

MINUTES OF CALLED MEETING
SALUDA COUNTY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2017 at 6:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF SALUDA COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
400 WEST HIGHLAND STREET, SALUDA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29138

A. CALL TO ORDER

The Called Meeting of Saluda County Council was called to order by Chairman Donald E. Hancock at 6:00 P.M.

Present were:

Chm. Donald E. Hancock
Coun. Jones P. Butler
Coun. J. Frank Daniel, Sr.
Coun. D. J. Miller
Coun. Gwendolyn C. Shealy

Also present were:

County Director, Sandra G. Padget
Clerk to Council, Karen T. Whittle

B. INVOCATION

Coun. Butler delivered the invocation.

C. PUBLIC INFORMATION

It is noted by the Clerk herein that in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the called meeting and agenda were given to the local news media and properly posted, to include the county website.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Chm. Hancock recognized Grants Coordinator Jill Warren to present the Justice Assistance Grant requests for the Sheriff's Office for radio equipment and in-car camera systems.

Ms. Warren recognized Emergency Management Director Josh Morton to present an overview of the radio communication system before the presentation of the grant request for radio equipment.

Mr. Morton informed Council in 2012 the FCC mandated narrow banding, which decreased Saluda County's radio band width signal from 25 hertz to 12.5 hertz. Mr. Morton said there were radio issues in the lake area before the narrow banding and some radio coverage was lost in the lake area after the narrow banding, which created significant safety issues for emergency response personnel. Mr. Morton said they have tried several ways to

repair the problems, but have been unsuccessful.

Mr. Morton stated he would be coming before Council in the regular February meeting, requesting to submit a Request for Proposal to replace the current radio system with a multi-site simulcast system. Mr. Morton said part of last year was spent researching various radio systems and working with various experts as to the best fit for Saluda County in the future. Mr. Morton said it appeared the best option for Saluda County was a P25 digital radio system simulcast setup and would require replacing all radios throughout the county with P25 capable radios. Mr. Morton said in order to apply for grants for communication systems they had to be P25 compliant. Mr. Morton stated the following grant request was to replace all radios in the Sheriff's Office, which are P25 compliant, but the radios would work with the existing communication system.

Council and Mr. Morton discussed the repeater and its coverage. Mr. Morton said a new repeater would be located at the current tower site, and engineers had recommended two additional tower sites, one in the Traffic Circle area and one in the Highway 121 North area in order to have 97% handheld coverage. Mr. Morton said typically when designing a new radio system, 95% coverage was considered good.

Ms. Warren informed Council the Justice Assistance Grant request was for 35 mobile radios at a cost of \$3,000.00 each; 30 portable radios at \$2,500.00 each; and 1 repeater for the tower at a cost of \$20,000.00 for a grand total of \$200,000.00, requiring a 10% county match in the amount of \$20,000.00.

Ms. Warren said the Justice Assistance Grant only covered law enforcement, therefore only the Sheriff's Office was eligible to apply for this grant, but she would research other grants to apply toward other emergency response services. In discussion with Council, Ms. Warren said typically Justice Assistance Grants were awarded in October and if awarded, whether full or partial, the county match would be 10% of the award amount.

On motion of Coun. Shealy, seconded by Coun. Butler, it was unanimously approved for the Grants Coordinator to proceed with the Justice Assistance Grant application from the Saluda County Sheriff's Office to purchase 35 mobile radios, 30 handheld radios and 1 repeater for the radio tower at a total grant request of \$200,000.00 with the 10% county match of \$20,000.00 being funded from Contingency.

Ms. Warren informed Council the second Justice Assistance Grant request was for 14 in-car camera systems for the Sheriff's Office at a cost of \$82,000.00, requiring a 10% county match of \$8,200.00.

Ms. Warren said the current in-car camera systems were given to the Sheriff's Office by the S. C. Department of Public Safety and do not work properly. Council, Ms. Warren and Chief Deputy Cockrell discussed repair and service issues of the current systems. Chief Deputy Cockrell reviewed the Sheriff's Office documentation process if an in-car camera system was not functioning properly.

Ms. Warren and Council discussed if the grant was awarded, the in-car camera systems were on state contract and would be serviced under the warranty and service contract for the first year at no additional cost. Ms. Warren informed Council that JAG funds would not pay for service contracts after the first year.

Council, Ms. Warren, and Chief Deputy Cockrell discussed preparing for annual grants in advance to be presented in regular meetings instead of called meetings, if at all possible.

On motion of Coun. Shealy, seconded by Coun. Miller, it was unanimously approved for the Grants Coordinator to proceed with the Justice Assistance Grant application from the Saluda County Sheriff's Office to purchase 14 in-car camera systems at a total grant request of \$82,000.00 with the 10% county match of \$8,200.00 being funded from Contingency.

E. EXECUTIVE SESSION

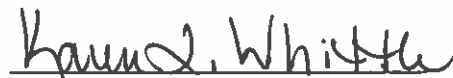
On motion of Coun. Daniel, seconded by Coun. Butler, it was unanimously approved for Council to go into Executive Session Pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(1) of the South Carolina Code of Laws 1976, as amended to discuss personnel matters, to return at the Call of the Chair.

Council returned into Open Session at the Call of the Chair.

No action came out of Executive Session.

F. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Coun. Butler, seconded by Coun. Miller, it was unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 P.M.



Karen T. Whittle
Clerk to Council



Donald E. Hancock
Chairman

February 13, 2017
Date Approved