



MINUTES
Spartanburg County
Legislative Delegation
Monday, February 3, 2014
5:30 p.m.

A public meeting of the Spartanburg County Legislative Delegation was held on Monday, February 3, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in County Council Chambers of the Spartanburg County Administrative Office Building, located at 366 North Church Street, Spartanburg, SC. Senator Shane Martin presided. The following members were present or absent as indicated:

Senator Tom Corbin - Present
Senator Glenn Reese – Present
Senator Lee Bright – Absent
Senator Shane Martin – Present
Senator Harvey Peeler – Absent
Representative Harold Mitchell – Present
Representative J. Derham Cole, Jr. – Present
Representative Edward R. Tallon, Sr. – Present
Representative Mike Forrester – Present
Representative William Chumley – Present
Representative Rita Allison – Present
Representative Donna Wood – Present
Representative Doug Brannon – Present

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Invocation was rendered by Senator Tom Corbin, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Representative Bill Chumley.

1. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 4, 2013 MEETING MINUTES

Representative Tallon moved to approve the November 4, 2013 meeting minutes as printed and mailed. Representative Forrester seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2. MR. HENRY LAYE, DIRECTOR VOTER REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS – NEW RULES GOVERNING FILING FOR OFFICE IN 2014

Mr. Laye introduced and expressed his heartfelt appreciation and thankfulness to the current Voter Registration Board and Election Commission members.

A packet of the new filing procedures as required by South Carolina Act 61 of 2013 was distributed to the Delegation members.

Mr. Laye detailed the specifics with regard to candidate filing changes as stated in Act 61 of 2013 (Equal Access to the Ballot Act). The information presented included the dates candidates must file; special elections filing requirements; filing for partisan candidates; filing locations; days and hours the State Election Commission and County Election Commission will accept filings; when ads will be placed in the newspapers; requirements for

filing; where the filing forms are available; when the filing fees are required to be paid and how they are calculated; the process after the candidate files, filing by petition; special election deadline, ethics requirements; deadline for filing; and penalties if all paperwork, fees, etc are not submitted on time.

3. MR. GREG TOLBERT, PRESIDENT OF BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF THE UPSTATE – AFTER SCHOOL PILOT PROJECT

The Boys and Girls Clubs of the Upstate is seeking \$750,000 from the state budget to expand and sustain after school programs that have been found to be extremely successful here in Spartanburg and Cherokee Counties for the past fifteen years. The money would be spent to open five new sites to serve one hundred children a day, after school, in a high poverty elementary school, Monday thru Friday until 6:00 p.m. The program would help the children achieve academic success, healthy life styles, and good character.

External evaluations have demonstrated the children do significantly better on the state tests; have almost a 50% better school attendance rate; and, go to the office 30% less than their peers in the same schools. This has been the consistent performance of six districts in the upstate over the past fifteen years.

Along with expanding the After School Program to more of the districts in Spartanburg and Cherokee Counties, they also want to reach out to other counties that do not have similar programs; help them implement and begin serving their children to receive the same benefits.

Interests have been shown in Union, Anderson District 5, Orangeburg, and Florence Counties.

Mr. Tolbert is working with Melanie Barton of the Education Oversight Committee by following her lead on making a presentation, but is also open to be in Columbia at any time.

Representative Mitchell feels that if the presentation were presented to the Ways and Means comparing the number and dollars spent of children served at these sites versus what is being spent on an individual child at DJJ would be a strong statement; and feels the committee would see the value in the investment. The numbers from earlier this summer showed that two students who have gone through the after school program are now at Harvard University.

Mr. Tolbert will meet with the Anderson County District 5 Assistant Superintendent and Director of their Title 1 program to discuss who will present the request to the Ways and Means committee.

Representative Allison stated that Mr. Tolbert had already been in Columbia and knows there are very strict rules concerning earmarks in the General Assembly, Senate Finance, Ways and Means, and the Education Oversight Committee which allocates monies to after school programs.

Senator Martin reiterated that he felt Mr. Tolbert would be better served by going directly to Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Education and Special Schools.

4. MS. CAROLYN BROOKS – DIRECTOR, SPARTANBURG COUNTY FIRST STEPS – PROGRESS OF SPARTANBURG NURSE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP IMPLEMENTED THROUGH SPARTANBURG REGIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM

Ms. Mary Mathis presented instead of Ms. Carolyn Brooks.

Ms. Mathis works with Ms. Carolyn Brooks and is the Chair of the Community Advisory Board for Nurse Family Partnership. The Nurse Family Partnership is an evidence based program which has been tested for about thirty years. The nurse visits, a low income, first time mom in the home to mentor the young woman. She focuses on a healthy pregnancy, parenting skills and life planning. Life planning is a huge part of the Nurse Family Partnership. The Nurse Family Partnership helps the Mother, helps the Baby, and helps the Community.

Statewide there are seven sites in nineteen counties. Spartanburg was one of the original seven sites. The growth in Spartanburg is done with staffing. Spartanburg started with four nurses, now has six and will soon have eight. Major funding has been received from the Duke Endowment, Spartanburg Regional Foundation, and federal grants.

Nurse Family Partnership is proud of seeing the outcomes such as a drop in the number of pre-term babies, and a reduction of the young women smoking. The best part is helping that mother in health, life planning. A number of these young women get their GED, go onto college, and get jobs. This nurse who mentors is helping these mothers plan their life, as they are in despair at their first point of contact.

In 2013, the Pew Center wrote a projected society upturn on Nurse Family Partnership investment of 9.5

to 1.

In Spartanburg County 27% of children under the age of eighteen live in poverty. Nurse Family Partnership wants to make certain the program does not go away as these good results would be lost.

In Columbia, Ms. Mathis is working on an appropriation request for recurring funds that would support the existing Nurse Family Partnership programs throughout the state.

Ms. Mathis asked delegation support of the program. The national office of Nurse Family Partnership lobbyist for the group and the state director of Nurse Family Partnership will be in Columbia on Wednesday. There is an opportunity for delegation members to discuss funding possibilities.

Again, the three reasons to insure this program continues in the county is it 'Helps the Mom', 'Helps the Baby', and 'Helps the Community.'

5. MS. LIZ PATTERSON, PRESIDENT, SPARTANBURG LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS – LEAGUE'S STAND ON ETHICS REFORM IN SOUTH CAROLINA

The Spartanburg League of Women Voters has over fifty members, male and female.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization that carefully studies and monitors issues that affects citizens in all levels of government – local, state, and national.

For a number of years, the League has been carefully monitoring the ethics laws and legislation in South Carolina, and was really disappointed when the national survey had given South Carolina an F on ethics. Ms. Patterson would like the delegation members help move that grade up to an A.

House Bill 3948, as currently amended, addresses many of the problems of the existing law. The League believes that sunshine is the best disinfectant, - in other words, transparency open doors. HR 3945 opens the doors to citizen's view and involvement. As one member of the Senate recently stated, the success of our government depends on citizens having confidence in the integrity of their elected officials and institutions. Although HR 3945, as amended, will not do all that many wish, it is a strong beginning.

The League of Women Voters of Spartanburg urges the senators to support HR 3945 as currently amended.

6. MS. BEVERLY OWENSBY, PRESIDENT PALMETTO HOUSE REPUBLICAN WOMEN – COMMON CORE EDUCATION

The information presented was collected by the SC Parents in Education, Director Sherry Few. Special thanks went out to Senators Shane Martin and Lee Bright; Representatives Bill Chumley and Donna Wood for sponsoring legislation to stop Common Core. More legislators are needed to sponsor the legislation to stop Common Core. More than twenty states have legislation pending to repeal Common Core.

Comparisons between the creation and the implementation of the Affordable Health Care Act/ Obama Care and Common Core State Standards are astounding. Both were created behind closed doors with minimal input from professionals trained in Health Care or Education. Each program proclaimed as transforming America, but instead of advances we see deterioration of successes. Massive unfunded mandates and cost analysis was never completed, and the legislature was by-passed regardless of the cost to the State. AccountabilityWorks estimated a staggering cost of \$7B to implement nationally. In the early years, the total cost was \$16B over seven years.

Extensive data mining of students from kindergarten to workforce includes their family political and religious affiliations. The federal Department of Education has gutted federal student privacy laws to allow greater sharing of student data with other governmental agencies and private entities. State, local, parental, and individual privacy control has been lost.

Market talking points that are not true or are inaccurately stated – Curriculum is more challenging, rigorous, and students will be more competitive in the global market. How could this be a true statement when administrators at colleges and universities are saying students taught Common Core will not be admitted into the University due to the low academic standards? States adopted Common Core without ever seeing the standards, by being promised federal Department of Education wavers from 'No Child Left Behind' and an opportunity to gain seventy points out of 485 points to make them more competitive for a *race to the top* grant money. The end result was a federal takeover of the educational system. Common Core state standards have never been field

tested, contain academically inferior content, and will lose significant threats to students and family privacy. Common Core is intended by special interest groups and the federal government to throw children into one size fits all education.

The United States Department of Education is violating three federal statutes in regards to Common Core due to prohibiting direct supervision for control of curriculum. The National Governors Association (NGA) and Council of Chief States School Officers (CCSSO) find it's trade organizations in Washington DC has received substantial monies from the federal government and \$100M from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation since 2007 to advance the standards and the connected-data collection and assessments. They created a validation committee of 29 members. Out of 29 members, there was only one mathematician and one K-12 language arts expert. These two individuals would not validate Common Core and are speaking against it. Neither the NGA, nor the CCSSO have the legislative authority from any state do to anything. States that adopt the standards must accept them word for word and will have little opportunity to add content. States must relinquish their autonomy of a public education all to the denigration of parent's rights. The standards are owned and copyrighted by non-governmental entities, unaccountable to parents and students in individual states.

Common Core math places kids two years behind their peers and other high achieving countries. The math centers will only prepare students for non-selected community colleges – not four year universities. Furthermore, the math standard will not prepare students for STEM college pathways.

Algebra for middle school will not be provided nor will pre-calculus and calculus for high school students in Common Core. Common Core is going to require four year colleges and universities dumb down their academic standards to allow students who are less proficient to attend. Common Core's English standards replace 50 to 70% of classic literature with dry informational text. Kindergarten through third grade students minds are developing and unable to think abstractly as required in Common Core.

Ms. Owensby is currently the President of the Palmetto House Republican Women and every Republican women script in the Upstate has signed their resolution to stop Common Core. There are many, many other groups across South Carolina who is asking all Delegation members to do the same. Ms. Owensby asked delegation members to please take that statement to all our schools. Choose Common Sense over Common Core.

Senator Martin receives more e-mails and his Secretary is flooded with calls on H3101 to stop Obama Care in South Carolinas with Common Core not far behind; and, his 7th grader really struggles with it now. Senator Corbin scheduled a forum on Common Core in Greenville County. Information was presented both pro and con. The biggest element that he was excited about is that some of the leadership in the Senate on the Education Committee understands there are some issues. Common Core was never run through the legislature. It came through the State Board of Education and the Education Oversight Committee (EOC). He felt that if the federal and state governments were not in control, the local school boards would be better served by the county and state.

On February 5th ETV will be broadcasting hearings scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to 11:45 in Room 105 of the Senate Gressette Building. The hearings will include the K-12 education sub-committee; Medicaid; the affordable health care act; and, sub-committees hearings. All will be able to watch to hear the pros and cons. They are really looking at getting to the bottom of these issues.

Senator Martin thinks this information will help make everybody aware of the issues. By just talking about the subject should help enlighten the facts in order for all to understand.

Representative Allison informed all that Representative Bedingfield has a bill in the House of Representatives that has been sent back to the Education committee to be fined tuned. Basically, the bill states that going forward everything had to be introduced in the General Assembly before it could be passed, simply because the State Board of Education passed off on Common Core. (Unfortunately it is already implemented in our schools with children, principles and superintendents struggling with Common Core.) But, that Bill will be coming back from the education committee and hearings will be held in the House along that line.

Representative Mitchell thanked Ms. Owensby for her presentation. Since South Carolina is four years into implementing Common Core and have spent about \$700M; and, at a point of repealing things before hearing all the pros, cons, impact, and affects - Representative Mitchell cautioned and suggested making some good sound

decisions before the legislature starts repealing things that are already federal law.

As stated with the Affordable Care Act, the recommendations that came out of the study were to expand Medicaid. The state spent \$1M to create a statewide study committee that came back with the recommendation with the state choosing not to expand Medicaid which will present problems in health care this coming year. The legislature has put the hospital systems in a bad position by not looking at what was recommended which took \$3.2B off the table. The legislature needs to examine the issues to find out what the issues are impacting, what is working and not working and be cautious with our dollars before making decisions.

Senator Corbin set up the forum in Greer on Common Core as a lot of his constituents had some concerns and the more he has learned about it, the more concerns he has with it. Therefore, he reached out to someone who was knowledgeable, and in favor of Common Core, as well as those who were not in favor of it. Senator Corbin put them together in a room and gave both of them a half hour to tell the community each side of the story with an hour long question and answer period. The folks in favor of Common Core came up from Columbia.

Senator Corbin was approached the following week from one of the ladies from Columbia and asked how he felt about the forum. He had to be honest with her and said "Quite frankly you did not convince me at all that Common Core was a good thing."

All Senator Corbin took away from their presentation was 'it is a good thing', 'we got to keep up', and, one other very vague thing was - 'O, we are competing in a global market now'. Senator Corbin stated that was all well and good, but how is this going to help? And, they could not tell him the answer. The folks who were opposed to Common Core gave him a basket full of information of how bad it was.

Senator Corbin feels his colleagues on both sides of the isle would agree that Children are our future and his heart is in educating the children, therefore, we need to take a good look at Common Core. It certainly does not need to be blended with any other issue the legislature is dealing with now, but thinks it needs to be brought to the forefront and he would like to see the Senate and the House bill get to a vote to deal with the issue. The facts need to be addressed, decide what the state is going to do, and for the sake of the children, something needs to be done. If it is bad for the kids, it needs to be recalled?

Ms. Owensby would love to see a forum on the subject scheduled in Spartanburg County.

Representative Chumley thanked Ms. Owensby for all she is doing and announced that a town hall forum is in the works. It will be scheduled in early March. Finalization of the meeting will be announced.

7. MS. MONICA HILL, FOSTER CARE – ANNUAL REPORTS

Ms. Michelle Dhunjishah, state director and general council for the review boards presented the report instead of Ms. Hill.

The Foster Care Review Board's annual report contains all sorts of interesting facts and figures. On the inside front cover is a quick snapshot of the boards across the state. Spartanburg County specific data is located on pages 12 and 14. The Spartanburg Board members donated 1,220 volunteer hours of service to the children they served. This volunteer service time is valued at over \$26,000. They provide this support to the children of Spartanburg County that government would not be able to do otherwise.

In addition to being the home of the Foster Care Review Board, the Board is also home to the Heart Gallery. The Heart Gallery is the adoption recruitment program administered in partnership with DSS. Children are featured who are legally free for adoption, but do not have families identified yet. Their pictures are displayed all over the state as a marketing campaign. The Heart Gallery is exciting, innovative, and accomplished with no state dollars and has a 57% match rate.

8. MR. JOE MAHAFFEY – CONDITION OF SOUTH CAROLINA ROADS AND INCREASING THE GAS TAX TO GET OUR ROADS IN BETTER CONDITION

The last gas tax imposed in 1987 was 16.75% of a dollar in South Carolina. Gas was selling for around a dollar at that time. Today our gas is averaging around \$3.00 a gallon and the percentage of our tax today represents about 5.5% or less per gallon.

Now, highways and roadways are deteriorated in our State. It is time the state finds a way to improve our Highways. Our current Governor stated in her State of the Union Address that she will veto any bill to raise any taxes on motor fuel. But, where are we going to find \$29B in the next twenty years, which means we would need

approximately \$1.5M per year. Last year the legislature appropriated \$1B into the road system for the next ten years. Each year about 1,000 miles of roadways will be improved

Funding level for the SCDOT is far below regional and national norms; consequently, the state is expending the vast majority of its funds on repairs. Based on South Carolina's current level of funding - highways will continue to decline. State funding needs over twenty years would be approximately \$48.3B. The revenue anticipated will be \$19B. Our shortfall looks like it would be \$29B, so we must find ways to solve these declining funds of our revenue. The gas tax is presently declining instead of increasing. Other states maintain 19% of the state public miles while the SCDOT maintains 63% of public roads. The cost per mile to resurface today is approximately \$100,000 per mile. A constituent of Representative Cole did damage to three of his tires and two rims since November of 2013 caused mainly by our potholes in the highways.

Highway funding comes from several sources with motor fuel user fees being the primary source. A non-fuel source of revenue is not growing very rapidly. National highway funds source is 35% motor fuel tax while South Carolina fees are 71% of motor fuel. Economic and local forces are affected as follows: inflation, alternative petroleum fuel, petroleum price increase, fleet transportation trend as we sow a seed to happen here in the Upstate with BMW on time delivery. The number of trucks has increased tremendously. The number that is going to be created from the Inland Port is unknown at this time.

Our roads are deteriorating and we must find and study to have a fair tax from our taxpayers. Anything estimated at the highways replacement value could cost \$320B. Each of our legislators must work and define a diversified way to protect our investments in this state.

Cars today get a greater number of miles per gallon of fuel than in 1987 by using hybrids and electric cars - paying less motor fuel taxes. Cars and trucks use our highways regularly and we must find ways to fund roadways. Increasing motor fuel fees is only one way we must diversify our source of revenue to support the system. We must find a diversified solution to our highway system and improve the safety before our roadways cause school bus accidents and kills students.

Mr. Mahaffey appreciates what was accomplished last year with the bond indebtedness and hopefully find other ways this year.

The CPI in 1987 was 113 and today 232 which is over twice what things cost 26 years ago. Based on the CPI index, our motor fuel fee would approximately be in the neighborhood of 34 cents per gallon today. The way you read it, asphalt cost \$160 per ton in 1987 and today it cost \$585 per ton, which is over 350% increase.

People of South Carolina have been getting a tax reduction on gasoline for twenty six years, while repairs to our cars and vehicles have grown greatly.

Representatives B. R. Skelton and Tommy Stringer have put up bills to increase the fuel tax of our state and they probably will need an amendment if it goes anywhere, but this being an election year, it will be hard to override any veto as the Governor might do.

The research Mr. Mahaffey has found in his studies is regarding heavy trucks and the list goes on and on. Mr. Mahaffey has found natural gas will overtake oil as the most used fuel. The high tech companies are changing the American motorists forever. Today there is a network of natural gas fuel stations coast to coast filling up their tanks for about a dollar a day. The solution in question that we must ask is South Carolina getting its fair share of tax for highways. Oil is four times more expensive than Natural Gas. The infrastructure of this state highway system is deteriorating. Companies and jobs will be lost in the future because of this.

Mr. Mahaffey truly hopes that each legislator will keep an open mind and find diversified solutions to improve our highways.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Nutt contacted Senator Martin regarding the Local Government Fund allocations. Promises are made to the local governments and then the legislature reneges on them. Last year Senator Martin stood at the podium fighting for Local Government Fund. As a result Councilman Nutt asked to meet with the Delegation to try to figure out a way to work together a little sooner rather than in May when the General Assembly works on the budget. After the conversation, Senator Martin formed a Local Government Committee of the Delegation. Members include Senators Martin and Reese as well as Representatives Allison, Tallon, and Brannon. Three House members were chosen in case a quorum of the committee had to meet without the two Senators.

Senator Martin asked Councilman Nutt to schedule something to begin work to set up some kind of meeting or interaction with County Council and let the two committees work.

9. REPRESENTATIVE ALLISON – SPARTANBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Spartanburg Chamber of Commerce is continuing to move forward with Economic Development and educational opportunities for businesses throughout Spartanburg County.

Mr. Chuck White is filling in as the interim Director while a search is being conducted to find a new Director for the Chamber.

10. SENATOR SHANE MARTIN – CHAPMAN CULTURAL CENTER

No report.

11. REPRESENTATIVE FORRESTER – COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT (COG)

The Upstate Alliance has been selected as an inaugural participant for the Brookings Institution of Global Cities initiative. This initiative is creating more exports for our companies. The interesting fact is that 80% of the world's purchasing power is outside of the U.S. 85% of economic growth is outside of the U.S. Between 2005 and 2009; the U.S. exporting manufacturing firms saw a 37% growth in revenue, whereas non-exporters saw a 7% decline. This will be huge for our Upstate region.

The new election of officers for COG for April and going until March of 2015, the Chairperson is our own Jane Hall of Spartanburg County Council. Vice Chair is Dennis Clairmon, a citizen member from Anderson County, and Secretary Neil Smith from Anderson County.

12. REPRESENTATIVE FORRESTER – SPATS

The delegation recently appointed Woodward Willard as our new SC DOT Highway Commissioner to represent the 4th Congressional District.

13. REPRESENTATIVE WOOD – HOPE CENTER FOR CHILDREN

Ms. Losciuto, executive director of the Hope Center for Children presented the update.

The Hope Center for Children served 2,390 children in 2013 which includes families that have been served in the community.

It has been just over a year since the Children's Shelter of the Upstate and the Ellen Hines Smith Girls home merged together forming the Hope Center for Children.

There is a whole array of services available to meet the true needs of children and families in the community. The state general funds help with the residential component of the programs. They still have about two hundred Foster care children in the residential program who are victims of child abuse and neglect. The Hope Center makes sure they are safe and cared for.

Ms. Losciuto recently had a guardian in District 5 send an e-mail to say "I just wanted to say 'Thank you' as they have so many success stories of children who have been served. Today they had two little boys to walk in who had been in emergency shelter. One had been a selected mute and had not spoken in quite some time and he was talking his head off when he came in. There are lots of just short term success stories as children are brought into safety while Spartanburg DSS finds a more permanent place for them. The Hope Center is also partnering with DSS and other people in the community to make sure there is a prevention side.

The community families receive a follow-up visit to surmise what support the family needs even if it means the family needs additional support to really get the child what he or she really needs to be able to thrive. The Hope Center has been able to provide support through an array of funding. It is believed if the Center is going to make sustainable services available at quality levels; it takes private funding as well as state support.

The Hope Center is in the middle of putting together outcomes for the residential programs as reported through the general fund. There are about 60% of the seniors graduating from High School and are accepted to

college.

In the Hope Center Family Strengthening program, 70% of the families showed measurable growth in what are known as protective factors. Characteristics that if they are in a family, the Center knows to increase the protection factors. There are certain characteristics that research has shown; the likelihood of them experiencing abuse to a child is much lower. The families that have gone through that program have an increase in these protective factors and a decrease in risks in their lives and the lives of those children.

14. REPRESENTATIVE CHUMLEY - DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

No report.

15. REPRESENTATIVE BRANNON - POLICY AND PROCEDURES

No report.

16. REPRESENTATIVE MITCHELL – UPSTATE ALLIANCE

No report.

17. REPRESENTATIVE TALLON – SPARTANBURG COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The total C Funds approved in the January, 2014 meeting was \$1,938,820 with unobligated funds of \$3.5M.

Some of the projects approved were Representative Tallon’s set-aside of \$5,000 for Wayfinding signs for the Community of Clifton. Municipal Resurfacing with a 50/50 match from C Funds for \$193,000 which included \$46,000 for Rowe Street in the Town of Duncan.

The County resurfacing project was approved at \$1.6M, and the County will expend \$2.7M of Road Fee dollars towards resurfacing more county roadways. They are serious about getting county road work done in Spartanburg County.

Representative Brannon had a set-aside for the City of Chesnee to correct a drainage problem for \$41,000. Representative Forrester had a drainage problem at a cost of \$20,000, and Representative Wood also had a drainage problem at a cost of \$4,000.

18. REPRESENTATIVE MITCHELL – PARKS AND RECREATION DEVELOPMENT

No report.

NOMINATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS

19. FOSTER CARE REVIEW 7C

Term of Mary Ann Riley

Application received: Dorothy Ann Smith

Representative Allison nominated Dorothy Ann Smith. Representative Brannon seconded the motion. The motion carried.

20. FIRST STEPS

Terms of Kay Phillips, Kelly Pope and Susan Ridings

Applications received: Kay Phillips and Susan J. Mottshaw

Representative Allison nominated Kay Phillips to be re-appointed to the First Steps board. Representative Forrester seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Representative Brannon moved to carry over the other two seats. The motion was seconded and carried.

21. UPSTATE REGIONAL EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD

Terms of Mark Koenig, Stuart Smith, Gregory A. Scull, and Fred Marsh

Applications received: Stuart Smith

Representative Forrester nominated Mr. Stuart Smith. Representative Allison seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Representative Allison moved to carry over the other three seats. The motion carried.

22. DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

Term of J. C. Caldwell, II

Applications received: None

Representative Tallon moved to carry the appointment over to the next meeting. The motion carried.

23. LIBERTY CHESNEE FINGERVILLE WATER COMMISSION

Term of Patricia Ruff

Application received: Patricia Ruff

Representative Brannon nominated Patricia Ruff for re-appointment. The motion was seconded and carried.

24. ELECTION COMMISSION

Terms of Melba Blakely, Rosemary Byerly and Sean Coburn

Applications received: Jessie Ruth Littlejohn, Rosemary Byerly, William Edward Thompson, Jr. and Elretha

Wade

25. VOTER REGISTRATION BOARD

Terms of Dottie Broyles, Cindy Church and F. Don Watson

Applications received: F. Don Watson, Dottie Broyles, and Cindy Church

There a couple senators absent, therefore, Senator Martin suggested having a meeting in Columbia because it takes one half of the Senators and one half of the House members by weighted vote to approve the Election Commission positions; and, the Voter Registration Board is elected by the Senators.

No other applications will be accepted for the Voter Registration Board and the Election Commission positions.

Representative Tallon moved to hold a meeting in Columbia to address the Election Commission and the Voter Registration Board appointments. Representative Allison seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Inserted on February 24, 2014:

The meeting, in Columbia, was held on February 18, 2014 addressing the Election Commission and the Voter Registration Board appointments.

The top three applicants nominated to serve on the Election Commission were: Jessie Ruth Littlejohn, Rosemary Byerly and William Thompson, Jr.

The top three applicants nominated to serve on the Voter Registration Board were: Dottie Broyles, Cindy Church and F. Don Watson.

26. SJWD WATER DISTRICT COMMISSION

Terms of Wanda Fowler and Frank Nutt

Applications received: Frank Nutt and Wanda Fowler

Representative Allison moved to nominate Frank Nutt and Wanda Fowler for re-appointment. The motion was seconded by Representative Brannon. The motion carried.

27. SPARTANBURG AREA MENTAL HEALTH

Terms of Jennie Montgomery, Sarah Gadus, Robert K. Hendrix, Hal Warlick, and John L. Brady
Applications received: Hal G. Warlick, John Brady, and Jennie S. Montgomery

Representative Tallon made a motion to nominate Hal Warlick, John Brady and Jennie S. Montgomery. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Sarah Gadus and Robert K. Hendrix appointment will be carried over to the next meeting as applications were received after the deadline.

28. BOILING SPRINGS FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Terms of Connie Banks, Everett Matthews and Joe N. Williams
Applications received: Connie Banks, Walter Andrew 'Andy' Mills, Joe Williams, and Marcus R. 'Randy' Coggins

Representative Donna Wood moved to nominate Connie Banks and Joe Williams for re-appointment. Representative Brannon seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Representative Wood moved to carry over the term of Everett Matthews. Senator Reese seconded the motion. The motion carried.

29. PACOLET FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Terms of Joe Dean Hoyle and Jeff Edwards
Applications received: Joe Dean Hoyle and Jeffrey Edwards

Representative Tallon recommended re-appointing Joe Dean Hoyle and Jeffrey Edwards. Representative Forrester seconded the motion. The motion carried.

30. INMAN CAMPOBELLO WATER DISTRICT COMMISSION

Terms of Charles Lane Wilson
Applications received: Charles Lane Wilson and Paul A. Brown

Representative Brannon moved to re-appoint Mr. Charles Lane Wilson. The motion was seconded and carried.

31. OLD BUSINESS

At the last delegation, Mr. Tom Kania asked delegation members if an appointment for him could be arranged with the Library Board. Based on Representative Brannon's investigation, Mr. Kania has an avenue available to him simply by calling the director of the Library Mr. Todd Stephens. At this time, it is recommended that Mr. Kania contact Mr. Stephens to discuss a resolution to the situation.

Representative Allison announced the delegation was set up with a meeting to tour the Inland Port. Several were able to attend, others were not. Ms. Sara Parrish with the Inland Port has stated that anytime members would like an update to notify her and she would meet with you. On January 24th, the Inland Port officially opened with Mr. Jack Ellenburg presenting a guided tour and update of the port.

One of the things that Representative Allison wanted to mention to Representative Mahaffey who mentioned the truck traffic, there is going to be less traffic on I-26 and some of the other major highways due to Norfolk Southern being able to transport Inland Port products in and out.

The Inland Port is a great asset to the Upstate.

May 5th is the next scheduled delegation meeting, but it may be changed if the County Council Chambers are available. The meeting date will be discussed and the public will be notified once new arrangements are made.

32. NEW BUSINESS

A. PACOLET POLLING PRECINCTS CHANGES

Senator Martin had judicial staff review Pacolet Polling Precinct changes. Legislation needs to be passed for precinct changes. A Bill is being drafted for those changes. If all is in agreement, the delegation members will sign the change of location paperwork for the T. W. Edwards Center and the Town Hall precincts.

After speaking to Mr. Laye, Representative Tallon spoke to Mayor Harris with regard to combining the two precincts. There were 474 voters in the Town Hall and 1700 voters in the T.W. Edwards Center, which are not too many registered voters for one precinct on a voting day. Therefore, Representative Tallon would like for the two precincts to be combined and possibly call it the Pacolet Voting Precinct. If combined, it will save money, poll workers, and the prudent thing to do.

Mr. Henry Laye states the Voter Registration Board supports combining the precincts. In the last two elections, about 60% of the voters in the precincts voted, which is a manageable. It would be better served in one location.

Depending on how fast the legislation is passed, this could all be handled with one letter. Therefore, Mr. Laye will forward to the delegation office a new letter to request new legislation combining the precincts into one.

Upon receipt of a letter from Mr. Henry Laye, Representative Tallon moved to combine the T. W. Edwards Center Precinct and the Pacolet Town Hall Precinct into one Precinct to be located at the Pacolet Elementary School. Representative Allison seconded the motion. The motion carried.

B. WEST SIDE PRECINCT NAME CHANGE

Legislation is also needed to change the West Side Baptist precinct to the Holy Communion Lutheran Precinct. Representative Forrester moved to approve the name change. Senator Reese seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The West Side precinct name change will be included in the legislation along with the Pacolet name changes.

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING ADJOURNED.

Shane Martin, Chairman

Attested: Carol Crowe