

## COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL AS A WHOLE REPORT

### Council Members:

Roy Costner, Chairman  
Chris Bowers, Vice Chairman  
Wes Hendricks, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem  
Trey Whitehurst  
Ensley Feemster  
Carl Hudson

### Staff in Attendance:

Gerald Wilson, County Administrator  
Crystal A. Alexander, Clerk to Council  
Ralph Guarino, Finance Director  
Michael Hayes, Risk Manager  
Billy Gibson, Fire Chief  
Phil Black, Fire Chief  
Sam Simmons, Fire Chief  
Ed Reynolds, Fire Chief  
Mike Staton, Fire Chief  
Chris Rowland, Fire Chief

### Guests in Attendance:

Tom Cloer III, *Town of Central*  
Meta Bowers, *Pickens County Meals on Wheels*  
Cheryl Dye, *CU Institute for Engaged Aging*  
Al Willimon, *Emergency Services Advisory Board*  
Tracy Woodruff, *Emergency Services Advisory Board*  
Johnson Link, *Emergency Services Advisory Board*  
Kenny McPeters, *Emergency Services Advisory Board*  
Tom Turner, *Emergency Services Advisory Board*  
Scott McCall, *Six Mile Fire District Board*  
Butch Womack  
Franklin Reynolds  
Ted Shehan

The Committee of the Whole met in the Council Auditorium on Monday, February 26, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. All members of the committee were in attendance with Chairman Roy Costner presiding.

### **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Roy Costner called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman Trey Whitehurst led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:**

#### **Senior Center (Town of Central) – Log No. 87**

- Gerald Wilson advised that Pickens County currently owns the building, known as the Senior Center, located at 120 Commons Way in Central. He stated that for the past 18 months or so, Pickens County has leased the building to the Town of Central. Mr. Wilson advised that the Town of Central recently submitted an [official request](#) to the County to donate the building to them, as a joint venture with Meals on Wheels.
- Tom Cloer, the Town of Central Assistant Administrator, discussed a request to transfer ownership of the Senior Center to the Town of Central to be used for programming activities for the community, further allowing them to seek grant funding to support the renovation of the aging facility. The Senior Center is located at 120 Commons Way in Central. Mr. Cloer stated that the Town of Central would agree to convey the property back to the County, if there is a point that the Town of Central no longer has use for the building.
- Meta Bowers, the Executive Director of Pickens County Meals on Wheels, discussed the opportunity to offer services to the citizens of the Town of Central. She also discussed the Senior Center Permanent Improvement Program, PIP funding.
- Cheryl Dye, the Professor of Public Health Sciences Director of CU Institute for Engaged Aging, discussed the opportunity to offer programs and services, two days a week, to those with early to mid-stage dementia.
- After much discussion, Councilman Trey Whitehurst moved to recommend first reading of an ordinance to convey the Senior Center property, located at 120 Commons Way, to the Town of Central. Motion was seconded by Councilman Carl Hudson and carried unanimously.
- ❖ Committee recommends first reading of an ordinance to convey the Senior Center property, located at 120 Commons Way, to the Town of Central.

### **Review of Fire Boards and Districts (countywide) – Log No. 55**

- Gerald Wilson stated that the recently formed Emergency Services Advisory Board was tasked to review Emergency Services as a whole. He advised that a possible Phase I proposal will be presented by Al Willimon of the Emergency Services Advisory Board.
- Al Willimon introduced the members of the Board in attendance: Tracy Woodruff; Kenny McPeters; Johnson Link; and Tom Turner. Mr. Willimon asked for everyone to remember Tim Cobb’s family. He stated that Mr. Cobb, the Chairman of the Board whom was instrumental in this review process, passed away last month.

Mr. Willimon presented a [Phase I plan for Pickens County Fire Service](#).

- The Committee had detailed discussion to include, but not limited to: questions regarding refinancing of the current bonds; recruitment of fire volunteers in schools; clarification on NFPA 1901; assessment of current fire equipment within the County; how the current Mutual Aid Agreement is performing; the proposed millage versus fee model; effective communication plan; questions regarding a possible phase implementation; overall plan recommendation to plan first and request funding second; confirmation that the plan is to tax all property, not just homes; questions regarding homestead exemption; requests to see a complete plan from the Emergency Services Advisory Board; concerns around turnout gear nearing end of useful life; future capital needs to include pumpers and tankers; impacts to municipalities if plan was adopted, etc.
- Chief Billy Gibson, Chief Mike Staton, Butch Womack, Frank Reynolds, and Scott McCall addressed and/or responded to the Committee regarding this matter.
  - After much discussion, Chairman Roy Costner recommended to schedule a special called meeting with the following: Council; the Director of Emergency Services; the fire chiefs; all of the fire boards; and the Emergency Services Advisory Board. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers.  
>During discussion, Councilman Trey Whitehurst recommended notifying the fire boards and giving them time to meet, so they can prepare prior to the referenced meeting.
  - The Committee unanimously approved.
- ❖ No action taken by Committee; however, a special called meeting will be held in the near future to include: Council; the Director of Emergency Services; the fire chiefs; all of the fire boards; and the Emergency Services Advisory Board. The fire boards will be provided enough time to meet and prepare their feedback and concerns prior to the referenced meeting.

### **ADJOURN:**

Hearing no further Committee business, Chairman Roy Costner moved the adjourn. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously. The Committee of the Whole stood adjourned at 7:53 p.m.