

MINUTES  
GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
REGULAR MEETING  
October 1, 2019  
4:30 p.m.  
County Square – Conference Room D

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting date, time, place and agenda was posted on the bulletin board at County Square and made available to the newspapers, radio stations and television stations and concerned citizens.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

LIZ SEMAN, CHAIR  
LYNN BALLARD  
SID CATES  
ENNIS FANT  
DAN TRIPP

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

COUNCIL CHAIR KIRVEN  
COUNCILOR DILL

**STAFF PRESENT:**

PAULA GUCKER, ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
HELEN HAHN, ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR  
JOE KERNELL, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
REGINA MCCASKILL, CLERK TO COUNCIL  
MARCIA PAPIN, SOLID WASTE MANAGER  
KIM WUNDER, ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairwoman Seman called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**INVOCATION:**

Dr. Cates provided the invocation.

**Item (3)      Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of PWI Committee on September 17, 2019.**

**MOTION:**      By Mr. Ballard to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2019 Committee meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

At this time Chairwoman Seman asked the Committee if it would be alright to hear item number 5 and 6 and having item number 4 lastly for discussion. The Committee members did not object to the change.

**Item (5)      Adjust the boundaries of the Ceasar's Head Fire Service Area and the River Falls Fire Service Area**

Kim Wunder, Assistant County Attorney addressed the Committee members with a request to adjust the boundaries of two fire service areas. She stated it was brought to her attention that five properties that are currently in the River Falls Fire Service Area, can be reached in the event of an emergency would be from North Carolina, the Cedar Mountain Fire/Rescue. Ms. Wunder stated the group provides fire service in Greenville County to the Ceasar's Head Fire Service Area through contract. She stated the Ordinance identifies the five properties that would be put in the Ceasar's Head Fire Service Area.

**MOTION:**      By Dr. Cates to approve the adjustment of boundaries of the Ceasar's Head Fire Service Area and the River Falls Fire Service Area. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**Item (6)      Request to add Arrowhead Court and Hercules Way into the County Road Inventory**

Jody Bryson and Kevin Landmesser addressed the Committee members with a request to add both Arrowhead Court and Hercules Way into the County Road Inventory. Mr. Bryson stated the two roads have some pending Economic Development implications. Mr. Bryson explained to the Committee the ownership of the roads were in question. A potential investor had concerns over one of the roads and the other road had much employee traffic. They are currently listed as private roads and a pavement study has been done and provided to the Public Works Division.

**MOTION:**      By Tripp to accept Arrowhead Court and Hercules Way into the County Road Inventory. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**Item (4)**

**Laurens County Solid Waste Agreement**

Joe Kernell, County Administrator addressed the Committee by first apologizing for neglecting to get the Laurens County agreement to accept their waste approved. He stated that was strictly an oversight. He stated the county had been in discussions with Laurens County for months, the same as with Pickens County.

Mr. Kernell stated way back, Greenville County did not charge any municipality a charge to dispose. We were getting a large amount of refuse in our landfill with no revenue. He stated he was tasked years ago to become competitive with the landfill and try to get more business. Mr. Kernell stated as of late there have been discussions that the county does not charge competitive fees, we undercut the fees. He stated the county charges all municipalities and Greater Greenville Sanitation \$16.00 a ton to dispose in our landfill. The City of Mauldin has chosen to go with a private hauler/landfill. They pay \$18.40 a ton plus \$16.00 a ton for hauling. Mr. Kernell stated there was a lot of misinformation when it comes to the pricing. He stated the county needed to cover their fees, the operation of the landfill, the depreciation of equipment, post closure cost.

Mr. Kernell stated the county has a permit from DHEC for 500,000 tons per year in Class 3 which is municipal type of waste or household waste. He stated for Class 2 which is construction, demolition and that type of material, the county has a 137,000 ton permit. He stated there was 532,000 tons of trash generated in Greenville County this past year. Out of the 532,000 tons, Twin Chimneys received 36.8 percent. Two thirds of the trash went out of the county. He stated the county recovered some of that back from Pickens County and Laurens County. A ton to staff is revenue and anytime the county enters into an agreement with an out of county, county or out of county municipality, the county was trying to increase revenue for Greenville County. He stated whatever is not provided with tipping fees has to come from somewhere, which is property tax. The landfill is subsidized to a tune of 4 million per year. A lot can be attributed to the convenient centers, if you are a resident of Greenville County you pay zero.

Mr. Kernell stated the county had received 21,000 tons from Laurens County and from Pickens County is 46,000/47,000 tons. Mr. Kernell stated the county did get Auto Fluff from a couple of producers in North Carolina. He explained Auto Fluff was the non metallic waste from vehicles. The Auto Fluff was an alternate cover used to cover the trash. The county is compensated to accept the Fluff and then the county turns around and uses it to cover garbage. It saves the county from having to haul dirt around. He stated the county generated around \$340,000. He recommended the County continue its agreement with Laurens County.

Dr. Cates asked what the amount was received from Laurens County.

Mr. Kernell stated 221,000 tons from Laurens County and 46,845 tons from Pickens County, being Class 3, municipal waste.

Dr. Cates stated he did not think Council needed to get involved with something to do with the Landfill. He said that was a responsibility the Administrator had and Marcia.

Mr. Kernell stated contrary from what was reported, he was not trying to get Council to give up their approval for out of county trash.

Mr. Kernell stated the county was in competition with private landfills. There are not that many landfills around and Greenville County's probably has the largest life of any of them. It is an asset that needs to be capitalized if you can and create a revenue stream for years to come. That is where it becomes competitive.

Dr. Cates asked how many tons came in from North Carolina.

Mr. Kernell stated 32,000 tons from North Carolina.

Dr. Cates stated then you have to go to Council for permission.

Mr. Kernell stated actually we do not, as Fluff was not residential.

Dr. Cates asked, 32,000 tons from North Carolina and 21,000 tons from Laurens County.

Mr. Kernell stated that was correct.

Mr. Tripp stated he thought it was disrespectful to Council for the Administrator to undermine an Ordinance that is the law of Greenville County. He felt the landfill was not just about revenue but also about quality of life. He stated tons also mean miles of road being deteriorated that cost the taxpayers. Mr. Tripp stated he did not want to micro manage the landfill, but thought Council should have a discussion if we want out of county, out of state trash coming into Greenville County and what is the price.

Dr. Fant asked how much money did the county receive annually by taking out of county/out of state waste disposal.

Mr. Kernell stated about 12.1 million dollars in revenue, 4.3 million is from property taxes, 7 million is budgeted from tipping fees, which is all the fees. The remainder \$680,000 the county makes up from fund balance. He stated the county charges \$17.00 per ton from Pickens County and Laurens County. The county charges \$16.00 per ton for waste within Greenville County.

Dr. Fant stated as long as the Ordinance exists that Council should make the decision regarding out of county and out of state waste, Council should go by that. He stated staff and Mr. Kernell acknowledged a mistake had been made. He felt they should not go back and slam Laurens County as an agreement had been made. Dr. Fant stated waste disposal is one of the top four contributors to climate change and global warming. He stated every time trash is dumped down there we expand Greenville's carbon footprint.

Mr. Ballard asked if the Solid Waste Ordinance which was passed last meeting would be coming back to Committee. He stated there were a lot of issues down in his district and he had concerns over things such as Dunklin Fire Department, 12 percent of their land area is County Land Fill. They have to respond there and they have to provide service there but they get no revenue. He also stated the more trash we take the more trucks come in. He

also mentioned the condition of Highway 25. It is very bad and people from his district have called SCDOT and finally were told it was not even on their 10 or 20 year plan to resurface. He stated he agreed with Dr. Fant, it is not fair to penalize Laurens County after they signed the contract in good faith.

Chairwoman Seman asked a question regarding the terms.

Mr. Kernell stated it was a mistype and should be 2025.

Mr. Tripp asked if there was a cost if this was held until the next meeting.

Mr. Kernell stated it would be an inconvenience for Laurens, we would have to stop taking the trash.

Dr. Fant asked if we were locked into the fee.

Mr. Kernell stated the fee could be changed at any time.

**MOTION:** By Dr. Fant to approve and move forward the Laurens County Waste Agreement. The motion carried with two in opposition (Ballard and Tripp).

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** By Dr. Cates to adjourn. Without objection the meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Helen Hahn  
Administrative Coordinator