

CHESTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION WORKSHOP MEETING

R. Carlisle Roddey Government Complex

1476 J A Cochran Bypass, Chester, SC

Thursday, October 29th, 2020 at 10:00 AM

Workshop Minutes

Present: Interim Chairman Dr. Wylie Frederick, Vice Chairman Joe Branham, Councilman Brad Jordan, Councilman Mike Vaughn, Councilman Alex Oliphant, Councilwoman Mary Guy, Councilman Pete Wilson, Clerk to Council Karen Lee and County Attorney Joanie Winters.

- 1. Call to Order-**Interim Chairman Dr. Frederick called the meeting to order.
- 2. Discussion re origin, legislative history and duties of the Chester County Transportation Committee- Attorney Joanie Winters**

Attorney Winters said the Transportation Committee was created by an ordinance and an enabling act which outlines the duties of the committee. The county wide transportation plan gives the commission the authority to create and update the plan. The CTC is required to reserve ten percent to c-fund allocations and designate twenty five percent of the funds for resurfacing and repair. Attorney Winters said in the plan there is a process for closing roads which must be done in court, it also shows how to prioritize roads to determine which one's would get paved. If anything, Council sees in the ordinance they want to change now is the time to look it over.

Attorney Winters said the enabling act requires officers to be elected annually and can serve a maximum of the three terms, she also asked Procurement Director Susan Cok if she provided an annual report detailing compliance with the ten percent set aside program for minority business enterprises, Mrs. Cok stated no she did not. Treasurer Tommy Darby said the County does send a WBE report to the State on minority and women all the projects are run through the procurement process Attorney Winters said this could also be looked at, the current ordinance can be followed as written or it can be changed by Council.

Councilman Vaughn said under sec. 46-209 g., it reads the road priority list shall be updated every three years. Public Works Director Robert Hall said it was done every year. Councilman Vaughn stated at the last meeting they approved the road list to paved that was chosen by a committee formed and used the criteria of homes per square mile. In the ordinance it has more requirements that should be used to select the roads and felt like Council voted on roads that was not produced using the criteria from the ordinance.

- 3. C-Fund money allocation procedure-ICE**

Bill Coleman with Infrastructure Construction and Engineering said they were the engineers for Chester County Transportation. He said there is a guidebook published by SCDOT that has a lot of good information. The CCTC money is allocated on the sales tax, presently there is \$3.66 cents per gallon of gas in South Carolina that goes to the C-program. The money is divided up using a formula a third is the area of the county, a third of the population of the county and a third of the number of miles of roads in the county the roads includes state, DOT and private. The present

year DOT was saying we would get \$1,440,300 dollars which 27.2 % has to go toward SCDOT allotment, that amount is \$391,761 dollars. Mr. Coleman said next year another third of a cent is added, the money should go up since this year's allotment was reduced because of COVID-19. Next year it should be \$1,600,000 dollars the allotment goes up next year to 33 percent, around \$590,000 dollars will go to DOT roads. He said the c-fund money the county portion let it accumulate up to three years, but the DOT portion must be spent in each present year. When Council approved the road list from the last meeting, he told them they would have to pull two roads from the list that included Appaloosa Ridge and Blade Run Road. That would leave around \$400,000 dollars if everything goes well. Councilwoman Guy asked when the work on the roads would start. Mr. Coleman said hopefully by the first of the year. Councilman Jordan asked how they determined to pull the two roads off the list. Mr. Coleman said they were not in as bad shape as the others.

4. Process for prioritization of road for paving-ICE

Mr. Coleman said they used a formula called $P=R+T+D$ (points =residence + thruway + distances. A thru road is five points, every residence is two points, the distance was houses per mile. He said for example: a road that is 1000 feet long and had five residences you divide 1000 by 5280 (feet in a mile) which equals .189 miles. Five residences divided by .189 = 26.46 points. Traffic counts cost around \$500 for each road but could be done if you decide to put it in the criteria. Councilman Wilson said Council did not know this committee that was formed existed and wanted to understand how it was put together and what the structure of the committee was. It was strange to come to a council meeting and learn there is a committee they knew nothing about and making recommendations they didn't know about.

Public Works Director Robert Hall said they went by what Council and citizens had asked for along with the Road Department that was how they compiled the list. They gave the list to ICE, they went out and evaluated the roads and gave an estimate of what the cost would be and the road list is then given to CCTC for the approval of the list. Councilman Wilson asked Attorney Winters by having an internal committee did Council need to have ground rules or if it was normally done. Attorney Winters said yes and no, it depended on the gravity of the decision making, if they are getting together and making recommendations Council should know about it. She said having an ad hoc committee wasn't harmful, but they should be proposed as recommendations only. Councilman Wilson said he wanted the transportation committee to be presented with all the information such as having a list of the prioritized roads which would give them the ability to pick and choose themselves as the transportation-ICE committee. He wants Council to be sure they are full filling their duties as elected officials by looking at the facts themselves.

Councilman Vaughn commended Mr. Hall for the people he put on the committee but the ordinance was not followed, the view of the ordinance if Council decides to change it is critical in this discussion to make sure the changes are better in the future. Councilman Jordan said going back to the roads that were taken off the list, there were 67 houses on the roads and asked who made the decision to pull them. Mr. Hall said in their opinion Blade Run was the least needed to be paved but based off the number of houses was the reason it went to the top of the list; the other roads were in worst shape. Interim Chairman Dr. Frederick said he and Mr. Hall looked at the roads and he didn't see anything much wrong with Blade Run because of the number of residents he could see how it made it to the top of the list.

Councilman Wilson said his concern was the condition of the road was not taken into consideration. The formula for the condition of the road is not included and there must be some criteria to figure out which road deserves to be paved. Mr. Hall said that was the way it was supposed to had happened but there was some miscommunication but going forward they have something to offer but may not follow what the ordinance says. All the paving recommendations goes to Public Works by Council, citizens, roads department or economic development first, the next step was Public Works does the evaluation. Public Works and the Road Department goes out to look at the roads given to them before it is sent to ICE so they can make sure the road does need to be paved. If the roads meet the requirements, he sends it to the engineer, they go out and brings their findings back to Public Works. The list is then compiled based on the estimates and presented to the CTC to choose which roads based on the funds.

5. Adjourn

Vice Chairman Branham motioned to adjourn, second by Councilwoman Guy. Vote 6-0 to adjourn.

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, the Chester News & Reporter, The Herald in Rock Hill, SC, WSOC-TV, Channel 9 Eyewitness News, the Mfg. Housing Institute of SC, WRHI Radio Station, C&N2 News, WCNC News and Capitol Consultants were notified and a notice was posted on the bulletin board at the Chester County Government Building 24 hours prior to the meeting