

TOWN OF MEGGETT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: *September 26, 2016* **Time:** *7:00PM* **Location:** *SCPA Building 4770 Highway 165*

Call to order by:	<i>Mayor Herrington</i>
Type of Meeting:	<i>Public Hearing & Council Meeting</i>
Facilitator:	<i>Mayor Herrington</i>
Minutes:	<i>Erica Schaffer</i>

Roll Call:	<i>Mayor Herrington</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Angela Watts</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>A = Absent</i>	<i>Tommy Butler</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Andy Gowder</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>P = Present</i>	<i>Tom Hutto</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Stephanie Smith</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Keith McCarty</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

Prayer given by: *Mayor Herrington* **Pledge led by:** *Mayor Herrington*

Approval of Minutes from previous Council Meeting held on: August 22, 2016.

Motion made by: *Council Member Keith McCarty moved to approve minutes.*

Seconded by: *Council Member Angela Watts seconded the motion.*

In Favor:

- Mayor Buster Herrington*
- Mayor Pro Tem Tommy Butler*
- Council Member Tom Hutto*
- Council Member Keith McCarty*
- Council Member Angela Watts*

Opposed:

Conclusion: *Minutes approved.*

MEDUCARE PRESENTATION:

Please see attached Item 1 for Presentation from Mr. Wes McAden; AirMedCare Representative

Summary-

The total proposed cost for the Town of Meggett's AirMedCare Municipal Site Plan is \$5,231.00. This price is based on 418 eligible households within the community. It is the equivalent of around \$12.50 per household. The contract can take effect immediately if Council chooses to approve it.

TOWN OF MEGGETT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 26, 2016

Time: 7:00PM

Location: SCPA Building 4770 Highway 165

Q & A

Council Member Tom Hutto asked if The Town should double check the number. Mr. Wes McAden of AirMed Care stated that the Town could double check but they would probably discover there are actually more people covered than they are identifying in the proposal. It is a very loose term in regards to what a resident is. A resident could be property owners, long time renters, or even someone who might not live here full time but just owns property located in Meggett, Our staff will need to go through and weed out those who are covered under Medicaid because by law we have to accept what the State pays. . The Town will end up paying for less than the number of households quoted as Med Air took these numbers from the most recent census.

Mayor Pro Tem Tommy Butler asked if this was an annual fee. He also asked how often an analysis will be performed. Mr. Wes McAden stated that it was an annual fee. He continued by saying an annual analysis will be done once the program begins. The calendar date depends on the date of the signed contract. That date is considered the effective date. He added that they currently have McClellanville, Edisto, Kiawah, and Seabrook under Municipal policies.

Mayor Pro Tem Tommy Butler asked if the flight had to originate in Charleston County. Wes McAden stated that the flight must originate in Charleston County. He continued saying it included home to hospital, accident scene to hospital, hospital to hospital. The flight just needs to originate in Charleston County. If you are uninsured/ underinsured at the time of pickup individuals would be billed the Medicare allowable rate at the time of transport however individuals would have the opportunity to upgrade to the Full Household Membership at which point the insurance restriction would then be dropped and it will also eliminate the Charleston County restriction which would open members with a full membership up to 260 plus aircrafts locations across 32 states both helicopter and airplanes. We have 1, 3, and 5 year options are available. As long as individuals are either residents or own property in Meggett they will be covered. It would be under the best interest of those who may own here and live elsewhere to purchase the full household membership plan under the Municipal Site Plan so they will be covered wherever they actually reside with a flight with AirMedCare. Mr. Wes McAden stated he hubs in Greenville, Anderson, Spartanburg, and Sumter. We are the preferred flight ambulatory care company for MUSC, MUSC Children's Hospital, Florence McCloud Hospital, Greenville Health Systems, and we are working to complete the contract with Palmetto Heath Richland in Columbia. We have the contract with FEMA as well as the Darlington Nascar group.

Council Member Tom Hutto asked if a resident was injured is AirMed/Meducare the only company available to come pick up the injured resident. He wondered if we pay all this money could another air company pick up the injured party. Mr. Wes McAden shared that this was the only downfall to the program. He stated AirMed/Meducare is not an insurance company and it is possible that another company could be called to an accident scene. He did state that in Charleston County Meducare Air is the first to be contacted. If we are working with another patient the call will roll over to someone else who may or may not be one of our affiliates. With no further questions Mayor Herrington thanked Mr. McAden for his presentation and advised that Council would review and the Town would be getting back to him.

TOWN OF MEGGETT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 26, 2016

Time: 7:00PM

Location: SCPA Building 4770 Highway 165

LLCS Walk for Education:

Town Administrator Stephanie Smith stated that the Lowcountry Leadership Charter School PTO is doing a 5K Walk/Run for Education this year. The proposed date is October 22nd. They have asked for use of some of the Town's facilities. The LLCS Walk/Run will start at the school. It will encompass Gibson Road, Church Flats Road, down to Meggett Town Hall. It may require some road closures between Hollywood and Meggett that morning. They would love for anyone interested in participating to contact the school directly. The walk should begin between 7-8am.

Thank an Officer Day Report:

Mayor Herrington gave an update on Meggett's First Annual Thank an Officer Day. We have 13 officers who work our area. Mayor Herrington went on to say we were delighted that we had 8 officers that were able to attend. They were all most gracious. He announced that we had dedicated an office in the SCPA Building for the officers to stop in, do paperwork, and have a cup of coffee. He continued by saying that the children from LLCS did some painting and we have the artwork framed as well for Meggett Residents to see. We are excited to have this space available for the officer's convenience as well as to provide our Town with the presence of the Charleston County Police Department. He thanked the school for their participation and he also gave praise to Town Administrator Stephanie Smith for working so hard to make it a wonderful event.

BZA Meeting October 11th:

Mayor Herrington informed meeting attendees that a BZA meeting was scheduled for Oct 11th and more information on the BZA Meeting can be found on the Town's website. The BZA meeting is set to discuss a proposed event house off of Moe's Lane intersecting Ethel Post Office Road. Council Member Tom Hutto asked the Mayor if we could include a request for variance from the 50' OCRM setback during the next BZA Meeting. Town Attorney Andy Gowder told Council that as the property owner's they can submit an application to request the variance at the next BZA Meeting.

Council Member Reports:

Building and grounds given by: Mayor Buster Herrington

Mayor Herrington stated that he completed the second treatment in the pond over at Meggett Park. He also stated that two trees fell during one of the storms that occurred a few weeks ago. The trees were removed to make the park safe for the children. Mayor Herrington shared that we finally closed on the two (2) parcels of land that Meggett acquired from the Church. The Mayor stated that he was still working on getting proposals in to complete the repairs needed on the front. Gathering the quotes is taking longer than the Mayor had anticipated.

Financial report given by: Mayor Pro Tem Tommy Butler

Mayor Pro Tem Tommy Butler stated there was no change to the Meggett 1925 account. The Waste Water account is down \$724.00 and the Town's general account is down \$40,000. Mayor Pro Tem Tommy Butler explained that some of the out of the ordinary expenses were \$2,300.00 for annual elevator maintenance and \$3,200.00 to purchase a lawn mower for Roxbury Park. Mayor Pro Tem Tommy Butler added that the mower was not purchased from Herrington

TOWN OF MEGGETT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 26, 2016

Time: 7:00PM

Location: SCPA Building 4770 Highway 165

Equipment. There was an additional \$36,000.00 withdrawn to purchase Lot 16 off of Archfield Drive right behind Town hall as well as Lot 9 Hwy 165 which is located directly beside the SCPA Building.

Mayor Pro Tem Tommy Butler added that he had a discussion with a Real Estate Attorney named David Smythe who told him they are preparing to sell an 80 acre parcel of land from Coastline Road to Hwy 165. Mayor Pro Tem Tommy Butler stated that he felt this parcel would be a very smart investment for the Town considering its location. Council Members Keith McCarty, Angela Watts, and Tom Hutto all agreed we should discuss purchasing a portion of this.

Council Member Tom Hutto pointed out that we have the money available for the sewer however; maintaining it is quite a hassle. He wanted to know if we have considered selling the sewer system out to a third party. Mayor Herrington stated that in 2010 CWS did not want to renew the maintenance contract therefore the Town scrambled around to get help maintaining it. Mayor Herrington stated that it was continuing to grow as a problem because we don't have a staff to maintain it. He stated we have someone we have hired to do general maintenance. Mayor Herrington also stated that we have a contract and great working relationship with James F. Pedersen., Co., Inc. to repair larger issues. The communications portion of it is the main problem. If something goes wrong the Mayor is notified at 2 o'clock in the morning. We tried to work out something with the County but that didn't pan out because they felt they would have to resume maintenance on all the systems they have been relieved of. Council Member Keith McCarty asked the question if we ever find someone who we can transfer the sewer system to is it possible to ensure they won't have the right to expand it. Town Attorney Andy Gowder stated that the treatment capacity is limited through CWS. That would have to increase dramatically to support any expansion. Council Member Tom Hutto stated that he was asking because he works with a company who purchases sewer systems. They just bought a large sewer system in Columbia. Council Member Tom Hutto stated that he had mentioned to them about purchasing our system. If the Town is interested in selling they would be interested in looking at it.

Grants and Special Reports given by: Council Member Tom Hutto

Council Member Tom Hutto stated again the need to request a variance from the 50' OCRM critical setback line. We plan to start the construction on the last picnic shelter as soon as possible. Council Member Tom Hutto stated that he felt many people were in attendance to speak in regard to Roxbury so he wanted to take a little walk with them to where we have been and the Town's vision for the Park. We received the Grant in 2009-2010. He stated that the Town is delighted that so many people have taken a special interest in Roxbury Park. In obtaining the park we were able to prevent a huge residential development. In the original grant and subsequent meetings we developed the idea for a multi-use park. General park use to include walking, picnicking (one picnic shelter already completed), walking trails (cleared for the use of all visitors), fishing (number of boardwalk), non-motorized boating (several floating docks and a platform near the cottage). We have cleared several banks for bank fishing. We were also interested in the Toogoodoo Creek access. We fixed and repaired the existing dock and installed a new floating dock. The Town has had some wonderful gatherings and events at Roxbury Park. We have repaired and upgraded the cottage and garage. We will be added a new larger picnic shelter very soon. We expanded the woodland parking area. We envisioned vacation rentals. Also birding and wildlife observation. The Vision has been and remains the same. We have invested a lot of time and funds to get to the point we are at now. We are executing the plans. Council Member Tom Hutto goes on to say that there have been a lot of questions in regards to Ken Carman's employment. Since this is a personnel matter we are not at liberty to discuss it in great depth. What we can tell you is that Ken was previously employed as a part-time caretaker on a small farm two doors down from Roxbury. That job provided him with a place to live and a car. He enjoyed visiting Roxbury so much that when the park opened we hired him as the caretaker for 2 days a week. Primary duties were trail creation, park maintenance, and general caretaker duties. He appointed himself as the park naturalist. Ken took it upon himself to put up birdhouses, feeding stations, he had the boy scouts come out and work on projects, and he also did a lot of the publicity which I am assuming is why some of you are here today. Ken Carman did really well in this capacity. Over a

**TOWN OF MEGGETT
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Date: September 26, 2016

Time: 7:00PM

Location: SCPA Building 4770 Highway 165

year ago Ken resigned from his other caretaker position. He asked us for advice. We advised him not to quit since his position with Roxbury was only two days a week and the position did not offer housing. He did resign from his other job therefore forgoing his place of residence. Housing was never part of Ken's employment. We allowed him to camp on the park grounds and eventually live in the Cottage full time for well over 6 months. The overall arrangement lasted for over a year. We encouraged him to seek full time employment as housing was not part of his employment here and the arrangement was incompatible with our vision for the park. The cottage needed to be ready and clean for showings and visitors. We requested that he find housing and provided him plenty of notice. In early September he elected to resign as Caretaker at Roxbury Park. We accepted his resignation. About a week after resigning Ken Carman met with the Mayor and offered to sell the Town the Roxbury website webpage, and Facebook page he created for \$10,000.00. He did offer to reduce the price to \$8,000.00 if we paid him by Wednesday. Ken Carman then added if we didn't pay by Wednesday the price would go up \$2,000.00 per day and he would tell the truth about the Town. The Mayor elected the final option which was no we are not buying the website and at that point decided Ken no longer needed to work out his notice. We appreciate the work Ken Carman did. He is a very talented individual. We are disappointed by this outcome. Council Member Tom Hutto went on to say; to be clear Ken wasn't fired. The park is looking quite unkept and it is under a Conservation Easement. We are going to continue to evaluate when to reopen the park. We do not plan to destroy the work Ken did in the hayfields. We would be happy to have volunteers to help maintain that. Roxbury Park was never intended as a strict nature preserve. It was always visioned as a multi-use park. Council Member Tom Hutto concluded by thanking everyone attending for their interest in Roxbury Park and explained if they had additional comments or concerns they could voice them during the Public Comments Session of the meeting.

Communications given by: Council Member Keith McCarty

Council Member Keith McCarty stated that in light of recent events he would like permission from council to look into some devices to making sure that any website representing the town are secured by the Town.

Roxbury given by: Council Member Angela Watts

Council Member Angela Watts stated that Ken Carman was wonderful at Roxbury. He was a fantastic naturalist. We did not let Ken go he resigned. Currently the Park is closed. There are some issues with the cottage that we need to address. It is in need of a major grounds clean-up. Roxbury is only closed temporarily. It is not closed forever. It's a beautiful place and we are proud to have it. Council Member Angela Watts stated The Mayor sent her a text on Sunday and saw two cars parked outside the gate. These people ignored the closed sign and went around the gates. Council Member Angela Watts went on to state we ask that you respect the fact that the Park is closed at this time. We are going to have a volunteer based cleanup this weekend. Bring gloves, weed eater, bush hog, or lawn mowers. We are not intentionally disturbing any butterflies or wildlife. We love the park and we want everyone to enjoy it. We are looking into hiring a new caretaker. We have harvested two aggressive alligators using tags issued by DNR both of which were over six foot long.

Public Comments

Gale Smith – 4651 Hwy 165 Meggett, SC - SEE ITEM 2

Dee Langley – I am a Meggett resident. I have been here since the beginning and you have had criticism from the public. I haven't even been notified that the Park was closed. I agree with what Gale said. October is an

TOWN OF MEGGETT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 26, 2016

Time: 7:00PM

Location: SCPA Building 4770 Highway 165

excellent time for people to get out and enjoy this nice weather. Hire another company to get it right. I will do it. Hire B&G. Parks aren't meant to be closed.

Heather VanTassel – Audubon South Carolina – SEE ITEM 3

Betty Smith – Artist lived in Meggett for 13 years on Gibson Road. I met Ken Carman at Roxbury Park and I was overwhelmed at the beauty of the park. He said I can photograph any day of the week. He told me he would take me around on the gator. He took me one day all over the park and I photographed and did a whole series of paintings at our Gallery downtown. It got a lot of publicity for Roxbury. Ken was a facilitator. He had such a passion for the park. As we were riding through I saw a tent in the woods and said oh someone must be camping. Ken said no that is where my wife and I live. Ken told me the town promised him a caretaker cottage. He told me someone offered him a container for \$2,000.00

He volunteered so much of his time making this place so beautiful. These things are all over Facebook and these comments are making the Town look bad. How will the Town manage without Ken?

Council Member Tom Hutto suggested that Council move into executive session.

Executive Session (7:55 – 8:10)

Mayor Herrington advised that a personnel issue was discussed during executive session. No decision was rendered. He thanked everyone for their opinions and presence.

Meeting concluded at 8:15 pm.