

**MINUTES**  
**Spartanburg County**  
**Legislative Delegation**  
**Monday, November 14, 2005**  
**5:00 p.m.**

A public meeting of the Spartanburg County Legislative Delegation was held on Monday, November 14, 2005, at 5:00 p.m. in the 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 Brenda Lee – Resigned  
Representative Doug Smith – Present  
Representative Lanny Littlejohn – Present  
Representative Scott Talley – Present  
Representative Phil Sinclair – Present  
Representative Joe Mahaffey – Present  
Representative Ralph Davenport – Absent  
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 Phil Sinclair.

### **1. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 1, 2005 MEETING MINUTES**

Representative Scott Talley moved to approve the August 1, 2005 meeting minutes as printed. Representative Bob Walker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **2. FUNDING FOR SWAY MUSIC ACADEMY – MR. STEVE WATKINS, CEO/PRESIDENT, SWAY MUSIC GROUP CORPORATION**

This presentation has been postponed until the next scheduled Delegation meeting.

### **3. 2006-2007 STATE BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND – DR. SHEILA BREITWEISER**

The South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind is a Palmetto Gold School for the fourth consecutive year. The distributed folder contains the School's annual report card which includes student attendance rate, mastery of students Individual Education Plan (IEP), and number of staff members with master's degrees. This report card would not have been possible without the delegation and community support.

The folder also contains a list of students that have been served in the South Carolina School for the deaf and the blind for the past five years. The School has many families that will relocate to Spartanburg for their children to attend the school.

Dr. Breitweiser will be appearing before the Greenville delegation, and has been trying to get with the Anderson delegation, as well as the Lexington delegation to share this same information. Hopefully, other delegations will be appreciative of the work done in Spartanburg.

Dr. Breitweiser will hopefully schedule individual meetings with the delegation members regarding the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind state budget requests for 2006-2007. The recurring requests are \$2.36M, of which, some of the requests are to continue efforts. The continuing efforts include staff training and student assisted technology. Dr. Breitweiser is also recommending extending the school year by one month. For children with special needs, an extra month in the school year can be very helpful.

A federal monitoring team visited the School to look at the birth to three years old program of the state and suggested not enough is being provided to these children to learn during their formative years. Families were not informed of services, which is a requirement of the monitoring teams. The School, DHEC, and the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs are working with the hospitals and now the School has more children than funds and staff to serve. Funding is requested to cover expenses for these mandated services.

If there are non-recurring requests this year, funds are needed for new furniture and equipment.

A large capital funding request for \$18.9M includes items that have been requested for at

least six years. The facility needs and other things as thought about are listed in priority order. If there should be a bond bill, the SCSDB wants to be positioned with the items needed.

Dr. Breitweiser had a recent conversation with some people from a big accounting firm. They are recommending shared services, where school districts and agencies get together. Instead of trying to hire people for everything, a consortium could be created to share services by services. The School has a model program for shared services. The outreach program is serving 65 school districts through the vision services, as well as five districts served with the book depository adaptive textbooks. Even though some students never come to the campus, they can be served through these outreach services.

#### **4. FOSTER CARE ANNUAL REPORT – MS. CAROLYN DAWKINS AND MS. MARTHA BROCK**

There are two local review boards in the Spartanburg County 7<sup>th</sup> judicial circuit. 7A only reviews Spartanburg County, while 7B reviews Spartanburg and Cherokee Counties. During 2004, the two local boards met twenty-eight times and conducted 618 reviews on a total of 365 children. The Foster Care Review Boards meet quarterly with Department of Social Services, Foster Parent Association, and the volunteer Guardian *ad Litem*. At the quarterly meetings, noted issues are discussed by the local boards.

The state board representative from the district is Ms. Brock. Ms. Brock is from Cherokee County and serves on the 7B Review Board. Foster Care Review Board is a group of citizens that is nominated by delegation members and appointed by the Governor. The Board reviews all children in foster care, makes recommendation to the judge, and listens to all interested involved parties for each child's case. The Board does not work for Department of Social Services (DSS), nor are a part of DSS.

The main concern the review board wants is permanency. Terminating of parent's rights is a very difficult thing, and it is not to be taken lightly, nor is abuse taken lightly. The Board does not always agree with DSS recommendation, in fact, the Board has testified against them. The judge is given the best recommendation for the children.

The Board needs legislators support from state level, both financially and legislatively.

#### **5. VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION – MS. JENNIE D. THOMAS**

Ms. Thomas is the area supervisor for Spartanburg, Union and Cherokee Counties. Last fiscal year, Vocational Rehabilitation was able to help 8,602 people with disabilities become rehabilitated to employment. Locally, Vocational Rehabilitation served over 3,000 and has been able to return 785 to competitive employment. This fiscal year, which started July 1, Vocational Rehabilitation is currently serving 2200 clients and rehabilitating 286. Vocational Rehabilitation receives \$4 in federal funding for every state dollar appropriated and set aside for services.

Medicaid dollars are not received. These matching funds are critical in helping people with disabilities become employed and thereafter become taxpayers in the workforce. Vocational Rehabilitation has requested \$659,629 which would result in an increase before the \$3M federal match.

The services provided include qualified counselors who provide guidance and counseling. Two work training centers, one in Spartanburg, and one in Gaffney, annually serve over 600 individuals.

Strong business relationships are a must. Without them Vocational Rehabilitation would not be able to serve in such a capacity as currently demonstrated. There have been many partners throughout the community: Spartanburg Regional Hospital System, Spartanburg Technical College, Nestles, Spartanburg Steel, Renfro, Betras Plastics, and others. These partnerships allow Vocational Rehabilitation to create job opportunities for people with disabilities to do on the job training, job shadowing, and mentoring, which very often leads to direct job placement. These business partnerships with employers are vital in the success of the school-to-work transition services. The Rehabilitation Act in Individuals with Disabilities Act mandates the delivery of the school-to-work transition services by Vocational Rehabilitation and the local school districts. There are more than 31,000 special education students and other students with disabilities, ages 14 to 21 in South Carolina.

Vocational Rehabilitation has sought ways to serve the population. Employment specialists have been added in Richland, Laurens, Lexington and Orangeburg counties. They are also needed in other parts of the state as well. Vocational Rehabilitation has asked for more than \$500,000 to help Spartanburg carry out this mandate. The additional staff will result in more employment outcomes for the students with disabilities and would be a good return on the states investment. The strong business partnerships that Vocational Rehabilitation has worked hard to build will serve well for potential internships and other job experiences for students creating ample success.

In addition, the training center in Columbia offers educational training to clients with the most severe physical disability. These individuals would not have otherwise been able to successfully complete training in a timely manner. The campus in Columbia has a team of professionals including nurses, physical therapist, nutritionist, instructors, and others provide training and technical certification in computer programming, AutoCAD, office systems management, and computer repairs through an accelerated program. The students live on the campus Monday through Friday and attend classes all day. In six to twelve months they can complete what might take years in a traditional classroom setting or they might not ever complete it. This Friday, forty-one of the clients from around the state, two from the upstate, will graduate from this program. They will be returning to their communities where local counselors at the Vocational Rehabilitation office will work with the computer training center to help place them in Information Technology field. Business relationships are critical to their success.

## **6. SPARTANBURG MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM – MR. JAY CARIVEAU**

The Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium goes back to 1946 when the delegation enacted legislation to fund the auditorium. The day the auditorium was commissioned, Thomas Whiteside, the mayor, paid a tribute to those who have given their lives so that our heritage of freedom might be preserved.

The operations and public funding received to date from county accommodations tax has been approximately \$250,000 per year. In addition, the auditorium is receiving one-half of \$75,000 from the city hospitality tax which is used for promotion to tourism. The other half is shared with Barnet Park. Accommodation tax is also used to pay down the bond debt service on the most recent renovation.

The auditorium strategic plan goes back ten years ago. Phase 1 (add elevator core to meet ADA), 2 (add lobby), and, 3 (add stage and dressing rooms) have been accomplished. Phase 4 is to build an exhibition hall for the auditorium. As the board has continued to run the auditorium as a business, an economic impact study and public opinion poll has been completed.

The board has changed some of the auditorium operations such as not filling five positions by outsourcing some of the services today.

Janet Easterling, with Omega and Associates, preformed an economic impact study. In 2004, 185,000 patrons visited the auditorium. The return on the public investment is almost \$21 per dollar invested, an economic impact of \$6.5M per year.

Four hundred people were interviewed for the public opinion survey, preformed by Crantford & Associates out of Columbia. High percentage points were received. 89% said they had been to the Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium in the past year. 84% say the auditorium is good for business. 82% of the people thought the auditorium should be supported financially and is an important community resource and a positive economic development tool.

Currently, there are about 15,000 square feet in the arena and 3270 seats in the theatre, which is the still the largest in the Carolinas and is known as the showplace of the South. Expansion plans includes a 50,000 square foot exhibit hall. This would deplete the flat surface parking spaces; therefore, a 600 car parking garage is planned. The two level parking garage would include 60,000 square feet of flex space above the parking.

One of the items planned at the exhibition hall is to build a walkway to the Marriott and the conference center. The walkway would tie patrons back into the community with opportunities to the Chapman Cultural Center.

The value of this proposition is to increase the number of visitors to Spartanburg. The board believes that approximately 200,000 visitors during the first year and upwards of 400,000 to 500,000 per year in year five. These people will be staying in hotels, buying food, buying gasoline, and spending money. The board believes the economic impact to the community is \$14M per year.

The board also believes the project would create 45 jobs at the facilities and 160 jobs outside of the facility. Other outsourcing jobs would be created, such as catering, etc. That is 205 jobs at a value of approximately \$5M per year. The opportunity for increased tourism also means the visitors in Spartanburg will be attending other area venues in the community.

The Exhibit Hall is estimated to cost \$7.5M. The parking deck is estimated to cost \$6M with the 60,000 square feet of Flex space above the parking at \$9.8M. The contingency for construction

cost is estimated at \$2.3M with A & E fees at \$1.7M totaling \$27.3M. This would be a huge investment in the community.

Delegation, City Council and County Council will have meetings with regard to the participation of how the funding will be secured for the project as time moves forward.

## **7. USC-UPSTATE INFORMATION–DR. JOHN STOCKWELL, CHANCELLOR**

Dr. Stockwell thanked the delegation for listening to the problem with parity funding at the University. As that problem is reframed from last year, the University defined it as in terms of additional operating dollars to expand to Greenville that is simply because the University is not getting the State Commission on Higher Education to address the parity issue. The University asked for \$3.9M as a major operating budget request. The delegation was helpful in getting \$1M for recurring operations.

At the same time, and with the same sincerity, Dr. Stockwell apologized to the delegation for making an announcement for the direction of those funds for a capital project in partnership with Greenville Technical College that was other than the capital project the University was working on when funds were requested, which at that time, was the renovation of a facility in the University Center in Greenville. Late this summer, the possibility of expanding the University operation on the property that would be donated to the University of South Carolina by the Greenville Technical College presented itself. The operating cost and the opportunity to share those with Greenville Technical College was an exceptional opportunity. The land valued at \$1.5M was an exceptional opportunity. Dr. Stockwell worked together through President Tom Barton to put together a Memorandum of Understanding and announced that as a working document. Dr. Stockwell wishes he could recall that and spend time with each delegation member before making the announcement. After having made the announcement, there were steps in the approval process the University would have to go through. Those steps were anticipated and knew those steps included the Board of Trustees, the State Commission on Higher Education, and the Joint Bond Review Committee.

Dr. Stockwell has been asked to put the rationale for proposal on a single sheet of paper. This has been extremely difficult to do. First, Dr. Stockwell asked the question, “Why is USC Upstate proposing a capital expansion project adjacent to Greenville Technical College?” Dr. Stockwell sights three reasons: One is the feasibility of doing so with the sources available. Second, is the University Mission and third is the Need. Dr. Stockwell listed the Mission in the center of the page because it is the center of the argument. The University defines itself as a metropolitan university. The University declares in their mission, that their service obligation is focused largely across the I-85 corridor, which certainly is centered in Spartanburg, but includes Greenville, Cherokee County, etc. Also, fundamental to the University mission are partnerships – partnerships are important with the technical colleges. The University emphasizes academic excellence as well.

A second question was asked, “Is the proposal consistent with the University Mission, and is it appropriately limited by the Mission?” The answer is “Yes” on both accounts. This step retains the primary focus on undergraduate education. It serves South Carolina and Upstate residents. It

focuses on the I-85 corridor. Probably, most important, from the delegation point of view is: “How does the proposed Memorandum of Understanding consistent with limiting the missions? First, it limits USC-Upstate in Greenville to upper division (junior/senior) level work only, partnered with Greenville Technical College at the lower division. One of the important developments of the Memorandum of Understanding is that it limits Greenville Technical to freshman/sophomore level work. As everyone knows, there have been consistent calls for a creation of a 4-year university in Greenville County - Even a discussion of Greenville Tech going to a 4-year school. If that would happen, it would severely damage the University of South Carolina-Upstate located here in Spartanburg.

Can USC-Upstate deliver on its mission? The answer is “yes” in terms of the academic quality, the growth of the enrollment, and front and center are partnerships with technical colleges. Of all the ten teaching sector institutions in this state, USC-Upstate is the largest receiver of technical college transfers. Of the 1,500 new USC-Upstate students this fall, there were 700 juniors who transferred from technical colleges. This proposal would expand USC-Upstate options for technical college students in Greenville as well as Spartanburg.

What would be the impact on the Spartanburg Campus? Is the stature of the main campus in Spartanburg threatened by the Greenville partnership? No, it would not. USC-Upstate headquarter campus is here in Spartanburg on three hundred acres with extensive new construction, full residential capacity, highway infrastructure around the University, and most importantly, freshman to senior level work, plus master’s degree programs. In Greenville, it would only be junior and senior level capping programs. Will the money be diverted to Greenville from the Spartanburg Campus? No. The University is already spending \$2.5M in offering courses in the University Center of Greenville. There will be growth from year to year, but that same growth continues on the main campus. Are we directing the purpose of that \$1M the state authorized? Dr. Stockwell believes the answer is no. It is going for a capital project that will be much more efficient and effective in both cost and service to the academic program by building new construction rather than renovating what amounts to an aging department store on the back side of a Wal-Mart.

The USC-Upstate is by far the largest undergraduate provider at the University Center, and is running out of space. The facilities are in need of expansion. It is anticipated this project will meet the needs. There are other needs as all agencies do have, but this is of primary importance.

Representative Walker shared concerns heard all last year with rising tuition cost. Rising tuition cost affects other areas of funding.

Dr. Stockwell is going to continue conversations with Spartanburg and Greenville Delegation members, especially a one on one basis, plus speaking to as many groups as possible, to promote this proposal. There is an invitational meeting scheduled for December to review more carefully this proposal. There are several steps to go through – the Board of Trustees, and after that, the Commission on Higher Education, then the Joint Bond Review Committee.

Representative Smith received calls regarding this proposal, but would appreciate a letter from the Chairman of the Spartanburg County Commission for Higher Education and approved by the Board that the Spartanburg County Commission for Higher Education is not going to make any

suggestions or recommendations for board makeover or governance changes. This is not going to be acceptable.

Representative Smith is very concerned that Dr. Terhune is very comfortable with the proposal.

Also, Representative Smith is very concerned about working in any way, shape, or form with the Greenville Hospital System when Spartanburg has the finest operated Medical Center in the Upstate. He is requesting this be stated in a letter from the Chairman of the Higher Education Commission and approved by the board to make sure there is no known effort to partner with the Greenville Hospital System.

Representative Lanny Littlejohn, along with Fred Teeter, from the South Carolina Department of Transportation presented Jerry Kiehl, Spartanburg County Veterans Affairs Officer, and Mr. Harold Osborne, advocate for veterans, a sign naming the portion of South Carolina Highway 295 in Spartanburg County from its intersection of South Carolina Highway 56 to its intersection with County Road C-1207 (Dairy Ridge Road) "Camp Croft Veterans Memorial Highway." This sign will be erected along the highway around Camp Croft honoring all the veterans that went through Camp Croft. Camp Croft has been a part of history in Spartanburg County for over 60 years. This honorarium is just a small token of appreciation for what the veterans have done over the years.

### **COMITTEE REPORTS**

**8. SENATOR GLENN REESE, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR)**

No report.

**9. PRESENTATIVE BOB WALKER, COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (CTC)**

The delegation set-asides are due in the Delegation office tomorrow, November 15.

**10. PRESENTATIVE SCOTT TALLEY, PARD**

**a) Spartanburg County – Brookwood Park Trail in Landrum**

This item will be held over until the next scheduled delegation meeting.

**11. REPRESENTATIVE PHIL SINCLAIR, SPARTANBURG COUNTY HEALTH PLANNING**

No report.

**12. REPRESENTATIVE DOUG SMITH, SPATS**

No report.

**13. SENATOR JIM RITCHIE, SPARTANBURG AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

No report.

**14. SPARTANBURG CHILDREN'S SHELTER**

No report.

**15. REPRESENTATIVE LANNY LITTLEJOHN, COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG)**

The Appalachian Council of Governments has adopted a formula to seek State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funding for rural roads in the County. Highway 9 in Boiling Springs is a good example of STIP funds being used.

**16. REPRESENTATIVE DOUG SMITH - SPARTANBURG COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Representative Smith has been meeting with the County Administrator and the Mayor of Spartanburg about the possibility of Spartanburg submitting a State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) request. The SIB has put out request for applications that are due in by December 5. Unfortunately, the applications were not sent out until October 24. The application is no less than 50 pages to include attachments and exhibits.

Representative Smith started to inquire about the application back in August or September, but at that time was informed there had not been any calls or requests for information on SIBs

money because the state didn't think there would be any money in the State Infrastructure Bank. But, it is known now there is a good chance there will be SIB money, particularly if Florence doesn't vote for a one penny tax increase. When the application was received, the economic development corporation was still under the belief that nobody else was applying.

This morning Representative Smith found out that Charleston has been working on this since June. Their application request has been submitted for \$775M. Spartanburg will still try to get the application submitted, but unfortunately are a little bit behind. The projects that Spartanburg is looking at are economic development projects. The economic development corporation is not going to have an easy time getting the application completed. The county will work with the Economic Development Corporation in completing the application. Representative Smith hopes the delegation can concur on this application. This is an opportunity for Spartanburg to submit an application for big money to support the community.

The greatest amount of weight given to financing the project is that 50% of the votes are based on available local match monies. Unfortunately, the coastal region of the state has an added opportunity to use accommodations and hospitalities monies that the Upstate doesn't have for match monies.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### **17. CHILDREN'S FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD**

Terms of Carolyn Dawkins, Martha Axmann and Mary Ann Riley. Applications received: Carolyn M. Dawkins, June Simmons Bond, and Mary Ann Riley.

Senator Hawkins moved to nominate Carolyn Dawkins, June Bond, and Mary Ann Riley by acclamation. Representative Talley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **18. GREENVILLE SPARTANBURG AIRPORT COMMISSION**

Term of Henry Ramella. Application received: Henry Ramella.

Representative Talley moved to nominate Henry Ramella by acclamation. The motion carried.

### **19. LIBERTY-CHESNEE-FINGERVILLE WATER DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Resignation of Barbara Henderson. Applications received: Ann J. Henderson, Thomas A. Powell (Tony), and Randall Williams.

Representative Walker and Senator Reese made a motion to nominate Randall Williams. Representative Sinclair seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. The motion carried.

**20. GLENDALE AREA FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Term of Myron H. Patterson. Applications received: None

This appointment will be held over until the next scheduled Delegation meeting.

**21. MAYO AREA FIRE DISTRICT**

Term of Leland Roach. Application received: Leland Vance Roach.

Representative Smith moved to reappoint Mr. Roach by acclamation. The motion carried.

**22. ROEBUCK AREA FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Unexpired term of J. P. Huckaby. Application received: Thomas F. Bulman.

Representative Talley moved to nominate Thomas L. Bulman. Senator Hawkins seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING ADJOURNED.**

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Doug Smith, Delegation Chairman

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Attested:  
Carol Crowe