

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Date: August 5, 2014

Time: 2:00 P.M.

Members Present: Kim Likins, John McCann, Marc Grant

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Scott Liggett, Jeff Buckalew, Darrin Shoemaker, Galen Knighten

Others Present: None

Media Present: Dan Burley, *The Island Packet*

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. FOIA Compliance:

Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted and mailed in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Town of Hilton Head Island requirements.

3. Committee Business:

Approval of Minutes: Councilman Grant moved to approve the Minutes of July 1, 2014. Councilman McCann seconded. The Minutes of July 1, 2014 were unanimously approved.

4. Unfinished Business:

5. New Business

• **Acquisition of Private Road Rights of Way**

Jeff Buckalew, Town Engineer stated staff recommends the Public Facilities Committee endorse to Town Council the acquisition of road rights of way on the following four private roads – Murray Avenue, Alfred Lane, Cobia Court and Aiken Place.

As part of the Town's Capital Improvement Program, funding was increased this fiscal year to more aggressively pursue acquisition of private road rights of way. Staff recommends these four roads be accepted based on a ratings analysis of the existing private roads on Hilton Head Island. If those are acquired, staff shall subsequently recommend they be dedicated to the County for rehabilitation and perpetual maintenance.

The primary objective of this program is to acquire rights of way on selected private roads, with the intent of transferring these roads to the County for improvements and maintenance. These acquisitions are prioritized based on a rating scheme which emphasizes public safety, the condition of the road, and the number of dwellings served. \$50,000 has been budgeted this fiscal year for acquisition purposes only. This shall entail the survey and legal costs necessary for acquisition and is not intended for compensation to property owners or physical improvements of the infrastructure.

Chairman Likins asked Mr. Buckalew if staff had spoken to the property owners. Mr. Buckalew said no they have not as yet. Once we get the survey and we lay out where we think the road should go and how much property we need from each property owner, then I will recommend with the Town Attorney we will hold a Town Meeting to invite all the affected owners, lay out the plats, etc.

Chairman Likins asked for public comment. A gentleman whose name was not audible asked once the survey is done how would they know so they could contact the members of the family so they all could attend the meeting. Mr. Buckalew said when they send out surveyors they will send a notification letter to everyone and would also let them know when the meeting would be.

Dot Law, President of Marshland-Chaplin-Gardner POA stated she was very pleased that you are considering paving the roads since that is an issue that needs to be dealt with. The families will have to make that decision and I hope they will.

Richard Jackson stated the item before you today is the acquisition of four road rights of way to the Town. In addition to these 4 you now have before Council 3 roads for condemnation proceedings and the 7 roads that you tried to give the County in 2012. That brings the total in this process to 14 and as you say you will have them for perpetual maintenance. My question today is where does that money come from? The summary says they will be submitted to the County for rehabilitation and perpetual maintenance. Does that mean paving? The County has told you they will never take these roads or any other Hilton Head roads. They estimate the cost to pave a mile of dirt road at \$500,000. That leads one to believe that maintaining these roads will have to come out of the Town's budget and it does pose a bit of a quandary that the 10 year CIP budget projection shows just over \$4,000,000 in being spent on roads while pathways get \$11.4 million. How does this serve the public interest and what does that leave the Community with an interest in these roads to believe – how are they going to be paved?

Councilman Grant told the Committee he will have to recuse himself when the Committee votes on Aiken Place because that is his family.

Councilman McCann moved that they accept the proposal in front of them for Murray Avenue. Councilman Grant seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman McCann moved that they accept the proposal in front of them for Alfred Lane. Councilman Grant seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman McCann moved that they accept the proposal in front of them for Cobia Court. Councilman Grant seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Grant recused himself and left the dais prior to the vote for Aiken Place. Councilman McCann moved that they accept the proposal in front of them for Aiken Place. Chairman Likins seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Adjournment:

Councilman McCann moved to adjourn. Councilman Grant seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen D. Knox
Senior Administrative Assistant