



MINUTES
Spartanburg County
Legislative Delegation
Monday, May 5, 2008
5:00 p.m.

A public meeting of the Spartanburg County Legislative Delegation was held on Monday, May 5, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. in County Council Chambers of the Spartanburg County Administrative Office Building. Representative Doug Smith presided. The following members were present or absent as indicated:

Senator Glenn Reese – Present
Senator John Hawkins – Present
Senator Jim Ritchie – Absent
Senator Harvey Peeler – Absent
Representative Harold Mitchell – Absent
Representative Doug Smith – Present
Representative Lanny Littlejohn – Present
Representative Scott Talley – Present
Representative Keith Kelly – Present
Representative Joe Mahaffey – Present
Representative Ralph Davenport – Present
Representative Bob Walker – Present
Representative Mike Anthony – Present

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, notices of this meeting were mailed in advance to the local news media and other interested parties.

Invocation was rendered and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Representative Lanny Littlejohn.

1. APPROVAL OF PROPOSED FEBRUARY 4, 2008, MEETING MINUTES

Representative Bob Walker moved to approve the February 4, 2008 meeting minutes as printed and mailed. The motion was seconded and carried.

The agenda was addressed out of order.

APPOINTMENTS

10. DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Term of Anne B. Ring. Application received: None

There were no applications received, therefore, this appointment was carried over until the next meeting.

11. ARKWRIGHT FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Resignation of E. R. Thomas, and term of Philip "Greg" Turner. Application received: Philip "Greg" Turner.

Representative Talley moved to nominate Mr. Philip "Greg" Turner. The motion carried by acclamation.

The resignation of E. R. Thomas will be carried over until the next meeting.

12. VOTER REGISTRATION BOARD

Terms of Dodie Graham, Robert G. Hamilton, and F. Don Watson. Applications received: Cindy Church, Robert G. Hamilton, June Bond, Frederick Don Watson, Susan Phillips Sease, Dorothy T. Moss, Sean C. Cobourn, and Dottie Broyles.

Senator John Hawkins moved to carry this appointment over until the August meeting. The motion carried.

13. GLENN SPRINGS FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Terms of Susan Montgomery and William E. Shirah. Application received: William Marion Finch.

Representative Kelly moved to carry this appointment over until the next meeting. The motion carried.

14. SPARTANBURG COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Term of Tom Arthur. Application received: Tom Arthur.

Senator John Hawkins made a motion to nominate Mr. Tom Arthur. The motion was seconded and carried.

15. CROFT FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Terms of Thomas Ed Boyce, Harold (Hal) Hall, Douglas W. Hendrix, and James L. Jackson. Applications received: James L. Jackson, Douglas W. Hendrix, Thomas Edward Boyce, Sr., Harold E. (Hal) Hall, and James V. Painter.

Representative Scott Talley moved to carry this appointment over until the next meeting. The motion carried.

16. GLENDALE FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Terms of Jeff V. McKinnish and John Mike Kohler, Jr. Applications received: Jeff V. McKinnish, William C. "Billy" Gossett, Jr.

Representative Lanny Littlejohn moved to nominate both Mr. McKinnish and Mr. Gossett. The motion carried.

17. MAYO FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Term of Thomas Ledford. Application received: Thomas Ledford.

Chairman Doug Smith made a motion to nominate Mr. Thomas Ledford. The motion carried.

18. FORESTRY BOARD

Term of Phillip Connell. Application received: Samuel H. Maw, Jr.

Representative Lanny Littlejohn moved to nominate Mr. Samuel H. Maw, Jr. The motion carried.

19. NORTH SPARTANBURG FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Terms of Willie E. Browning, Sr., and Paul Wayne Jolly. Applications received: Paul Wayne Jolly, Sean N. Gosnell and Stephen D. Moore.

Representative Ralph Davenport moved to adjourn debate until the next meeting. The motion carried.

20. PELHAM BATESVILLE BOARD OF FIRE CONTROL

Terms of William M. Norris, Jr., Arden William Stewart, and Ben P. Dillard, III. Applications received: Arden William Stewart, William M. Norris, Jr., and Jerry Frey (from Greenville County).

Representative Joe Mahaffey moved to nominate Mr. William Norris, Jr. and Mr. Arden William Stewart. The motion carried.

Mr. Jerry Frey's application will be forwarded to Greenville County Delegation for their recommended appointment approval. Spartanburg Delegation will then concur at the next meeting.

21. WESTVIEW-FAIRFOREST FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Terms of Dwane Broyles, Jerry Lee Walker, and Dr. Charles (Chuck) Bagwell. Applications received: Jerry Lee Walker, Jeff Knight, Todd Gilmore, Stacy Thompson, Rick Simmons, Jay Erick Hammett, and Dr. Charles F. Bagwell.

Representative Scott Talley moved to carry the appointment over until the August meeting. The motion carried.

22. SPARTANBURG COUNTY COMMISSION FOR TECHNICAL AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Term of Robert D. Kinard (District 5). Application received: William Bruce Johnson (District 5).

Representative Joe Mahaffey moved to nominate William Bruce Johnson (District 5). The motion carried.

2. MR. MIKE RANEY, CEO, GLENN SPRINGS ACADEMY – UPDATE ON GLENN SPRINGS ACADEMY

At the last meeting, Mr. Mike Raney presented a letter of support going to Dr. Kathleen Hayes, Director of Department of Social Services (DSS), asking her to consider opening a low management men's program at Glenn Springs Academy. The Glenn Springs Academy has thirty-two (32) teenage boys, custody of the State of South Carolina, DSS that have been abused, neglected, or abandoned. When the kids are successful, they are able to leave moderate management programs that are a level below what Glenn Springs Academy is currently able to offer. The problem is that when Glenn Springs Academy kids are successful, they end up leaving Spartanburg County. The closest low management facility for boys is in Belton. It's hardly an incentive for the kids to do well. There are three low management facilities for girls in Spartanburg County – Ellen Hines Smith Girls Home, The Anchor House at the Children's Shelter, and one other small one. Roughly, there are twenty-five beds in Spartanburg County for girls in low management. Currently, there are none for boys in Spartanburg County. Research confirms there are fifty-five (55) boys from Spartanburg, Cherokee, Union and Laurens that should be in low management in the County where they are from, but are placed elsewhere. They are either at Colleton, Barnwell, or god knows where. The Governor just produced a task force report with the main focus being "We want to bring kids back to where they are from." This is hardly preventing us from getting a low management program in an effort to do that. Mr. Raney is asking the Delegation for help. Fortunately, Mr. Raney was able to speak to the Governor on Saturday evening, but he is pessimistic. The Spartanburg Delegation has been a tremendous support to Glenn Springs Academy in the past. It is not any more expensive to bring kids from other counties back to Spartanburg County. Monies are not being requested to build the facility, as that has already been accomplished through the generosity of the community.

The Glenn Springs Academy has not heard a response from the letter submitted to Dr. Kathryn Hayes. Others had not been informed of the request.

Of the thirty-two (32) boys at Glenn Springs Academy, six or seven need to be in low management, but DSS case workers are keeping them in moderate management because they

don't want to send them where they haven't been. It makes sense to keep kids in school where they are successful. Keep them close to their ministers, keep them close to the only folks that they know as family where they are doing well. Glenn Springs has good results with kids. At the end of May, three kids will walk across the stage at Dorman High School to receive their high school diploma.

The Glenn Springs Academy is requesting DSS to give them a contract as the kids need to be served somewhere whether in another county or here, but it makes more sense to be here.

The Delegation will prepare a resolution to request DSS place these kids in the county where they are from if a facility is available as it is in Spartanburg.

3. MS. BETH SUMMER-STRAIT, P.A.C.E. CENTER – MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Ms. Summer-Strait distributed the P.A.C.E. Center's annual report, May is Mental Health Awareness Month poster, and a schedule of programs and special events for the month of May as May is Mental Health Awareness Month.

The P.A.C.E. Center is sponsoring many programs and special events all across the Upstate to celebrate mental wellness and mental health in a positive side. Three of four Americans are mentally healthy, even though one in four does suffer from mental illness. P.A.C.E. wants to support and encourage those three in four that are mentally healthy.

The P.A.C.E. Center had a seventh grade poster contest. The winning poster was submitted from St. Paul the Apostle student Matthew Frech, and Allegra was kind enough to print the posters free for P.A.C.E. Hopefully they will be seen all over the community. The poster stresses "Be Kind to your Mind." P.A.C.E. supports this message.

The state mental health executive director, Joy Jay, will be the guest speaker at the Lunch and Learn Event scheduled for May 13.

This has been a big year for P.A.C.E. as they were two separate agencies last year at this time, Mental Health America and Carolina Counseling. The merge became effective May 2007 forming The P.A.C.E. Center, providing more comprehensive, complete services throughout the Upstate. Now P.A.C.E. is able to offer prevention services, advocacy counseling, and education all related to mental health issues.

P.A.C.E. received a letter from the Governor's office regarding federal funds that were going to the State Department of Social Services to be used to provide safe exchange and supervised visitation for children between their custodial/noncustodial parents. However, at that time, the decision as to where funds were to be distributed was entirely up to DSS. There were two DSS agencies which those funds were to be distributed too. Since then, P.A.C.E. has had to close their program due to funding issues. Ms. Summer-Strait thinks that the other two agencies have also closed. That funding was a big loss because the Center was serving over 500 families in the program.

Another issue that P.A.C.E. is working on is veterans care. P.A.C.E. is seeing so many military families that are in need of counseling on readjustment issues, depression, suicide amongst soldiers, post traumatic stress disorder, etc. The Upstate has a number of military families in the community. P.A.C.E. is working very close with the Veterans Affairs office as well as Wounded Warriors, and Blue Star Mothers to provide services for those families – counseling services, as well as a weekly support group. There are federal funds that are going to the school district to help children when adjustment issues arise. The P.A.C.E. Center could possibly tap into some of those funds because it operates strictly on a fee-for-service sliding scale. Not a lot of monies are available for this certain population.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

4. REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT TALLEY, COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The County Transportation Committee is requesting the Plan be revised to change the date as to when set-aside projects are required to be submitted before reverting back into the general “C” funds. Representative Talley moved to adopt January 15 of each year as the required date for projects to be submitted for set-aside C Fund consideration before reverting back into the general “C” funds. The motion carried.

5. REPRESENTATIVE LANNY LITTLEJOHN, SPARTANBURG AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

No report.

6. REPRESENTATIVE KEITH KELLY, SPARTANBURG CHILDREN’S SHELTER

No report.

7. SENATOR JOHN HAWKINS, SPATS

No report.

8. REPRESENTATIVE JOE MAHAFFEY, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- a. SCDNR request to purchase patrol boat from Water Rec Funds @ \$30,000
- b. SCDNR request to purchase ATV with trailer from Game and Fish Funds @ \$7,000
- c. SCDNR request to purchase agricultural supplies for public dove fields from Game and Fish Funds @ \$6,000.

DNR has requested to purchase a patrol boat from Water Rec funds at \$30,000; ATV with trailer from Game and Fish Funds at \$7,000; and agricultural supplies for public dove fields from Game and Fish funds at \$6,000.

Representative Mahaffey moved to approve all three of the DNR requests. The motion carried.

9. REPRESENTATIVE HAROLD MITCHELL, PARD

No report.

23. OLD BUSINESS

24. NEW BUSINESS

A resolution was distributed by Mr. Rick Beltram requesting an e-verify system to have a threshold of somewhat less than 100 employees. Mr. Beltram was not present, but was invited to attend the meeting to explain.

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING ADJOURNED.

Doug Smith, Delegation Chairman

Attested:
Carol Crowe