

**Newberry County Public Works and Planning Committee
Minutes
Monday, May 12, 2014
6:00pm.**

Members Present: Mr. Scott Cain, Mr. Steve Stockman, Mr. Kirksey Koon

Others in Attendance: Wayne Adams, Mike Pisano, Tim Fox, Stacy Guy, Nora K. Stuck, Gurnie Stuck, Patrick Meetze, Paul Felker, and Katherine Derrick

1. Call to Order – Scott Cain, Chairman

Councilman Cain called the meeting to order with prayer

2. Approval of March 3, 2014 Minutes

Mr. Stockman motioned to approve the March 3, 2014 minutes; seconded by Mr. Koon. The vote was unanimous.

3. Discussion of Buzhardt Road Maintenance – Mr. Gurnie Stuck, Citizen

Mr. Stuck introduced himself to the Committee and stated that he had a concern about the maintenance of Buzhardt Rd. Mr. Stuck stated that Buzhardt Rd. has been maintained by the county for many years and about a year ago he noticed there is a sign on Buzhardt Rd. that states “End of County Maintenance.” Mr. Stuck also stated that he did not think it was ever made known to the public that Buzhardt Rd. was no longer maintained by the county. Mr. Stuck stated that he noticed people who lived on that road have done improvements themselves and wants to know who owns the road at this time. Mr. Cain stated that the county owns up to where the maintenance sign shows that it ends. Mr. Adams stated that it is a prescriptive easement, meaning the county does not have a title to the real estate that the road lies on, but because the county has worked on the road for a length of time, they have required the right to continue doing so. Mr. Adams also stated that there is a difference between a public road and a county maintained road, the public road would be supported by the court for traveling and the public’s right to use it but does not necessarily mean that it is county maintained. Mr. Stuck stated that his concern at this time is that the “End of County Maintenance” sign stops at about 100 feet before his property line and is asking that the county extend the sign by about 100 feet so that it will include his property. Mr. Pisano stated that he thought Mr. Stuck had an easement with the Abraham’s to cross their property in order to gain access to his property. Mr. Stuck stated that they swapped easements because the road they used is closer to Mr. Abraham’s house and he did not want that road coming through his property. Mr. Stuck also stated that Mr. Abraham signed another easement, taking the original easement back and giving Mr. Stuck unrestricted access to his property. Mr. Koon asked if the county had maintained anything beyond where

the sign is located before. Mr. Stuck stated that Buzhardt Rd. has been maintained by the county for about 100 years. Mr. Stockman asked if there has been any feedback from the Abrahams or the Buzhardts about the issue. Mr. Pisano stated that the most recent thing on file for Buzhardt Rd. was back in 2009 when the issue of the "End of County Maintenance" sign initially began. Mr. Pisano also stated that at that time, Kyle Nash had to relocate the sign 90 feet down the road because the placement was wrong, but maintenance did not resume. Mr. Adams asked if there were any other houses between where the sign is now and the extra 100 ft. Mr. Stuck stated that there are just woods in that area. Mr. Stuck stated this there is not a residence on his land; it is property that has been inherited. Mr. Cain stated that this land is actually owned by the Abrahams, Mr. Stuck has easement, but the actually property is owned by the Abrahams. Mr. Stockman stated that there are at least two houses on the road, the Abrahams and the Buzhardts. Mr. Pisano stated that the only issue of maintaining the road would be entering private property to do the work. Mr. Cain stated that they would need to get permission from the Abrahams to do work on that road because it is their property. Mr. Cain stated that in 2008 the Council changed a lot of their ordinances on how they maintain roads. Mr. Adams stated that there are some private contractors that can maintain the road. Mr. Stuck stated that he has seen roads that do not have any houses on them and they are being maintained. Mr. Adams stated that there are a number of roads that serve single property owners, no residences, or possibly a hunt club and the question is should that be the priority of the county to maintain those type of roads or should the resources be focused on roads where people actually live. Mr. Cain stated that is the issue that drove the changes in ordinances in 2008 on what the county will maintain and what they will not maintain. Mr. Cain also stated that unless that area is in the county maps, there is not a lot that they can do, because the Abrahams own that property, but they can help find a contractor that could scrape that portion of the road if needed. Mr. Stockman stated that as a councilman, he would not have an issue with having the 100 feet maintained. Mr. Stockman also stated that his only issue is that he does not see how they can scrape that road without at least the Abrahams' permission. Mr. Koon stated that he feels at one time Buzhardt Rd. was partially maintained by the county and partially by the property owner. Mrs. Stuck asked why can't the county let property owners in that area know what is going on or what changes are being made about maintenance.

4. Discussion of Single Stream Recycling – Mike Pisano, Public Works Director

Mr. Pisano reported to the Committee that the Public Works department is running their own front loader packer truck to collect cardboard from businesses and schools throughout the county. Mr. Pisano stated that the packer truck is quite old and in disrepair and the price for a new packer truck would be \$240,000.00. Mr. Pisano also stated that they have been looking at other ways to recycle more efficiently. Mr. Pisano stated that one option would be renting compactors from a private contractor and begin single stream recycling which would allow everything to be collected in one container at the convenience centers, meaning that cardboard, mixed paper, plastic, and aluminum would all be collected together and taken to a MURPH. Mr. Adams stated that there is labor intensity on the side of the county and on the side of the citizen who is recycling. Mr. Adams also stated that to recycle at the centers now you have to sort your recyclables into multiple piles. Mr. Adams stated that of single stream recycling will simplify the process for both the county and the citizen; there would be two compactors at the centers, one for household garbage or non-recyclables and one for recyclables. Mr. Adams stated the recyclables would be compacted and hauled to Sunoco for \$20.00 per ton. Mr. Adams also stated that this is a clean system and reduces labor intensity not only for the citizen but for the county as well. Mr. Adams stated that there are 50 containers in the county just for cardboard that have to be serviced, which means that there is about 40 hours of labor from public works going into recycling every week. Mr. Adams stated that it

may be slightly more expensive in the first year because of the cost of the compactors but they could be paid off in five years and the county would be left with having to just pay for the hauls. Mr. Adams also stated that the useful life of a compactor is longer than the useful life of a packer truck. Mr. Pisano stated that the compactor is about \$16,000 plus another \$5,000 for the concrete pad that is needed, so 15 compactors would cost \$325,000. Mr. Adams stated that once they are paid off the annual cost would drop significantly. Mr. Pisano stated that it would cost about \$70,000 compared to renting them from Allied Waste. Mr. Fox stated that he has done this process with Aiken County and the dependence of a front loader truck is somewhat of a liability in the long run. Mr. Fox also stated that the benefit of the electric compactor from the public's standpoint is that it is a one stop shop; it makes bringing in recyclables quick and expedites the flow of traffic in the convenience centers. Mr. Fox stated that this process has greatly improved the centers in Aiken. Mr. Adams stated that now the citizen has to spend time sorting their commodities into four or five different bins, but with the single stream recycling they can throw all recyclables, except glass, into one compactor and household trash into another. Mr. Adams stated that there would need to be a separate bin for glass, metal, and batteries. Mr. Fox stated that the centers are cleaned up with this method because everything is enclosed and there isn't trash blowing around. Mr. Fox also stated that the compactor would last 15-20 years before any maintenance is needed and it would lessen the reliance on inmate labor. Mr. Koon stated that he recommends moving this issue before full council. Mr. Stockman asked if by changing to single stream recycling is the county looking at increasing cost or saving money. Mr. Adams stated in the long run, past five years, there will be comparable costs. Mr. Fox stated that single stream recycling greatly improves the citizen's experience at the convenience centers. Mr. Adams stated in the first five years the county would have a capital cost, instead of spending \$240,000 for a new packer truck; the county would spend \$325,000 for the compactors, the recycling revenue would also go down to \$15,000 or \$20,000. Mr. Adams stated one thing to look at will be the transition for business owners who normally have their recyclables picked up at the business. Mr. Adams stated that while this is a simple process there are a few problems that need to be looked at. Mr. Stockman seconded Mr. Koon's motion to take to full council; the vote was unanimous.

5. Public Works Updates – Mike Pisano, Public Works Director

Mr. Pisano reported to the Committee that the Berley Road Bridge Project has finally been completed. Mr. Pisano stated there are a few items they are going over with the contractor but they are very pleased with the outcome. Mr. Pisano also stated that the Maybinton ball field has been completed; they have been playing games out there for about a month and seemed to be pleased with the final product. Mr. Pisano stated there will still be work there because it is a new field but will work to get the turf up to where it should be. Mr. Adams stated they are providing the community with implements so they can do some of the work. Mr. Pisano stated the drag has been ordered and they have been dragging the field weekly but it should not be an on-going issue. Mr. Adams stated a chalk-liner has been ordered for the community so they can maintain the field as well as reimbursing them for the cost of gas for the lawnmower. Mr. Pisano stated they are also going to get a shed at the fire department to keep the equipment in. Mr. Adams stated that there are 3 porta-potties out there as well that are serviced once a week. Mr. Pisano stated that the airport apron has improvements being funded by the FAA, South Carolina Aeronautics, and the county; this will be going out to bid later this month and will be a rehab of the existing apron between the terminal and the gas pumps and an extension between the terminal and the existing taxi way. Mr. Pisano stated he received a request for paving on Hawkins St. and Crescent St., they have gotten a survey done and once there is full participation would like to bring it to Council for consideration.

6. Other Items

Mr. Adams stated that he will be meeting with the City Manager tomorrow about having the City take over maintenance of the grounds on Community Hall. Mr. Adams also stated that at some point they need to think about the question that has been asked by Mr. Stuck and Mr. Meetze; what is going to be included in the county roads system? Mr. Adams asked if the county will maintain roads that do not have residences on them; will the county maintain roads used primarily for logging? Mr. Adams stated that he has talked with Mr. Pisano about a GIS related system in which they include all of the county roads and easements not only for road ways but for drainage as well. Mr. Adams also stated that the system would need to be done in a public way and be available to the public. Mr. Pisano stated that this system is integrated in the GIS and they use GPS coordinates to map out all the utilities, the price for this system would be in the area of \$300,000. Mr. Adams asked if the CTC could possibly help pay for the system. Mr. Cain stated is it a good idea to have the knowledge about what our road systems are like and what the expense will be. Mr. Adams stated that the CTC is under pressure to pave more roads, everyone wants their road paved but at some point you have to ask how many miles of road can you afford to maintain. Mr. Cain stated it is important to get an inventory of the road infrastructure, not only utilities but what the county can expect as far as repaving in the future. Mr. Pisano stated there are 270 county roads, 90 of which are paved.

7. Public Comments

Mr. Meetze introduced himself to the Committee and stated that there are roads out there that are under the same situation as what Mr. Stuck reported to the Committee. Mr. Meetze stated that he did not think the 2009 County Ordinance involved any dirt roads. Mr. Meetze also stated that an easement is giving the county the right to work on a road. Mr. Adams stated it would have to be a county easement in order to work on a private road. Mr. Adams also stated that just because they have always done something does not mean that it is the best thing to do in the future. Mr. Meetze stated there are things the Committee needs to discuss, including bridges. Mr. Adams stated that there is an inconsistency of maintenance on roads that they need to deal with.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Koon motioned to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Stockman. The vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Scott Cain, Chairman

Katherine Derrick, Recorder

APPROVED: