



MINUTES
Spartanburg County
Legislative Delegation
Monday, August 5, 2013
5:30 p.m.

A public meeting of the Spartanburg County Legislative Delegation was held on Monday, August 5, 2013 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 - Absent
Senator Glenn Reese – Present
Senator Lee Bright – Present
Senator Shane Martin – Present
Senator Harvey Peeler – Present
Representative Harold Mitchell – Present
Representative J. Derham Cole, Jr. – Present
Representative Edward R. Tallon, Sr. – Absent
Representative Mike Forrester – Present
Representative William Chumley – Present
Representative Rita Allison – Absent
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 Representative Donna Wood and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Representative Derham Cole, Jr.

The agenda was modified to accommodate Representative Brannon's presence.

RESOLUTION PRESENTATION TO SPARTANBURG METHODIST COLLEGE

Representatives Chumley and Mitchell presented a House Resolution to Spartanburg Methodist College recognizing and honoring the Men's basketball team, coaches, and school officials for an outstanding season, and to congratulate them for winning the 2013 National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region 10 tournament championship title.

**RESOLUTION PRESENTATION TO COTTON OWENS FOR HONORING HIS
ACCEPTANCE INTO THE NASCAR HALL OF FAME**

Representatives Chumley and Mitchell presented Cotton Owens daughter, Debbie Davis, a Resolution honoring Cotton Owens for his acceptance into the NASCAR Hall of Fame

1. APPROVAL OF MAY 6, AND MAY 15, 2013 MEETING MINUTES

Representative Forrester moved to approve the May 6 and May 15, 2013 meeting minutes as printed and mailed. Representative Mitchell seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

2. MR. TOM KANIA, CITIZEN – SPARTANBURG COUNTY LIBRARY ISSUES

Mr. Kania was unable to attend.

**3. MR. JOSEPH J. DOUGHERTY, CITIZEN – SCDOT ROADWAY DIRECTIONAL
SIGNAGE PROBLEMS**

Mr. Dougherty did not attend the meeting.

**4. MR. JEFF WALKER, GENERAL MANAGER, INMAN-CAMPOBELLO WATER
DISTRICT – A DELEGATION THANK YOU**

Mr. Walker thanked the delegation members for providing a proviso to the state budget that has helped the Inman Campobello Water District retain their water withdrawal permit, which will allow them to eventually become a utility with their own water treatment plant.

To properly express the gratitude, Mr. Walker presented information regarding the Inman Campobello Water District resource needs.

Since 1955 Inman Campobello Water District has purchased water. Until 2009, water was purchased water from Spartanburg Water and since then it has been purchased from the Broad River Water Authority, which is located in Rutherford County, North Carolina. To get the water to Inman Campobello, about twenty five miles of water lines had to be extended through Rutherford County, Southeastern Polk County, all the way to the middle of the Inman Campobello Water District. Doing so has many benefits. This gave Inman Campobello Water a more favorable contract purchasing water, which was great for their customers, plus, it helped the Broad River Water Authority as they were in need of a wholesale customer to help with their financial ends; and, it put water into Polk County (the part of Polk County that Inman Campobello Water now serves), as well as water lines are now serving more people in the northern portion of Spartanburg County. To get water to these residents would have been astronomical for them to do it themselves, or even through the water line extension policies. There have been many water lines extended off this one line.

As many benefits as there are to this, the main motion was to have another water source for Spartanburg County that is not in the county.

This project took four months and one week, which is nothing short of a miracle. But still,

Inman Campobello is still renting. (If you are purchasing water then you don't own it.) However, on a long term financial plan, owning is probably better than renting.

Money has been spent on months of planning to begin construction of a water treatment plant. The proviso has permitted Inman Campobello Water to have the opportunity to build the water treatment plant.

Projects like this last for generations. Even the first reservoir built on the south Pacolet River by Spartanburg Water will be 100 years old in about thirteen years.

Even though Mr. Walker has been in the water business for twenty seven years, he had not worked with the Delegation, just never had a need to. He was certainly surprised at the level of efforts put forth by the delegation members to help accomplish a much needed utility resource.

Mr. Walker expressed his gratitude toward the delegation members.

5. MR. JIM HERZOG, CITIZEN – TAX CREDITS FOR PRIVATE EDUCATION

Mr. Herzog expressed his thoughts regarding the issue of awarding tax credits to a person or entity for payment of tuition and transportation by way of a scholarship to a non-public school as contained within House Bill 3710, Part 1B as specifically supporting the educational experience of Exceptional Needs students. The law allows for a person (defined as an individual, partnership, corporation, or other similar entity) to be entitled to a tax credit for the amount of money the person contributes to a nonprofit scholarship organization up to \$10,000 per student capped to \$8M maximum per annum if certain conditions are met.

It is his understanding that every school district in South Carolina is responsible to provide for a free education for each student, including those with exceptional needs regardless of location, either public or private. This existing requirement is also mandated by the federal "Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act" of 2004. Hence, a section of the current budget law was created which does not need to exist. It is also his understanding that the section was born in the House and Senate Budget Conference Committee, all but eliminating conversation, consideration or debate.

Mr. Herzog concludes the only reason that the proviso was inserted in the budget was an attempt by those who favor public payment for private education and shamed themselves by bringing "exceptional needs" students into the fray (which are the most vulnerable children) and do not deserve to be treated like pawns; and yes: supported with the full backing of taxpayer dollars no matter the cost or location of their educational experience.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

6. REPRESENTATIVE ALLISON – SPARTANBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

No report.

7. SENATOR SHANE MARTIN – CHAPMAN CULTURAL CENTER

No report.

8. REPRESENTATIVE FORRESTER – COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT (COG)

No updated report other than what was addressed in the last delegation meeting.

9. REPRESENTATIVE FORRESTER – SPATS

SPATS has not met since the last delegation meeting, but will meet next Monday. Some of the upcoming agenda items are long range transportation planning as well as current signal coordination projects.

10. REPRESENTATIVE WOOD – HOPE CENTER FOR CHILDREN

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

Hope Center for Children is the new name as a result of the Children’s Shelter of the Upstate and the Ellen Hines Smith Girl’s Home merging together as one entity. Those two groups coming together are allowing the Hope Center to be much more efficient in the array of services that is provided to children and families in the County. The Center is grateful for ongoing support through the General Fund that supports mostly residential programs. There are prevention programs for families to help prevent child abuse and neglect and offer support when families are in crises, but also provide around the clock residential care for children who are victims of abuse and neglect.

Recently, the Hope Center was actually able to present to a group of colleagues at the state level on initiative practices. They were able to brag on Spartanburg regarding the great partnership they have been able to maintain with Spartanburg County DSS. In particular, when children come into the emergency shelter, the Hope Center has staff that is able to attend DSS meetings on a weekly basis. Staff is able to present updates on how children are doing so that when they leave the Hope Center they are better matched with a relative, or a foster home. Through this partnership, the Center is able; to gather dialogue to ultimately make sure which match is better for the particular child.

The new update is that the Hope Center is beginning a transitional living program for youth who are aging out of Foster Care, or for one reason or another, are homeless. These are kids between sixteen and twenty-one years old who were not referred by DSS or DJJ, but just kids who are trying to move into self sufficiency and become successful adults. This will be a great additional resource everyone is made aware of.

11. REPRESENTATIVE CHUMLEY - DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

No report.

12. REPRESENTATIVE BRANNON - POLICY AND PROCEDURES

No report.

13. REPRESENTATIVE MITCHELL – UPSTATE CAUCUS

Representative Mitchell requested to carry over the report.

14. REPRESENTATIVE TALLON – SPARTANBURG COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

A proposed copy of the last CTC meeting minutes was included in each notebook.

15. REPRESENTATIVE MITCHELL – PARKS AND RECREATION DEVELOPMENT

A. Town of Duncan, Shipwreck Cove ADA Compliance

New allocations of PARD funds have just been received in the amount of \$58,860.

Representative Mitchell reported on the Town of Duncan application, which had been held over since 2010 for project name Shipwreck Cove. They are looking to bring equipment up to ADA standards.

They have purchased one lift chair to help people in and out of the water, and are submitting the grant application for additional ADA equipment installation. The request is for \$14,734.

Representative Mitchell moved to approve the \$14,734.78. The motion was seconded and approved.

16. PUBLIC INPUT PERTAINING TO A LOCAL BILL INVOLVING DUCK HUNTING ON LAKE BLALOCK

A letter was received from Councilman O’Neal Mintz in favor of allowing duck hunting on Lake Blalock.

The legislation doesn’t involve whether or not you can hunt. It just changes the time when duck hunting would be permitted on the lake. The legislation just backs up the time when permission will be granted to hunt duck on Lake Blalock.

When session begins in January, it is thought to encourage a sunset of December 31, of 2014 or July 15, 2015 be inserted into the code in case of repercussions, then it would possible to have the bill re-codified.

**RESOLUTION PRESENTATION TO A. TONY FISHER
PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR, CITY OF SPARTANBURG**

Representatives Wood and Brannon presented A. Tony Fisher, Public Safety Director for the City of Spartanburg, a Resolution honoring him for his many years of dedicated service and to wish him much happiness and fulfillment in all his future endeavors.

NOMINATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS

17. FOSTER CARE REVIEW 7A

Terms of Weldon Davis, and Juanita Thaxton

Application received: William May, Jr. and Juanita Thaxton

On behalf of Representative Tallon, Senator Peeler moved to nominate Mr. William May, Jr.

Representative Brannon moved to nominate Juanita Thaxton.

Both motions were seconded and approved.

18. DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

Term of Doris Tidwell.

Applications received: Cheryl Ann Jeter Jones and G. Curtis Walker

Representative Chumley moved to nominate G. Curtis Walker. Representative Forrester seconded the motion. There were no other nominations and the motion was approved.

19. REIDVILLE FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Terms of Bill Godfrey and James L. Gossett

Applications received: Danny Daniels, Bruce Goldberg, Gary Corbin, Eric Buchner and Douglas Todd Timmons.

Representative Chumley moved to nominate Gary Corbin and Douglas Todd Timmons. Senator Bright seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. The motion carried.

20. STARTEX FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Terms of Leland Harvey, Sr. and Charles Wayne Mason.

Applications received: Leland Harvey, Sr., Charles Wayne Mason and Timothy Mark Knighton

Representative Forrester moved carry over the appointment over for consideration at the next scheduled delegation meeting.

Senator Bright seconded the motion. The motion carried.

21. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

22. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING ADJOURNED.

Shane Martin, Chairman

Attested: Carol Crowe