

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
OCTOBER 14, 2019**

The Newberry County Council Public Works and Planning Committee met on Monday, October 14, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, SC, for a regular scheduled meeting.

The following persons were present:

Scott Cain, Chairman
Steve Stockman, Council Member
Johnny Mack Scurry, Council Member
Wayne Adams, County Administrator
A.J. Tothacer, III, County Attorney
Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council
Mike Pisano, Public Works Director
Anne Peters, Zoning Administrator

The meeting was duly advertised as required by law.

1. Call to Order.

Mr. Cain called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Additions, Deletions and Adoption of Agenda.

There being no additions or deletions to the Agenda, as presented, Mr. Stockman moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by Mr. Scurry. Vote was unanimous.

3. Approval of August 19, 2019 Minutes.

There being no corrections to the Minutes, Mr. Stockman moved to approve the Minutes, as presented; seconded by Mr. Scurry. Vote was unanimous.

4. Request for designation of COMET as a transportation provider in Newberry County.

At the last Committee meeting, Newberry County Council on Aging (NCCOA) expressed opposition to COMET's request because approval would jeopardize NCCOA's state funding. COMET claimed that NCCOA was getting state funding credit for COMET's rural mileage, since NCCOA is currently the only designated provider of transportation services in Newberry County.

Mr. Adams was asked by the Committee to examine these claims and concerns and report back. He had separate meetings with SCDOT officials for each agency. From those meetings, the following facts emerged as relevant to the decision before the Committee.

A. The pot of state money at issue is fixed in nature. Anytime a new agency is added as a recipient, no matter what county the new recipient agency is located in, ALL of those agencies (statewide) that were qualified participants before the new recipient was approved will lose funding. A fixed amount of funding is being divided among more receiving agencies than was previously the case.

B. NCCOA would not lose the same amount that COMET would gain. Any amount COMET might gain would be shared as a loss to all of the agencies who were dividing the fixed amount of funding before COMET was approved as a recipient. The loss for each agency would be roughly proportional to their original share of the fixed pie. Accordingly, any agency receiving more state funding than NCCOA would register more of a loss from funding granted to COMET than would NCCOA. The formula indicates that NCCOA would lose only a very small percentage of any amount COMET might gain.

C. NCCOA is not getting credit for rural miles served by COMET. There is no mechanism for this.

D. SCDOT takes no position as to whether there should be one or two designated agencies for transportation in Newberry County. They believe this is entirely a local decision. If the County decides to designate multiple agencies, the resolution doing so should be very specific about how the funding is to be distributed.

E. COMET is willing to put in writing the limits of any funding it might receive, but NCCOA opposes the precedent of multiple designated agencies within the County.

F. NCCOA has ridership records indicating the use of its system, which focuses on helping people get to medical appointments. COMET primarily serves "choice" riders who could get to work by other means. COMET has preliminary data as to ridership.

After discussing these points, Mr. Adams asked if Council were to give COMET \$2,500 in funding every year as long as they remain in business, would COMET be willing to do that.

Mr. Andoh indicated that was fair and would be agreeable to COMET.

Mr. Adams stated that if COMET is still in operation at the end of the fiscal year when the County gets into budget time and COMET can justify the need to provide ridership in Newberry County, Council would consider the \$2,500 at that time.

5. Discussion of Boyd Amick Road resurfacing.

This road primarily serves a number of older homes on the lake, which are not in a formal subdivision, as such. The surface of the roadway is too narrow for two-way traffic. The Public Works Director is concerned that a faster paved surface will encourage greater speeding, resulting in accidents.

The options are to widen this road or make it primarily a one-way road. Key property owners appear to be unwilling to grant rights of way for widening.

Another option could be to let the road continue to be used as it is now, to resurface it, and to install cautionary signage.

In the past 20 years or so the Beaufort Shores Subdivision has been added on the end of Boyd Amick Road. The roads in this subdivision are wider and suited to two-way residential traffic. However, these roads are private; they have never been dedicated to the County.

Bruce Gordon, a homeowner on this road, indicated the problem was not the people who live on the road but people who are guests and delivery trucks such as FedEx and UPS. Mr. Gordon said rather than complicate matters, could the County just pave what is there now.

The CPC may have funding to help with this and they have a meeting tomorrow night. They could consider it at their November meeting because nothing can be done to the road until spring.

6. Public Comments.

Patrick Metts commented that the CTC should think real hard before giving any funding to Boyd Amick Road because this could cause a problem for the County later. There are other roads in need of repairs, too.

7. Adjournment.

There being no further business, Mr. Stockman moved to adjourn.

Mr. Cain declared the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL



Scott Cain, Chairman



Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

APPROVED: 2-3-2020