with Aging Services then transferred to serve as Project Manager with Grant Services.

Chairman Forrester introduced Tim Womack, Aging Services Director, to discuss the Area on Aging FY20 Activities Report.

Mr. Womack noted that due to Covid-19, senior centers were closed in March. ACOG received \$2.5 million of state funding to assist with other services. Mr. Womack gave a breakdown of funds spent per county and clients served for the Family Caregiver Program. The first section of the



report included meals served, supportive services, and transportation services. Mr. Womack then explained statistics and needs for assistance with home chores, home care, minor home repair, and legal services. He stated that over 500 seniors are on a waitlist, based on need, for home care such as personal care and housekeeping. He also explained how ACOG provides the funds for seniors who have been accepted as clients of SC Legal Services. In addition, ACOG was able to fund health and wellness programs at senior centers. These are evidence based programs to encourage activity and improve the lives of seniors.

Mr. Womack praised the Family Caregiver Support Services staff for assisting the elderly and their care providers obtain services needed to help them stay at home as long as possible. He discussed many local community partnerships that they use to further this effort.

Tim Womack then introduced guest speaker, Dr. Cheryl Dye from the Clemson Institute for Engaged Aging and the Brain Health Club. The Brain Health Club is located in Central, SC and focuses on ADRD (Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia). It was created in 2018, through a collaborative effort between the State of SC, ACOG, Clemson University, the Town of Central, and Pickens County. The program is conducted with Dr. Dye's oversight. She instructs her doctoral students to train Clemson undergraduate Health Science students to work with senior citizens. Seniors participate twice a week for 2 ½ to 3 hours per week.

Chairman Forrester called on Brooke Ferguson, Economic Development Director to provide two brief reports to the board. Ms. Ferguson reviewed the criteria approved by the board in October 2018 to designate distressed areas in the ACOG region as required by the SC Textile Communities Revitalization Act. She then presented a map of the current distressed areas and explained that changes to those original designations were prompted by changes in applicable federal designations and the addition of three special distressed areas designated by the Board. She also highlighted several significant development projects under construction in those areas that were eligible for tax credits under the 2018 legislation.

Ms. Ferguson provided an update on activities of the final year of the 2019-2020 session of the South Carolina General Assembly, with emphasis on items of interest to local governments. This included hospitality and accommodations tax flexibility, business license reform, rural broadband extension, CARES Act funds, and the state budget.

Chairman Forrester asked Mr. Pelissier to provide the director's report. Mr. Pelissier relayed that Arlene Young, Grants Services Director, recently received notice that three communities in the region have received grants totaling approximately \$1.2 million. The City of Landrum received an ARC grant for \$286,299 for railcar renovations. The City of Pickens received a CDBG grant for \$563,000 for ultraviolet disinfection of the water system. The City of Liberty received a CDBG grant for \$341,000 for the replacement of the Odell Street pump station and sewer line project.



Mr. Pelissier stated that the SCARC Conference in Myrtle Beach has been cancelled. It was originally scheduled for November. He also noted that two board members, Mayor Durham and Mr. Godbey, were selected to represent South Carolina in the Appalachian Regional Fellowship Program. Mr. Godbey stated that he will provide updates on the six future meetings regarding economic development. Mayor Durham explained that they will be exposed to a variety of economic development tools, resources, and connections. He is hopeful for opportunities in the area.

The next board meeting will be held on October 23rd at 10:30 AM through Zoom.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM

Representative Mike Forrester, Chair

The South Carolina Appalachian Council of Governments has complied with the Freedom of Information Act in scheduling and conducting this meeting