

# MINUTES

APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
ACOG BOARD ROOM, GREENVILLE, SC  
FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cindy Wilson, Mack Durham, Dennis Claramunt, Francis Crowder, Henry Jolly, Ed Elliott, David Cauthen, Butch Kirven, Joe Dill, Brandi Amidon, Lillian Brock Flemming, George Fletcher, Don Godbey, Edda Cammick, Bob Winchester, Ernest Riley, Dana Moore, Rep. Neal Collins, Larry Bagwell, Margaret Thompson, Rep. Mike Forrester, Roger Nutt, Junie White, Jane Hall, Elbert Tillerson

STAFF PRESENT: Steve Pelissier, Brooke Ferguson, Chip Bentley, Lance Estep, Don Zimmer, Tim Womack, Arlene Young

GUESTS PRESENT: Trey Eubanks, Mauldin City Administrator, Carla Whitlock, Apprenticeship Carolina, Amanda Richardson, Apprenticeship Carolina, Joel Dill, Daniel Gambrell

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Claramunt. The invocation was offered by Mr. Tillerson. On motion by Mr. Godbey, and seconded by Mr. Crowder, the minutes of the February 23, 2018 board of directors meeting were approved unanimously.

## **City of Mauldin Downtown Master Planning Initiative**

Mauldin City Administrator Trey Eubanks gave a presentation on the city's efforts to create a vibrant city center area. After a period of relatively slow growth, Mauldin has seen a great deal of activity in recent times, with almost 1,000 new jobs announced within the past 18 months. Announcements include a 140,000 sq. ft. BB&T mortgage service center and a Social Security Administration office building. In addition, Mauldin is also seeing significant residential development. Currently the city has three new subdivisions in various stages of development, with 122 houses under construction, 133 in permitting, around 700 preparing for permitting.

The Mauldin downtown target area is a 25 acre four square block area that extends northeastward from the intersection of Laurens Road and Butler Road. The plan builds on existing amenities, including a large park, amphitheater, city hall, and the Mauldin Cultural Center. The planned development will be pedestrian friendly mixed use, with an abundance of green space.

### **Apprenticeship Carolina**

Carla Whitlock, a senior apprenticeship consultant with Apprenticeship Carolina, which is a division of the SC Technical College System, gave a presentation on programs available in the Upstate.

Apprenticeship Carolina works to ensure that employers in South Carolina have access to the information and technical assistance they need to create demand-driven registered apprenticeship programs. Apprenticeship consultants guide companies through the registered apprenticeship development process in the national Registered Apprenticeship System. Consultants work with employers to establish apprenticeship programs. These programs help create recruitment pipelines; decrease turnover; influence, mold and shape potential future employees; and qualify employers for a South Carolina tax credit for each apprentice.

These programs can also be established to target high school students that help produce work ready graduates. High school apprenticeships can bring in a paycheck while the student learns; enhance the student's employability by obtaining work skills; and strengthens academic skills. Each student is required to complete high school to receive any credit or certification from the program.

At no cost, an Apprenticeship Carolina consultant will work with an employer to:

- Understand the registered apprenticeship training model
- Identify existing models for specific occupations
- Connect employers with appropriate resources
- Draw up a Standards and Training & Education outline based on individual employer needs
- Submit registration paperwork to the USDOL for full recognition in the National Registered Apprenticeship System
- Assist with program updates as workforce needs evolve

### **SCDOT Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Grant Program Project Recommendations**

The 5310 Program provides funding for organizations that serve aging and disabled persons in the Rural and Small Urban portions of the Upstate. DOT utilizes the ACOG to help prioritize applications for the Upstate area as they distribute funds throughout the state. There is a uniform application and selection process developed by DOT for COGs to work from. Staff reviews proposals and works with the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee to prioritize projects before submitting to the ACOG Board for approval. Projects selected for funding are split into Small Urban (SPATS, ANATS, Mauldin/Simpsonville) and Rural areas.

- Small Urban – 2018 funding levels are not known at this time (2017 - \$638,032 statewide)

- Rural - 2018 funding levels are not known at this time (2017 - \$668,120 statewide)

SCDOT makes final determinations on project selection using priorities based on available funding. Unfunded projects become alternates for any additional funding DOT receives.

There were two applications submitted for Small Urban projects and the rankings are:

1	Charles Lea Center – Spartanburg County	86	Purchase of vehicle to replace older van supporting transportation services for disabled persons	\$50,000
2	SENIOR Solutions – Anderson County	76	Purchase of vehicle to support transportation services for disabled persons	\$50,000

There were four applications submitted for Rural projects and the ranking are:

1	Anderson County DSN	82	Purchase of vehicle to replace older van supporting transportation services for disabled persons	\$55,000
2	Tribble Center (Oconee County DSN)	80	Purchase of vehicle to replace older van supporting transportation services for disabled persons	\$46,750
3	Cherokee County DSN	79	Purchase of vehicle to replace older van supporting transportation services for disabled persons	\$46,750
4	SENIOR Solutions – Anderson County	76	Purchase of vehicle to support transportation services for disabled persons	\$50,000

Ms. Hall, as Chair of the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee, presented the above recommended rankings in the form of a motion from the committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

### South Carolina 2018 Legislative Update

Ms. Ferguson presented information on legislation of interest to local governments. Items include;

The Budget: The House passed its version of the budget at the same spending level as last year (\$222,619,411). It includes No increase to LGF. Funding is included for raises for teachers and corrections officers, but no other state employees. The 1% pension employer contribution credit funded in the FY 2018 budget is again funded in the FY 2019 House budget. The House bill was referred to Senate Finance Committee on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Utility Relocation: The proposed legislation requires the owner of a road improvement project, such as the SCDOT, to bear the cost of relocating a public utility's water and sewer lines. This would be a big win for local governments that currently must pay relocation costs of water and sewer lines. The Senate version is out of committee with a favorable report as of yesterday March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The House version should be up for debate soon.

Nuisance Properties: The legislation authorizes a county council to adopt by ordinance the requirement that a residential or commercial property owner must keep a lot clean and free of rubbish. This authority is currently provided to municipalities and this legislation would simply extend the same authority to county governments. Similar bills in both House and Senate are out of their respective committees with favorable reports and should be up for debate soon.

Capital Projects: The pending legislation would amend the Capital Project Sales Tax (CPST) statute to allow a CPST to be imposed for purposes of economic development including (but not limited to) infrastructure, land purchases, and site development. The bill has been approved by the Senate and has been referred to the House Ways and Means Committee.

### **Comments from the Outgoing and Incoming Board Chairs**

Outgoing Board Chair Dennis Claramunt expressed thanks for the support shown to him from board members over the past two years. He also expressed appreciation for the professional and impartial way that the board conducts business and complimented the staff for its professionalism, passion, and expertise.

Incoming Board Chair Joe Dill thanked Mr. Claramunt for his outstanding leadership over the past two years. He also expressed gratitude to the board for allowing him the opportunity to serve as chair.

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

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Chairman

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