

## **Capital Project Sales Tax**

### **Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: 9 February 2016

Meeting Location: Veterans Auditorium  
Greenwood County Library

Meeting Time 13:00

Committee Members Present: Jan Owens, Paul Bagnoli, John Fredella, Robert Jennings, and Steve Holmes

Paul Bagnoli, the Committee Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 13:07 by reading the following statements: In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, notice of this meeting's date, time, location, and agenda was posted outside the main entrance of the Greenwood County Courthouse and the Greenwood County Library. Agendas were faxed to The Index-Journal, to local radio stations, and were posted on the Greenwood County website calendar.

Paul began the meeting by welcoming the committee members and guests.

The meeting began with Paul outlining the process by which questions raised by the committee regarding the individual applications would be addressed.

The first application reviewed was submitted by the solicitor's office. It is a request to license/purchase new software to support the efforts of the solicitor's office in the 8<sup>th</sup> circuit. The 8<sup>th</sup> circuit covers Greenwood, Abbeville, Laurens and Newberry Counties. Since the court is located in Greenwood County the bulk of the resources and costs associated with the solicitor's office reside in and are borne by Greenwood County. The concerns of the committee were specific enough that a representative from the solicitor's office was needed. None present, it was decided to set the application aside and address it at a later meeting when a representative could attend.

The next application reviewed was a request from law enforcement agencies, the Department of Corrections and 911 Dispatch to replace their current software platform with a new state-of-the-art system. The primary benefit of the new system would be inter-operability between law enforcement, department of corrections and 911 dispatch.

There was a thorough discussion of the software choice, system requirements and the specific safety benefits to the citizens of Greenwood County. Representatives from the Greenwood City police

department and Greenwood County Sheriff's departments were very helpful in briefing the committee. A question was raised about the amount of funding requested in the application yet no vendor was put forward for the new system. It was discussed that the two vendors under consideration have been thoroughly reviewed and the funding need will cover both solutions and there were no unquoted costs (e.g. new hardware, new devices for officers in the field etc.).

A lengthy discussion followed on the next application, a request for funding for a new Public Safety Headquarters complex. Many questions were raised about the need for a complex of such size and whether there were alternative less expensive solutions. It is clear that expanded physical space for the emergency management, law enforcement, emergency medical and fire service is needed. The benefit of all agencies "under one roof" was discussed and contrasted with the requirement that the HQ complex would have to be inside the Greenwood City limits. The committee also raised questions directed at the need to move all the agencies at once and could currently unoccupied space be renovated to meet the need.

The next application reviewed was a request for funding to put all Public Safety agencies on the Palmetto 800 communications system. The committee asked questions related to how the agency's communications inter-operability would be resolved once and for all. Questions were also raised about what technology comes next and would the Palmetto 800 system be obsolete in a few years. Most importantly, the committee raised questions on how this would benefit the citizens of the County.

Again, representatives from various law enforcement agencies and Emergency management were extremely helpful in answering questions. The Palmetto 800 system was reviewed in the context of the specific public safety emergencies experienced in early October of 2015 and on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2015.

The committee raised questions about why the application included funding for the Lander University and Piedmont Tech security services to move to the Palmetto 800 system. Both are "state" agencies and it was unclear why the citizens of Greenwood County should be funding their communications costs.

At the conclusion of this discussion the committee had exhausted its allotted time. The committee organized to request representatives from Greenwood City, the department of Corrections and Emergency Management to attend our next meeting.

It was agreed that the next committee meeting would be held on 18 February 2016 at 13:00 in the library. Paul thanked everyone for attending and the meeting adjourned at 14:35.