

**GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
October 16, 2012
4:39 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 posted on the County's web page for all media and concerned citizens to access and review.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN BUTCH KIRVEN
VICE CHAIRMAN BOB TAYLOR
JOE BALDWIN
LIZ SEMAN

FRED PAYNE
DAN RAWLS
SID CATES
LOTTIE GIBSON

JIM BURNS
WILLIS MEADOWS
XANTHENE NORRIS
JOE DILL

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

NONE

STAFF PRESENT:

JOE KERNELL, County Administrator
MARK TOLLISON, County Attorney
THERESA KIZER, Clerk to Council
REGINA MCCASKILL, Deputy Clerk to Council
BOB MIHALIC, Governmental Relations Officer
JOHN HANSLEY, Deputy County Administrator
PAULA GUCKER, Assistant County Administrator, Public Works

OTHERS PRESENT:

Alex McNair, Chairman, Interim Board of Directors, Disabilities and Special Needs
David Goodell, Interim Executive Director, Disabilities and Special Needs
Pearlie Harris, Interim Board Member, Disabilities and Special Needs

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Butch Kirven

INVOCATION

Councilor Joe Baldwin

Item (3)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Councilor Gibson moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Committee of the Whole meeting of October 2, 2012.

Motion carried unanimously by all members.

Item (4)

GREENVILLE COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS BOARD - REPORT

Alex McNair, Chairman of the GCDSNB Interim Board of Directors, thanked County Council for inviting the Disabilities and Special Needs leadership to the Committee of the Whole meeting. He stated David Goodell, Interim Executive Director, was a great asset to the agency and clients; as well as Joe Kernell, County Administrator, and Mark Tollison, County Attorney, who were very helpful and responsive. He stated the first interim board meeting was held on July 26, 2012, at which time Dr. Buscemi and Mr. Goodell brought the five members up to speed on different aspects of the agency. He stated the first working board meeting was held on August 2, 2012, at which time, the by-laws were reviewed; however, they were not altered. The election of officers was held during the meeting as well. He thanked Robert Decker, Interim Chief Financial Officer for Greenville County Disabilities and Special Needs and the full-time Chief Financial Officer for the Charles Lee Center in Spartanburg County, for the tremendous amount of effort he put into the agency. He stated results were received at the August 23, 2012 board meeting for the Service Satisfaction Survey that was taken last year. In spite of some issues with the agency, the results of the survey were positive. Mr. McNair stated most of the issues with the agency over the past few months were related to financial concerns and communication problems. A Communications Ad Hoc Committee was formed to help address these issues. He stated once the operating budget was on a sustainable steady path, they decided to research the historical performance and current and projected capital needs. A Financial Sustainability Ad Hoc Committee was formed to address the financial needs of the agency. He stated the suggestions of the ad hoc committees would be shared with County Council. Mr. McNair explained the September board meeting concentrated on reviewing proposed changes to the board's by-laws with the help of Mr. Tollison. Rather than revising the existing by-laws, a decision was made to present a new set of by-laws. The new by-laws will be posted on the GCDSNB website. He stated County Council would have to draft and approve a new ordinance to form and install a new seven member board. The search for a new executive director has begun. Mr. McNair expressed his gratitude for all of the efforts and concerns from County Council.

Ms. Pearlie Harris, GCDSNB Interim Board Member, stated she appreciated working with parents and they were happy about the changes made and were looking forward to the future.

Mr. Goodell thanked County Council for their willingness to make tough decisions. He thanked the interim board for their skills and their connections with the community. He stated the staff was committed and the families were an enormous resource.

Mr. McNair announced new grants from SCDOT, the Barbara Stone Foundation, Bi-Lo Corporation and United Way were helping with various needs. He stated there was an increase in applications for employment openings they were anxious to fill.

Chairman Kirven asked how many employment openings were there and was there an increase in turnover.

Mr. McNair stated additional employees were budgeted in the 2012/2013 budget. He stated turnover was a constant challenge for the organization.

Mr. Goodell stated at any given time there were about fifteen vacancies, however individuals were used to temporarily fill in vacant spots.

Chairman Kirven asked how they would fill the Chief Financial Officer position on a permanent basis.

Mr. McNair stated it was the goal of the interim board to allow the permanent Executive Director to hire a permanent Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Goodell would continue, as needed, until a new Executive Director was well established with the organization. He stated one of the first priorities of the Executive Director would be to initiate the process of finding a new Chief Financial Officer.

Councilor Gibson stated she was pleased to hear parents were satisfied with the process so far.

Mr. McNair shared the public open-comment sessions of the meetings were terrific; the board enjoyed hearing from parents.

Councilor Cates thanked the interim board for their efforts. He asked was there a deadline for the hiring of an Executive Director.

Mr. McNair stated executive search firms had submitted their proposals to select a group who would help identify the next Executive Director.

Councilor Burns thanked the interim board for bringing a level of confidence to parents and the community. He asked were there things the interim board was working on in an attempt to continue to regain confidence with parents and the community.

Ms. Harris stated transparency was an important factor for the interim board.

Mr. McNair stated rebuilding bridges back into the Greenville community was vital.

Chairman Kirven stated County Council was available to help and encouraged input from everyone in writing the ordinance for the GCDSNB.

Councilor Seman suggested Chairman Kirven write a letter to the Charles Lee Center for their help and support of the GCDSNB.

Councilor Payne stated he appreciated the positive and upbeat report presented by the GCDSNB.

Councilor Dill stated he was excited about the GCDSNB and it's future.

Item (5)

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Councilor Dill moved to adjourn the meeting.

Without objection, the Committee of the Whole meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Theresa B. Kizer, Clerk to Council