

State of South Carolina)
County of Anderson)

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 20, 2019

IN ATTENDANCE:
TOMMY DUNN, CHAIRMAN
GRACIE FLOYD
RAY GRAHAM
CRAIG WOOTEN
BRETT SANDERS
CINDY WILSON

ALSO PRESENT:
RUSTY BURNS
LEON HARMON
LACEY CROEGAERT

1 TOMMY DUNN: ... talk about the road fees,
2 nuts and bolts in it. At this time I'd like for us all to
3 rise for invocation and pledge of allegiance by Vice Chairman
4 Graham.

5 **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE BY RAY GRAHAM**

6 TOMMY DUNN: At this time I'd like to ask
7 Ms. Davis, if she would, she's got a thing I've asked her to
8 do. And Mr. Harmon (mic cutting out) on the road fee, people
9 know what's in the ordinance. What I've asked him to do is
10 just talk about exemptions and what not, what the state law
11 allows and how it's written and what will hold up. Ms. Davis.

12 RITA DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The
13 state law that you're talking about apparently is 4-9-30, 5(a)
14 in particular. And that gives you, as county council, the
15 authority to assess property taxes, of course, and uniform
16 service charges so that we can finance our governmental
17 operations, including roads, as you see there. But when you
18 look at the statute it doesn't tell you how much of a fee to
19 set, of course, or the persons who it can be imposed upon.
20 Home Rule governs that. But you have to think about -- and
21 like you said, Mr. Harmon is here to talk about legality of --
22 you have to think about equal protection and reasonableness.
23 But they do allow us to impose a uniform service charge
24 instead of raising property taxes to fund county services.

25 The theory is that, as we've been saying in our town hall
26 meetings, that the people that receive a special benefit of a
27 county service should be the ones that are charged for that
28 service, if at all possible. At least it gives you the
29 capability to do that. But if it's -- you have a proper
30 legislative purpose and the members of each class are treated
31 equally, then the equal protection clause, you should be fine.

32 And there is case law on that, that Mr. Harmon can expound
33 upon, but I just wanted to give you that framework as we're
34 fixing to contemplate which classes of individuals we might
35 want to exempt.

36 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Ms. Davis.

37 GRACIE FLOYD: Ms. Davis, is this -- this is
38 one of the questions that I've been asked a lot, and it
39 concerns our citizen -- citizens, whether or not they will be
40 subjected to this tax, as well. In my meeting that I had
41 here, the people were told that by the state statute that
42 senior citizens was exempt. But at my meeting they were told
43 that. But at a meeting that we had yesterday -- I think it
44 was yesterday. There's too many meetings in a short period of
45 time; everything is running together. But we were at the
46 Bleckley Inn and we were meeting with Oconee, Pickens and
47 Anderson. And I was told there that county council sets that
48 exemptions, those exemptions; that it doesn't have to be an
49 exemption or it does.

50 Now, a lot of folks out there are saying that everybody

1 should pay because everybody who has a driver's license uses
2 the street. Okay. But now is this in lieu -- is this what
3 we're talking about now?

4 RITA DAVIS: Yes, ma'am. My understanding,
5 that's why council is here today, to discuss who do we want to
6 exempt under our ordinance.

7 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. See, the folks that I
8 talked to went away thinking that the state protected ---

9 RITA DAVIS: Well, let me just say, ma'am,
10 we're here to talk about what exemptions. But if at all
11 possible, we would like to piggyback and use the state
12 exemptions. It's already been approved by the General
13 Assembly and it makes sense administratively and legally, I
14 would think.

15 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. I understand that. So
16 what the people were told at my meeting about the exempt had
17 already been decided because they were told that; they were
18 told that.

19 RITA DAVIS: No, ma'am. Nothing has really
20 been decided. You know, council hasn't raised their hand
21 three times.

22 TOMMY DUNN: Let's move on.

23 GRACIE FLOYD: Well, I know that the council
24 did not raise their hand, but it did come up at the meeting.
25 I have a person here who was there, and it did come up at the
26 meeting.

27 RITA DAVIS: Yes, ma'am. And if you don't

28 ---

29 GRACIE FLOYD: I'm just trying to get it
30 straightened out now so that I can go back and tell folks what
31 they ---

32 RITA DAVIS: Yes, ma'am. We're getting
33 straight to your point, Ms. Floyd, right now. These are the
34 things that have come up and we've talked about amongst
35 council members. And you'll notice that we've put the state
36 law on the five bullet points. I didn't on the first because
37 state law, if you're sixty-four you pay ninety-five percent of
38 the forty dollar registration fee. When you turn sixty-five
39 you only pay ninety percent. But council has discussed, if
40 you're sixty-four and over, we don't -- possibly, and that's
41 for the seven members to decide that -- you will not be
42 charged that. That's one consideration I'd like you to think
43 about and discuss.

44 The second one, currently, under state law, if you're a
45 war time disabled veteran, two of your vehicles you do not
46 have to pay the forty dollar registration fee. And keep in
47 mind, when we're talking about these items, we're only talking
48 about registration fee. Some of them are subject to property
49 taxes and that's a whole different animal. But under state
50 law two of your vehicles, if you're a war time disabled

1 veteran.

2 The third item we'd like you to think about is a former
3 POW and the surviving spouse of that POW until they remarry.
4 Again, limit of two vehicles.

5 The fourth bullet point that we'd like you to think about,
6 disabled veterans required to use wheelchairs are totally
7 exempt under the code section you see there, 56-3-1910.

8 The fifth bullet point to think about is a recipient of a
9 purple heart. Limit two, again, of any vehicles that that
10 person may have.

11 Again, we're coming to you asking you to consider this
12 because currently those individuals that fall under these
13 classes except the first one, they don't -- up to two
14 vehicles, they do not pay that forty dollar registration fee.
15 So we're asking council to consider that.

16 At the bottom I'm just reminding you that any federal,
17 state, local government or political subdivision would be
18 exempted, as well.

19 Continue on?

20 TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Davis, I just want to stop
21 here a second. Also this would be more accessible to be
22 enforced as far as Mr. Hunter's department about going through
23 this, mirroring on this right here, give them something to go
24 by?

25 RITA DAVIS: That is correct.

26 TOMMY DUNN: And my understanding, I think
27 on a couple of those, the state don't charge now, we would
28 have charged and we'll be doing something the state don't do.

29 RITA DAVIS: That's right; yes, sir.

30 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Harmon, would you speak
31 just a little bit on the law as far as what you found out what
32 could happen, what's been defended if you start putting in
33 some exemptions that we should open up?

34 LEON HARMON: Yes. I'll be glad to address
35 that, Mr. Chairman, members of council. First of all, the --
36 a road service charge has been held by the Supreme Court not
37 to be a tax. It's a fee. That was in the case of *Brown*
38 *versus County of Horry* back in 1992. What the Court looked at
39 though was whether or not the fee met the uniformity
40 requirements. That's the requirement in the statute that any
41 fee that's imposed must meet the uniformity requirement.

42 When you get to talking about exemptions like we have on
43 the slide that Ms. Davis gave you, those would more than
44 likely be evaluated under an equal protection type analysis
45 and whether or not they're reasonable under the circumstances
46 in which they are imposed. And the *Brown versus County of*
47 *Horry* case talked about that, even though that case did not
48 specifically address a particular exemption like we're
49 speaking of. I can tell you that there's at least one
50 attorney general's opinion where older citizens were included

1 in a classification and the opinion was to the effect that
2 that classification would meet equal protection analysis.

3 Now, there's not a Court case on that and those are
4 opinions until a Court case comes down. But I think we could
5 -- we would have a reasonable explanation for why we selected
6 these categories for potential exemptions from the road fee.

7 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Harmon. Ms.
8 Davis.

9 RITA DAVIS: Yes, sir. Again, I just wanted
10 to repeat that currently there's been discussion that there
11 would be a sunset clause, it would expire after four years,
12 have to come back before council for three readings of a brand
13 new ordinance to continue the road fee.

14 And here's, of course, where we need input from council,
15 as well. There was discussion of reducing the general fund
16 millage by one mil if the road fee was passed. It's also been
17 discussed, well, if we reduce the general fund millage by one
18 mil, let's move that millage over to the road fee fund to be
19 used for district paving exclusively. So that's been
20 discussed, as well, but we'll need direction from council.

21 GRACIE FLOYD: Can we ask questions along the
22 way?

23 TOMMY DUNN: Just wait for her to get a few
24 more things ---

25 RITA DAVIS: And also today we'd like to
26 talk about the municipal allocation, potentially the formula
27 that might be used. So those are the hot button topics that
28 we need decisions on from council. Thank you, sir.

29 TOMMY DUNN: A potential on the small towns,
30 towns (mic cutting out) Mr. Hopkins is going to speak to that,
31 the math they've come up with and what y'all are recommending.

32 HOLT HOPKINS: (Inaudible) accounts. But
33 after talking with Mr. Burns and others, we feel like, you
34 know, why not just use what the state uses for C-funds.
35 Instead of being on the statewide level, it would be on the
36 countywide level. And what they do -- how they distribute the
37 C-funds that are collected in the state, they take a third and
38 then apply the percentage of land area, square mileage like a
39 county, well, we're wanting to do the same on the towns. So
40 it would be one-third area, one-third population and one-third
41 mileage, road mileage. That gives them -- you know, some may
42 have a bigger footprint; it gives them a little edge. Some
43 may have more miles; that gives them a little edge. Or if
44 they have a bigger population; that gives them a little edge.
45 It's just -- we think it's a pretty fair formula to use. We
46 didn't create it, we're just using what the state uses for C-
47 funds.

48 TOMMY DUNN: Any comments or questions for
49 Mr. Hopkins on that particular point?

50 CRAIG WOOTEN: I guess from my perspective,

1 you're saying like thirty-three percent, thirty-three percent
2 population, thirty-three percent miles. I guess representing
3 ---

4 HOLT HOPKINS: Let's say if it's four million
5 dollars, or for the math, let's say three million. One
6 million would be divided up by percentage of the land mass you
7 have, what area you have. The other million would be divided
8 up by what percentage of population you have.

9 CRAIG WOOTEN: I can see that. I guess my
10 concern representing a really small district but that has high
11 population, you know, from my standpoint that might put us in
12 a sixty-six percent disadvantage. We don't have the land
13 area. We don't have the miles. We just have the population.
14 So I mean that's just -- that would be a consideration on my
15 part.

16 TOMMY DUNN: I want to make sure, this would
17 only affect School District 6 of Anderson. The other
18 districts -- if you're not in the city of Anderson (mic
19 cutting out) protected.

20 HOLT HOPKINS: This is just how to give -- how
21 much to give the towns.

22 CRAIG WOOTEN: I see. Okay.

23 TOMMY DUNN: Like Williamston, Belton, Honea
24 Path.

25 CRAIG WOOTEN: Well, what is our -- and this
26 may be too in-depth right now, but what is our accountability
27 from a town when we allocate based on this formula that we
28 feel confident that they'll participate with the wishes or the
29 intent of the fee.

30 HOLT HOPKINS: In the past, and I hope you'll
31 consider letting us continue to do this, we don't give them a
32 blank -- we don't write them a check. They have to present us
33 an invoice and we have to verify that the work was done.

34 CRAIG WOOTEN: Okay.

35 HOLT HOPKINS: We don't go check quality and
36 all that, but we just verify that work was done and here's an
37 invoice in hand.

38 TOMMY DUNN: (Inaudible) Mr. Hopkins, I
39 guess I'm taking on the past, y'all just left it up to the
40 small towns or municipalities to check the quality of work?

41 HOLT HOPKINS: Yes.

42 TOMMY DUNN: I just think if it does move
43 forward and it goes, I think the county should check to make
44 sure the quality of work is there. In some way, shape or
45 form, we need (mic cutting out). Y'all are checking
46 everything else in the county to make sure it's done right.
47 We (mic cutting out) make some kind of way.

48 HOLT HOPKINS: And I understand. Let me go
49 into a little more detailed. If we have a county-wide paving
50 contract, we have offered to do any paving that they wish to

1 just add it to ours. Can we do that through contract or
2 agreement with the town? If we're managing the contract we
3 will have our inspectors on the job the whole time. If it's a
4 C-fund project, we will make sure that that money -- our
5 county money will be used as a match to go toward the C-funds
6 and then the C-funds will have their inspectors. Some of
7 these that's like they use the money to put up a sign, dig out
8 a ditch, put in a pipe, those kind of things, we will check
9 the quality the best we can. But unless you're asking us to
10 leave an inspector out there when they're doing all
11 maintenance ---

12 TOMMY DUNN: Only thing I'm asking, we ain't
13 got nothing in writing; we're just talking about an ordinance.
14 If we do this, it's our full intention as far as asphalt and
15 bridge work, that's doing the same thing. They shouldn't take
16 our money and go over here and dig out a ditch. That money
17 should be put on asphalt or bridges. We should have some
18 quality assurance is going to be done to our specifications if
19 we're doing something with that money. I just think that's a
20 little bit of ---

21 HOLT HOPKINS: We can make sure that the
22 inspections are included in whatever contract (mic cutting
23 out). A lot of the money also is spent to reimburse us to
24 come do their driveways ---

25 TOMMY DUNN: Yeah, but keep -- I'm talking
26 about if this road thing goes through. I ain't talking about
27 other stuff. I'm talking about strictly on this here. Mr.
28 Graham.

29 RAY GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, I guess -- and
30 I'm thinking I'm probably on the same track as what you're
31 saying. Number one, I mean I've got a lot of municipalities
32 in my district. So naturally I'm going -- I definitely agree;
33 we've got to come up with some type of funding where we're
34 going to be able to benefit municipalities, as well.

35 To me, I would go as far as saying, you know, like you had
36 said, I mean basically if this road fee does pass, it's got to
37 be spent on asphalt or bridge work. I mean it cannot be spent
38 on culverts or different things outside of that scope. The
39 same thing would be for the money that's raised through this
40 for the municipalities. Common sense, you know, Anderson
41 City, not throwing them out there, but I mean they would
42 probably be the only one with enough of either horsepower to
43 go and get some bids. You go get the town of Iva, the city of
44 Belton, Honea Path, Williamston, Pelzer, you get those
45 municipalities that goes out and tries to bid a job. There's
46 no way they're going to be able to get a job at the price that
47 we would be able to get it as a county.

48 So to me, you know, the money is coming from us, if we do
49 pass it, the council members putting their head out on the
50 chopping block to pass this, I think we should be involved as

1 far as inspecting and ensuring it's right. I know you
2 probably question that because that's going to put more work
3 on you and your guys, but I mean my concern there, at the end
4 of the day, at the end of four years, if this goes through,
5 what are we going to show the people that we were able to
6 accomplish with this money? I know the ones that's got
7 municipalities in their districts, we've got to show them that
8 we stood our ground and got them some funding out of this, as
9 well. But at the end of the day we've got to show, at the end
10 of this four years, this is what the citizens that's paying
11 this money, which be advised, we're paying it, too, but these
12 citizens that's paying this money is getting a bang for the
13 buck. We know that that road paved in Belton, that road paved
14 in Iva. It's done quality. It's done efficiently. It was
15 done through a normal bidding process. And our guys from the
16 county inspected and ensured that it was completed at the end
17 and they paid for it. I would be leaning more toward that.

18 And I think, at the end of the day, it's going to increase
19 our funding as far as the county, for we're going to be
20 getting more work done through our bidding process, which
21 hopefully is going to get us even better pricing. So I think
22 it would be a win-win for everybody. I don't know.

23 HOLT HOPKINS: It's just a little tricky, I
24 guess, why I'm ---

25 RAY GRAHAM: It is. Well, you're crossing
26 paths there.

27 HOLT HOPKINS: Well, it's their authority.
28 It's their roads and it's their everything. But we can't hold
29 back the money unless they guarantee the quality by letting us
30 inspect it or whatever.

31 TOMMY DUNN: Well, the simple thing it seems
32 to me to (inaudible). Just like it happens on (mic cutting
33 out). You know, money is going to be here tomorrow, whatever
34 form we come up with, and they should submit that the road
35 needs to be fixed. Y'all, the road department, y'all go out
36 and see it does, put that in the contract. Like Ray is
37 talking about, you're going to get more bang for your buck
38 when it's all (mic cutting out).

39 RAY GRAHAM: At the end of the day, they're
40 county citizens, as well. So I mean we're ensuring
41 accountability for every bit of these tax dollars. If we
42 pass, we're ensuring that accountability there. And I mean, I
43 tell you, it's a huge burden sitting up here trying to decide
44 this. I mean I've got people coming both ways. I think we've
45 got to do something for our roads. And I tell you, I'd feel
46 real comfortable, naturally if we're taking care of the
47 municipalities because I've got a lot of them in my district;
48 and number two, that we're ensuring that quality is where it
49 needs to be and those citizens is being taken care of. One,
50 because we know that we've inspected and we got the best price

1 we could working hand-in-hand with that municipality. I think
2 we could do it. I don't think that -- I know there would be
3 some ropes to jump through or hoops, but I mean, I think we
4 could do it.

5 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

6 TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Floyd and then we'll come
7 to you, Ms. Wilson. You got something to say on the
8 municipalities?

9 GRACIE FLOYD: No. I have something to go
10 back to her before she gets too far.

11 TOMMY DUNN: We're going to get back to
12 that. Let's stay on, while Mr. Hopkins is up here, on the
13 municipality things. Is that what you've got something on,
14 Ms. ---

15 GRACIE FLOYD: No, wait a minute; I still have
16 the floor.

17 TOMMY DUNN: Okay. Go ahead.

18 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Holt, Mr. Hopkins; okay, on
19 the municipality part of it, the part that got me mostly was
20 sometime ago we allocated some funds to Anderson City to fix
21 some roads. And I don't think that they got around to fixing
22 the road. And did we get -- I think we took the money back.
23 Am I correct on that? You don't remember either, huh?

24 HOLT HOPKINS: No. I kind of remember. I'm
25 trying to remember what actually occurred with the money.
26 They did do some work. They used some of the county money and
27 went to C-funds to get more to match it because C-fund
28 Committee is requiring a match now. But back in that time
29 they let a significant amount of money just sit there and not
30 do anything. And I do think you unallocated it.

31 GRACIE FLOYD: I did. I unallocated the
32 funds. But now that's something that if we get this money,
33 that's something that we're going to have to be cognizant of;
34 okay, because if they're not using the money then it can be
35 used somewhere else.

36 HOLT HOPKINS: We can use it out in the county
37 all day long.

38 GRACIE FLOYD: That's what I know. But if
39 it's not being used for the purpose for which it was given, we
40 need to have some stopgaps in there so that we can go back and
41 take the money back or do it for them or something to that
42 point. Okay. That's the point that I just wanted to bring
43 up. You know, getting money and using money is two different
44 things.

45 TOMMY DUNN: That's the reason I said when
46 we started just a few minutes ago, that's the reason the money
47 out to be -- they ought to not get no money. When the work's
48 done they give you the invoice, money right here. That'll
49 keep up and give you a list of everything. That would solve
50 all of that. Ms. Wilson.

1 CINDY WILSON: Thank you. District 7 has four
2 municipalities, so we're very aware of the problems here. The
3 C-fund formula sounds like it's the most fair. But -- and Mr.
4 Burns, you correct me -- for example, the town of Honea Path
5 has frequently bid out their own projects with their
6 appropriation from us to a better success than if we had done
7 it. And then the town of Williamston relies heavily on us, I
8 think, from time to time. So ---

9 TOMMY DUNN: If Honea Path can do it better
10 maybe we need to get them to bid ours out.

11 CINDY WILSON: Yeah. I thinking that before
12 -- you know, if this continued and it's passed, before it's
13 hammered down, it would be appropriate to sit down with our
14 municipalities and figure out what works the smoothest that
15 has the best oversight, checks and balances and the best rate
16 of success.

17 HOLT HOPKINS: Part of their success is their
18 location. We've been doing some of that the past few years.
19 We're -- one big contract county-wide is not the most
20 efficient price-wise. We've found that if we split the
21 northern part of the county up, we get better prices for
22 plants that are in that area. The Pendleton area or west, if
23 we split the county up a little bit we can get better prices
24 because they can get it closer to a plant. So we'll be doing
25 some of that through some of these municipal ---

26 CINDY WILSON: Well, and noting the priority
27 list that you've given us over the years, you've actually gone
28 to the extent of grouping several roads together for
29 consideration for that reason, and it has been helpful.

30 HOLT HOPKINS: You almost have to do the
31 subdivisions that way because if you pave one road in a
32 subdivision, we'll all get called if we don't do them all.

33 CINDY WILSON: So it would probably be wise to
34 have a meeting with the towns and set up some ideas of how it
35 would work best for the county and the towns.

36 TOMMY DUNN: I agree. The main thing,
37 though, we've got to look after and make sure the work is
38 being done. Like I said, I think no matter if they want to
39 bid it out or what not, that's what's working now. They
40 produce an invoice and we know the work is being done. But
41 still we need to have some checks and balances that it's being
42 done correctly.

43 HOLT HOPKINS: I can share -- using that
44 formula I can share based on four million dollars if that's
45 what we have here, just some samples. City of Anderson would
46 be the biggest one. Based on that formula it would be two
47 hundred and sixty-five thousand. Belton would be forty-nine,
48 almost fifty thousand. Honea Path would be forty-six
49 thousand. Iva would be about sixteen thousand. Pelzer would
50 be seventeen thousand. Pendleton, forty-eight thousand.

1 Starr, fifty-two hundred. West Pelzer about ten thousand and
2 Williamston about sixty (mic cutting out) based on that (mic
3 cutting out).

4 CRAIG WOOTEN: I've got a question, and I
5 don't want to over-complicate it. But like based on those
6 numbers you were talking about that could potentially go to
7 the cities and you can talk about whether or not -- you know,
8 how you're going to be able to ensure quality. But in an
9 attempt to get, let's say, like an exponential effect, for
10 example you gave two hundred and sixty thousand dollar
11 reference to the city of Anderson. Is it possible to say,
12 hey, we'll give you a hundred thousand with accountability to
13 pave, or if you match, we'll give you two sixty if you match
14 the two sixty? So that way we can leverage the cities to put
15 skin in the game to try to pave more roads.

16 HOLT HOPKINS: We've been doing that through
17 the C-funds for the last two years. They don't (inaudible).

18 CRAIG WOOTEN: They don't participate?

19 HOLT HOPKINS: They don't participate because
20 they don't have the money. It took the city of Anderson two
21 years to be able to get a ten percent match to go to C-fund to
22 get money from them. They're using this money to match C-
23 funds.

24 CRAIG WOOTEN: Okay.

25 TOMMY DUNN: Well, I understand perfectly
26 what you're saying what they're doing. I like Mr. Wooten's
27 idea. All it is (inaudible) they ain't wanting to do nothing,
28 as you know, ain't wanting to do nothing. They ain't wanting
29 to spend their money. It ain't that they ain't got it
30 (inaudible). Can't tell me what the city's (mic cutting out).
31 Having a hard time finding out (mic cutting out).

32 HOLT HOPKINS: But the town of Starr doesn't
33 have any money. I mean the smaller municipalities don't have
34 a way to generate money.

35 BRETT SANDERS: Mr. Hopkins, does the C-fund
36 have a max amount we're allowed to contribute within the max?

37 HOLT HOPKINS: There's a limit to how much
38 money they have available. But they're requiring everybody to
39 do a ten percent match.

40 BRETT SANDERS: Well, I didn't know, I mean, if
41 there was a road fee and there's four million a year, why
42 won't we put the four million toward the C-fund and have them
43 match to make it eight million (mic cutting out) and then that
44 committee could then ---

45 TOMMY DUNN: They don't have eight million
46 dollars.

47 HOLT HOPKINS: At the max they're going to
48 have in the next couple of years, C-funds won't have but about
49 three million that the locals can use. So that's the ---

50 TOMMY DUNN: It's not all the gas money, you

1 know what I'm talking about?

2 HOLT HOPKINS: Three million is about the
3 ceiling we could ask for because it's just not there. They
4 get a total of four million ---

5 BRETT SANDERS: (Mic cutting out) 1.5 million
6 and they match it, we can double (mic cutting out) if that was
7 possible. I don't know if we can be outside the box or ---

8 TOMMY DUNN: No. I think that's something
9 to think about.

10 BRETT SANDERS: Some of these cities or
11 municipalities (change of audio) don't have the money (mic
12 cutting out) forth thousand, fifty thousand you're talking
13 about (mic cutting out) put it in C-funds for them, get it
14 matched and doubled.

15 HOLT HOPKINS: And more likely that's the way
16 we would do it because I don't want to have to hire two more,
17 three more inspectors to handle municipal work. But the C-
18 funds is already set up that way. They've already got an
19 engineering firm and inspectors to check all the municipal
20 work. More than likely the town will take whatever money you
21 allocate. They won't touch it, but they'll say, okay, C-fund,
22 we have that amount of money to match. Will you give us ---

23 BRETT SANDERS: (Mic cutting out).

24 HOLT HOPKINS: Well, they could get ninety
25 percent more basically. They could take that fifty and turn
26 it into half a million dollars if they needed that much
27 paving. But they're using county road fee money to go match
28 for the gasoline tax. More than likely that's the way it's
29 going to turn out to. We'll let them -- let the C-fund
30 Committee handle municipal stuff. And in some cases (mic
31 cutting out) cases we'd tag it on to any contract Matt would
32 have.

33 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman?

34 TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Floyd's got ---

35 GRACIE FLOYD: Holt, I would like to have a
36 copy of the thing you were reading from off your phone about
37 how much it will cost do the road thing.

38 But the thing is, aren't we ahead -- haven't we put the
39 cart in front of the horse? Because we have to figure out if
40 we're going to get the money what ways are we going to do to
41 get the money to do these things.

42 HOLT HOPKINS: We've had some questions from
43 the towns, okay, what does it mean to us? And so we wanted
44 ---

45 GRACIE FLOYD: Well, but today's meeting we
46 need to start looking at if we're going to get it now. At
47 that meeting yesterday there were a lot of good ideas that the
48 other counties have done. You weren't at that meeting; were
49 you? I really wish you were. There were other things that
50 other counties have done to get the same thing that we have.

1 Instead of trying to reinvent the wheels, I think that we
2 ought to look at some of the things that they have done with
3 success. Some of the things that they did were not successful
4 and they were the ones who said it. They told us. And there
5 were some that was very successful that they're doing all
6 right.

7 But instead of trying to -- one thing I heard, if I'm
8 still correct about what we're supposed to be doing here, but
9 one thing I heard that I liked a lot was that they did a tax
10 -- I'm sorry -- they did a referendum and the people have a
11 chance to vote on whether or not they wanted to pay a penny
12 sales tax and with that penny it was enough money to keep them
13 going. They had a sunset clause on it, but it was enough
14 money to keep them going. There's a lot of people out there
15 that I've heard from and I'm sure some of you have heard from
16 that just don't like this twenty-five dollar tax thing. And I
17 think that we ought to at least give some credence to what
18 they are saying here. Let's do the one percent sales tax.
19 Let's let them vote on it. If they have a chance to vote on
20 it, they will be more liable to go with us and to help us
21 through this thing.

22 And another thing, on a one cents penny sales tax,
23 everybody pays; not only our citizens but also people who are
24 coming into our town who are -- to go to dinner or to shop or
25 just whatever. They pay a portion of this thing, too, rather
26 than tax, rather than tax me the twenty-five dollars, and
27 rather to have to leave some people off of it. I even heard
28 that the way the twenty-five dollars may not even give us
29 enough money. But with the penny sales tax that you will have
30 enough money to do it.

31 Now, another thing, too, this thing about this -- I hate
32 to bring it up and y'all may not even let me finish it, but
33 I'm going to say it. This thing about giving that man up in
34 Pendleton a fifty percent property tax reduction is not
35 helping us either because why do we give him a fifty cents --
36 fifty percent property tax reduction on building big expensive
37 houses and then come back to us and say, well, we need twenty-
38 five dollars for the road. It doesn't jive. But this is one
39 of the things I heard yesterday about the one cent -- and I'm
40 for that one. I'm for that one. Thank you.

41 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Please, this
42 meeting today we're not going to debate on a road fee or not.
43 That ain't what this meeting is about. That's coming. Today
44 is to putting something -- nuts and bolts to an ordinance
45 we're going to do. Now we'll discuss all day long ---

46 GRACIE FLOYD: Same thing.

47 TOMMY DUNN: --- (mic cutting out) different
48 options and stuff (inaudible). Just for reference on the one
49 cent sales tax, talk to Greenwood.

50 RAY GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman?

1 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Wooten and you're next.

2 CRAIG WOOTEN: Just real quick, is this a
3 possibility for like one of the municipalities to -- say they
4 know they're going to get two hundred and sixty thousand
5 dollars and they know they're going to get it four years in a
6 row because we have the sunset clause. They could get it
7 longer. Could they go ahead and borrow and do a million
8 dollars of work and just know that they've got that money to
9 pay that back over four years, on an effort to -- and
10 economies of scale to get a better contract, get more paved,
11 to do more? Would we allow that?

12 HOLT HOPKINS: That's really a county council
13 question if we would allow that or not. Some years we have
14 banked it, so to speak, allowed them to build it up. But that
15 has caused problems, as Ms. Floyd pointed out, to sit on it.
16 Now to borrow against it, I think that opens up a whole other
17 legal question as far as can we pledge that this money is
18 always going to be the same amount year after year into the
19 future. We normally look back and let them save their money
20 and use it for a big project. We've never let them borrow
21 against it because a new council could come in and change the
22 formula. That's what I'd be worried about.

23 CRAIG WOOTEN: Okay.

24 HOLT HOPKINS: It would almost be binding
25 future councils.

26 CRAIG WOOTEN: And they would need at least
27 ten or fifteen.

28 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Graham.

29 RAY GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, back to a couple
30 other comments that was mentioned earlier. One of my concerns
31 was municipalities not being able to -- if they don't spend
32 the money that we could go back and take the money back. I
33 was actually glad that you kind of had some numbers on you and
34 threw some of the projections as far as what some of these
35 municipalities would be receiving. And, you know, you look at
36 West Pelzer, Iva, Pelzer; I mean basically fifteen, eighteen
37 thousand dollars, ten thousand dollars, you look at those
38 numbers, they're not going to be able to do a whole lot in one
39 year with that type of money. So it's very likely that they
40 would have to bank that money for three years or four years to
41 truly be able to go in and do something.

42 So I would definitely -- I understand banking a lot of
43 money over a period of time and just not utilizing it, I
44 understand the thought process there. But when you're looking
45 at the figures we're looking at, I'd be very hesitate about
46 putting anything in there about us being able to take that
47 money back. I'm definitely for what Chairman Dunn had
48 mentioned about we're not necessarily writing a check and
49 here's your money this year. I'm good with us banking that
50 money and holding on to it. But I mean as the project comes

1 through and they present, say, okay, well we're looking at
2 doing this project. It's going to cost about forty thousand
3 dollars. It's going to take us two years to get that money.
4 And you know, definitely project that. But I mean, I don't
5 want to go into it with the mentality that the municipalities
6 are going to be able to -- we're going to allow ourselves to
7 take that money back because again I've got municipalities and
8 I've got to look after that standpoint, as well as what's best
9 for Anderson County and its citizens.

10 HOLT HOPKINS: Keep in mind, like Starr,
11 they're going to be hard pressed to find ---

12 RAY GRAHAM: To do anything.

13 HOLT HOPKINS: --- (mic cutting out). But in
14 realistic terms if they needed a forty thousand and they only
15 got ten thousand allocated, more than likely they're going to
16 piece it together and use this as a match to go to the C-funds
17 and get the rest (mic cutting out) of the money.

18 RAY GRAHAM: You're right. And that brings
19 up my other thing. I definitely wanted to commend Councilman
20 Sanders on the comment about the C-funds. I definitely think
21 we as council members need to really, really -- because if you
22 look at the -- I mean we get letters every year, this
23 municipality didn't even present a project. This municipality
24 here did not even present a project. This money here is
25 actually allowing them to present a project with their funding
26 on the ten percent match. We, as council, we've got to stress
27 the importance that they take that ten percent and add ninety
28 percent to it. That's the way they're going to get their
29 bangs for the bucks. That's the way we're going to actually
30 make a difference in the municipalities. I thought that was a
31 great idea and definitely glad that came out. Appreciate what
32 you guys do and I appreciate you bringing them numbers today.
33 That made me feel a lot better having that. Thank you.

34 CINDY WILSON: May I?

35 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Sanders is next and then
36 you, Ms. Wilson.

37 BRETT SANDERS: Mr. Hopkins?

38 HOLT HOPKINS: Yes, sir.

39 BRETT SANDERS: If we had money -- I may be off
40 base here; I don't know -- but (inaudible) actually know of we
41 wouldn't be needing (mic cutting out).

42 HOLT HOPKINS: We might, but looking at four
43 million dollars that we're not getting year after year because
44 of ---

45 BRETT SANDERS: Here's what -- and I don't know
46 if this is even possible, but I see the need for the road fee.
47 I know we're discussing things. My opinion is instead of -- I
48 would like to see the one mil go back into paving, one mil,
49 but also I'd like to see if there is some way we could form
50 some type of committee with the other counties, which we met

1 with the other counties yesterday, and come up with some plan
2 or idea over this four year sunset period to put pressure on
3 the state to start releasing money. That way we don't go in
4 as Anderson County attacking the state, but we can work as a
5 group. And I'd like to see, if this passed, that there is
6 some sort of committee or a group of counties working together
7 to go before the state and try to get them to release some of
8 the money that they actually owe us. And that's about all I
9 have. Thank you.

10 TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson.

11 CINDY WILSON: Well, there's a variable
12 situation from one town to the other, like Starr. The town of
13 Williamston, this year, appropriated two hundred thousand
14 dollars for their roads. They realized what a critical
15 situation they were in. And even the amount that District 7
16 was able to appropriate when there were funds was inadequate.
17 So I still think it's going to be very important to have a
18 list of priorities from each of the towns and have a sit-down
19 conference with them before anything is hammered out because
20 it may be that they all need to start budgeting a little bit
21 more. And it may be that some of them are already having
22 funds that are in their balance with the county that haven't
23 been spent. So we need to get a handle on that. Thank you.

24 TOMMY DUNN: Getting back to what this
25 meeting, one of the reason it was called today, what's the
26 thoughts of council about (mic cutting out) Mr. Davis brought
27 up.

28 CINDY WILSON: May I? Exemptions are going to
29 be so difficult to manage. In the district meetings that I've
30 had, the comment has come back, well, let's just lower the fee
31 and make it across the board. And that seems to be the
32 general trend of thought in District 7; is to lower the fee
33 and to make it across the board. Thank you.

34 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Graham.

35 RAY GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
36 Honestly, as far as exemptions that we put up here as far as
37 the sixty-four and older and the veterans, do we have a number
38 as far as what that's going to pull off the table?

39 RITA DAVIS: It's about forty-four thousand
40 vehicles. Currently that's sixty-four and over. And of
41 course, the other ones are, I'd say, thirty-one hundred,
42 thirty-five hundred total. It's not that many.

43 RAY GRAHAM: I think this here is a good
44 list as far as what to consider. My biggest fear on waiving
45 the different individuals, whatever, is if you go and do that
46 too much with too many different groups, at the end of the day
47 have we truly been able to make a difference if we move
48 forward with this. You know, I'm a hundred percent for, you
49 know, trying to help people out that needs it, but in the same
50 respect, if we're going to do this, we've got to be able to

1 show a difference at the of that four years.

2 We as council there's no question that my district is
3 going to hold me accountable for this. We've had meetings
4 throughout the county and talking to different members of my
5 community, they come into my business every single day bending
6 my ear about this. And normally, at the end of the day, they
7 all realize we've got an issue with our roads. We've got to
8 make some type of change on improving them.

9 My biggest fear is if we don't -- if we're not careful as
10 far as what all we add to this list, we've basically done
11 reduced it so much, are we still going to be able to make that
12 difference? So that would be my concern as far as adding too
13 many.

14 RITA DAVIS: I think there's a discussion,
15 we want to collect at least about four million. And the
16 twenty-five with these exemptions would do that, twenty with
17 no exemptions would do that.

18 RAY GRAHAM: I think we've good at where
19 we're at then because, I mean, I'd definitely love to see the
20 sixty-four and older, along with our veterans, to be able to
21 be recognized as far a -- I mean, this is just a small price
22 as a county that we can give back to them for their services.

23 TOMMY DUNN: My thing, too, (mic cutting
24 out) we're going to charge them (mic cutting out). Ms. Floyd.

25 GRACIE FLOYD: I think that it should be a
26 user's fee. If you have a car or a driver's license, I think
27 that you ought to be included. I don't like the twenty-five
28 dollars. I think that we ought to have no exemptions for
29 anybody.

30 Do you have any idea of how many people that we have
31 coming to Anderson every day to go to work and they're pulling
32 in the big dollars? They buy our food. They're up and down
33 the road. That's five days a week times whatever how many
34 days we have in the year. I think that we're missing out on a
35 large portion. I think that we've stuck on four million
36 dollars. I think we are not being visionaries. I think that
37 it ought to be a fee that -- a one percent fee on something
38 that everybody pays. We have done our veterans well. We can
39 do better on our veterans. But we have given them all types
40 of distinctions, as well as eliminations on things. But I
41 don't think that even they would mind a one percent. Somebody
42 told me something about it's a chosen fee if they put it on
43 restaurants as they have done some things, the one percent on
44 meals and stuff like they have done some things, then if you
45 don't want to pay it, you don't have to go eat there or
46 wherever. But it's happening everywhere except Anderson
47 County. I don't think that we really realize the flack that
48 we took because of the hospitality tax. We are not visionary
49 people. We only look for the short term. I think the long
50 term would be to include everyone, even the out-of-towners,

1 the Highway 85ers, anyone who comes into our town for
2 anything.

3 Now, I don't know what happened to Greenwood, I don't know
4 what happened to Greenwood. But I do know what's happening to
5 other places. That's how I feel about it.

6 TOMMY DUNN: We've got laws to go by, too.
7 (Mic cutting out).

8 GRACIE FLOYD: Excuse me. You only made a
9 comment on what I said. What about the other things you've
10 heard here tonight. Do you have any comments on what they
11 said?

12 TOMMY DUNN: I just said we're talking about
13 exemptions. I brought this up three times. We're trying to
14 stay on putting nuts and bolts. We're not -- you keep
15 bringing back up and wanting to argue about or debate a road
16 fee, not doing one. And that's coming. Today we're trying to
17 put an ordinance to give us something to debate.

18 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. But Mr. Chair, ---

19 TOMMY DUNN: Putting nuts and bolts in
20 something.

21 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair, the agenda item that
22 I was sent, it says discussion of road fee. It didn't give
23 any parameters about the discussion. It didn't say what you
24 could discuss or what you could not discuss. It said a
25 discussion on road fee. And I don't think I was arguing. I
26 think what I was trying to ---

27 TOMMY DUNN: I said debating. I changed my
28 mind and said debating.

29 GRACIE FLOYD: Well, you changed you mind and
30 said debate. Well, I'm changing mine and I'm saying argument.
31 But anyway, I don't think I was doing -- I think what I was
32 trying to do was put a -- was to point out some things that we
33 need to be aware of. And I was in my right because it is -- I
34 am discussing these things.

35 TOMMY DUNN: All right. (Mic cutting out).

36 GRACIE FLOYD: ... prerogative.

37 CINDY WILSON: Just for the sake of
38 consideration, I did ask Ms. Rita if she could figure out what
39 a fee in lieu of tax funds would total of what's in the
40 pipeline right now; not in the past. In the past, the school
41 districts, I've heard various seventy-five to eighty-five
42 percent of what they were getting, and the county about
43 fifteen percent. Most of that goes to the sewer debt service
44 and also other items. But if we took that stream of revenue
45 and looked at that and applied what comes forward -- what's
46 going forward, that may end of actually providing more than
47 what we could do slicing and dicing a road fee. But it would
48 be worth looking at.

49 TOMMY DUNN: I've asked him and that's
50 another thing, to come up to look at that. The biggest thing

1 on that is, to me, on the top end, you can't -- talking to Mr.
2 Harmon, you can't go back, you've got to go forward.

3 CINDY WILSON: Uh-huh (affirmative).

4 TOMMY DUNN: How are you going to do a
5 budget or know when you don't know -- we might do no fee in
6 lieu of agreements when things are bad or we may do twenty,
7 but how are you going to (mic cutting out) where that money
8 ---

9 CINDY WILSON: Well, it would be helpful to
10 see where we are right now.

11 TOMMY DUNN: Right now, as you know, fee in
12 lieu of thing, we get, off the top, fifteen percent. Then we
13 can add (mic cutting out) eighty-five percent that's left. So
14 our total on that is forty-three percent.

15 CINDY WILSON: I keep hearing so many
16 different numbers, I don't know what's actual ---

17 TOMMY DUNN: I asked Ms. Davis yesterday to
18 double check these numbers. Is that correct?

19 RITA DAVIS: That's close; yes, sir.

20 TOMMY DUNN: Then on top of that if you want
21 to cut (mic cutting out) on depreciation.

22 RITA DAVIS: That's right. The volatility
23 of that is just what's so uncertain and hard. Mr. Hogan
24 couldn't really budget on anything that's projected and that's
25 uncertain.

26 CINDY WILSON: Well, looking at the tables
27 that Mr. Nelson has given us of what the stream of revenue is
28 and the fee in lieu of taxes and then the multi-county parks
29 and the special credits for infrastructure, it looks like a
30 fairly regular amount of funding coming from that one company.
31 And we've got several in the works right now that will pay
32 fairly substantial. And we've got some more really big
33 sounding projects that may be coming, too. I think it's time
34 to at least look at that.

35 RITA DAVIS: I'll get with you.

36 CINDY WILSON: And whether we do it in
37 reference to replacing what would be a road fee with that
38 income or just going forward, because this county has millions
39 and millions of dollars worth of infrastructure needs. And
40 there's just no way to fund it. The schools, each district
41 came to each of us individually, I guess it was three or four
42 years ago, and asked if we were going to consider putting in a
43 one percent sales tax. And we were all reluctant to even
44 discuss it because of the recession and the hardship for
45 people in our county. They went ahead and did it, and what is
46 that bringing in for them now? Somewhere around a hundred
47 million; is that what I heard?

48 TOMMY DUNN: (Mic cutting out).

49 CINDY WILSON: So they already have a more
50 substantial revenue stream to cover those fees. But the

1 county still, we only make a fraction of what the schools do,
2 and I'm not begrudging them; that's a key part of our
3 infrastructure, to educate our population and to be able to
4 provide workers for industry and so forth, but there has to be
5 a balance there to provide what the county is expected to
6 provide. We've got police, we've got roads, we've got all of
7 that to tend to. So I'm going to request that we have those
8 numbers to look at ---

9 RITA DAVIS: Yes, ma'am.

10 CINDY WILSON: --- and start discussing what's
11 going to work best for our citizens. For example, when we had
12 the joint meeting Wednesday, Mr. Costner, who's the chairman
13 for Pickens County, explained that they have the twenty dollar
14 road fee and they're looking at having to go up because it's
15 inadequate. Well, if they have a twenty dollar road fee and
16 we're looking at anything from fifteen to twenty-five dollars
17 and it's inadequate over there and we're hearing it's
18 inadequate elsewhere, surely we need to look at other forms of
19 funding, as well. Thank you.

20 TOMMY DUNN: I agree.

21 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman.

22 TOMMY DUNN: Keep in mind, Pickens, Ms.
23 Davis has talked to their finance director who has told them
24 that theirs collects around two million, Ms. Davis, what
25 they're taking in ---

26 RITA DAVIS: I didn't really talk about the
27 amount -- yeah, I think you're right now that I think about
28 it.

29 TOMMY DUNN: Two million they're taking in
30 and they don't -- what they're basing it on is just like ours,
31 the roads -- to do all their roads, come back around, will
32 take twenty-five years. No, I'm sorry; fifty years. The
33 roads are only going to last twenty years, what they're got to
34 cycle. That's what they're basing theirs on. Anybody, and
35 we've said this from the get-go, anybody -- if it were to
36 pass, if we were to take in four million dollars, that's not
37 going to fix all our road problems. We know it's not. But
38 it's a start. What we've got now (mic cutting out) starting a
39 budgeting thing, what not. What Pickens is looking at and
40 talking to them in this, I don't think (mic cutting out)
41 people's talked about here today is a one percent sales tax.
42 In doing that you've got to get a list of things what you're
43 going to do. You've got to get them out there. And then the
44 citizens have got to vote on it. Greenwood just done that and
45 their projection was they're not going to be able to do
46 everything they said they was going to do. So you know you've
47 got a bunch of mad people now when they promised them they're
48 going to do this and they're not going to be able to do that
49 because they didn't take in the money they (mic cutting out).
50 You've got to keep those things in mind. You can only do what

1 (mic cutting out). You can't add what not to it. And as far
2 as life span, ten years, Mr. Burns? Eight years? Just on
3 that right there that needs to be looking at.

4 But on the fee in lieu of thing, that is something that
5 needs to be looked at. I think at first I brought up about
6 the fire departments, we talked about this. Mr. Davis brought
7 it up and I thought it was a good idea. I don't think we
8 should be -- a portion of that money we get, if a plant x is
9 going to come into the Creightonville area, Creightonville out
10 to be the one getting the majority of the money on the fire
11 thing because they're the ones toting the heavy lifting and
12 they're the ones got to do the fire service there, instead of
13 going straight to the fire commission. Ms. Floyd.

14 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Ms. Wilson, I'm
15 going to do something I don't think I have done in the twenty
16 years I have been on this board. I applaud you. Yeah, it's a
17 shock. I'm shocked. I applaud you. What you said was right
18 on the money about the school district, about what's happening
19 to our money, about why our roads are so bad, about why we
20 have to tack twenty-five dollars on everybody or pass a one
21 cent sales tax or whatever. But you left something out. You
22 talked about the one cents tax that we were afraid to do but
23 they did and got away with it, but you left out fee in lieu
24 of. Y'all have heard me embark on my latest tirade, if that's
25 a word, on fee in lieu of taxes, too much of it, it's too
26 much. But did you know that the local taxes or that the taxes
27 that we do get from fee in lieu, seventy percent of it goes to
28 the school district. I beg your pardon? Who said what? But
29 anyway, seventy percent of that money goes to the school
30 district, which is great, which is good. But in our time of
31 need, in the county's time of need, it appears as if we should
32 be negotiating with the school district to give us some funds
33 back so that we can accomplish what we need to accomplish
34 here, and that's roads. Ms. Wilson, did you bring up that
35 point? Okay, I'm sorry. I apologize, I didn't -- I was so
36 excited about what you were saying I probably didn't hear it,
37 but I apologize. But anyway, that's part of our problem.
38 That's part of the problem here. And I can be quoted on that.

39 TOMMY DUNN: Does anybody here know, just
40 general property tax, pay your bills, your property tax, say
41 your property is one hundred dollars; regular property tax
42 (mic cutting out). So it's no different than fee in lieu of.
43 (Mic cutting out) fee in lieu of, a little bit of something is
44 better than a whole lot of nothing. I can go down -- prime
45 example down there at First Quality. There wouldn't be no fee
46 in lieu of, as the man said at the meeting Wednesday, Chairman
47 of Greenville County, about how it operates. Unfortunately
48 Ms. Wilson has harped on for years and years and years,
49 corporate tax is ten percent, over ten and a half percent in
50 Anderson County -- I mean not in Anderson; in the state of

1 South Carolina. We've got no way under the sun to compete
2 with nobody. We have to do incentives. Down there where
3 First Quality is, that was going to be an abandoned warehouse.
4 What would they pay, Mr. Burns?

5 RUSTY BURNS: If they were going to take an
6 abandoned warehouse to agriculture (mic not on).

7 TOMMY DUNN: (Mic cutting out). Just a
8 rough guess.

9 RITA DAVIS: (Not at mic).

10 TOMMY DUNN: No, I'm talking about First
11 Quality taxes, what they've paid since they've been in
12 Anderson.

13 RITA DAVIS: (Not at mic).

14 TOMMY DUNN: Been in the millions; right?

15 RUSTY BURNS: Yes, in the addition to the
16 people who work there who ---

17 TOMMY DUNN: I'm fixing to talk about that.
18 The state's got a formula, and Senator Gambrell said at the
19 meeting Wednesday, anything commerce does, how much that --
20 how much it pays back and it pays for itself and more in jobs
21 creation and people buying stuff and everything.

22 Everybody has got their opinion about things and I've got
23 mine. And I don't think stirring up fee in lieu of, what was
24 done -- it started back with Michelin in Sandy Springs
25 wouldn't be here in Anderson today (mic cutting out) if it
26 wasn't for fee in lieu of.

27 CINDY WILSON: May I make a comment?

28 TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson.

29 CINDY WILSON: I helped plant the pine trees
30 down on the BASF property that got harvested ahead of First
31 Quality going in there. And yes, they were paying I think
32 about four hundred and fifty thousand a year for the warehouse
33 and converting it back to timberland would have been two
34 dollars an acre. And if you look at all the executive
35 summaries that Mr. Nelson gives to us on each request for fee
36 in lieu of taxes, invariably the difference between what the
37 property is paying currently as opposed to what it's paying in
38 the change in use, that is substantial. The only fly in the
39 ointment here is now that the schools have the one percent, we
40 do need to re-examine the fee in lieu of tax structure so that
41 the county can provide the infrastructure that we're expected
42 to provide.

43 TOMMY DUNN: I agree.

44 CINDY WILSON: Thank you.

45 RAY GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman.

46 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Graham.

47 RAY GRAHAM: A few separate things. You
48 know, everybody is talking about fee in lieu, which to me is
49 completely off base when it comes to the road fee, which is
50 what we should be talking about with this meeting. But one

1 thing I'm going to bring up about that, yeah, we went from
2 three and a half percent in July to two point eight percent in
3 August on unemployment, which is just absolutely outstanding.
4 I commend economic development and our county employees on
5 what they've done with this. And you know, that's great,
6 that's really great, unless you're in that two point eight
7 percent. If you're in that two point eight percent, man, you
8 appreciate that fee in lieu. You appreciate them companies
9 coming in here and giving our people jobs that turns around
10 and puts money back into the coffers in Anderson County to
11 help continue support us in moving forward.

12 With that being said, back on the road fee, my only other
13 commend on that, if we pass this, if we move forward with
14 this, back on the deal as far as the one mil, you know, in
15 talking to my district, people in my community, my concern
16 with giving that one mil back, on a hundred thousand dollar
17 home, what is that magic number? Four dollars? Let me run
18 out here and smack my citizens in the face and tell them
19 they're going to pay twenty-five dollars a car, but I'm going
20 to give them four dollars back. To me that is very poor
21 management on our part. If we're going to suck it up and
22 we're going to vote for this, my point on that would be to
23 keep that one mil because I'll be darn if I want to give a mil
24 back and then have to raise taxes next year for something
25 else. Keep that mil, put it toward the roads, correct our
26 problem that we have built ourselves over the past several
27 years on not being able to fund these roads, get them in
28 proper condition and move forward. That four dollars is not
29 going to benefit no family in Anderson County. I mean it's
30 just that simple. If we're going to tell them we're going to
31 charge you twenty-five dollars a car, but we're going to give
32 you four dollars back, that's very poor management on our
33 part.

34 That's strictly my opinion. I'm sure everybody has one as
35 far as on council, but if we move forward I would definitely
36 say keep that money. If we want to do anything, either keep
37 it toward the general fund or put it toward the roads. But I
38 do not think we need to try to give that back.

39 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman.

40 TOMMY DUNN: I have to agree with Mr.
41 Graham. I've thought about this (mic cutting out). Worst
42 thing you can do is give it and next year you have to take it
43 back. I'd say keep it in the general fund. You can always
44 slide it over and put it in (mic cutting out) asphalt if we
45 need it. Ms. Floyd.

46 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay, good. I'd like to say
47 something here. Mr. Graham, I know that your passion is that
48 one mil thing you were just talking about. And I have no
49 problems with your passion. I have no problems whatsoever.
50 My passion is fee in lieu. Okay. They're doing all these

1 great things for Anderson County. They're coming in here,
2 they're building these buildings, they're bringing in fourteen
3 billion dollars here and fifteen billion there. Where's the
4 money? Have you seen any of the money? If they're doing so
5 well and helping us so much, why are we over here talking
6 about raising taxes on people? Why did the school district
7 have to go and float a one percent tax? Why is it we can't
8 have the recreational facilities here in Anderson that we
9 deserve? Why is it that I can't get a park built over on
10 Broadway Lake? Why do we have seventy-seven burnt houses down
11 here? Why is Holt and Hogan over there scratching for money
12 to build these roads and stuff?

13 People, look at the forest as well as the trees. Or maybe
14 I should say it the other way, look at the trees as well as
15 the forest. Yes, they're bringing in jobs, but they're
16 bringing in high quality jobs on top of that. But do you
17 realize that a lot of the people who are going to these
18 companies for jobs already had jobs working in the other
19 facility because they only pick the best. Do you realize
20 there are some people who didn't have any jobs are still --
21 they have jobs now but they're still low income people? Do
22 you realize that? All right. We're so fascinated with
23 ourselves about how many companies we're bringing in here and
24 who's coming, that we're not really looking at the big
25 picture. Come. Our doors are wide open. But bring some
26 money when you come. Bring some money that we can put in our
27 coffers for people who need it. Bring some money so that we
28 can take care of our roads and our other situations that we
29 have. Don't tell me about oh, how wonderful, we couldn't have
30 gotten this. Sometimes I wonder if it had been better we had
31 just taken our time and sold what we had to offer rather than
32 make up stuff for them. We will give you a hundred acres of
33 land and we will put in the water for you and we will give you
34 -- we'll build a new school down the street for you if you'll
35 just come and pay some of these people -- pay nineteen people
36 fifteen dollars an hour. No, I don't buy it. And this is my
37 passion. And if you have a problem with it, I wish that you
38 would -- I wish that you would be as nice and kind as I am
39 about your passion instead of trying to tear mine down,
40 because you won't.

41 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Sanders.

42 BRETT SANDERS: I agree wholeheartedly with
43 Councilman Graham (mic cutting out) one mil.

44 TOMMY DUNN: I want everybody just to keep
45 in mind (mic cutting out) talk about this in the town hall
46 meetings. I think we've had fourteen or fifteen of them and
47 I've been to every one of them.

48 GRACIE FLOYD: We had thirty at mine.

49 TOMMY DUNN: Town hall meetings, going to
50 them, we've had fourteen or fifteen throughout the county.

1 I've been to every one of them. Been listening to people and
2 talking to them. Keep in mind, you know, talking about these
3 companies and all coming in, where's the money gone? We've
4 just done pay raises. (Mic cutting out) losing our employees,
5 trying to hold them (mic cutting out) having been getting.
6 We've had to put a roof over there on the new courthouse. Had
7 to put one on the civic center. Had to put an air
8 conditioning unit and chiller in the new courthouse. Those
9 three things alone was over three million dollars. It comes
10 up we have a million dollars to spend on this building right
11 here. Roads have been neglected for, I don't know, fifteen,
12 twenty years. Ten years before I got on council. Kicking it
13 down the road, kicking it down the road, and we ain't going to
14 be no better than them other council members if we don't try
15 to get something -- that's what it's all about. I said
16 before, I'm undecided and want to talk, but if we don't do
17 something, don't plan about the roads, we can sit here and
18 say, well, the money's there, find it, open budget. Go
19 through this thing, go through the budget workshop and go
20 through it. It ain't there, no four million dollars, to fix
21 the roads.

22 If nobody's got something else on this, I think we've got
23 something to work with now, for the staff to put together.
24 You got anything else, Ms. Davis?

25 RITA DAVIS: Just for your time and
26 comments. I appreciate it.

27 GRACIE FLOYD: Excuse me. I never did to get
28 to ask my question.

29 TOMMY DUNN: Go ahead.

30 GRACIE FLOYD: Ms. Davis, go back to the -- I
31 have a mouthful of food now. Go back to the second power
32 point that you had.

33 RITA DAVIS: The second slide, ma'am? Is
34 that one it?

35 GRACIE FLOYD: Go to the third.

36 RITA DAVIS: That one?

37 GRACIE FLOYD: Third.

38 RITA DAVIS: Which one? That one right
39 there with the exemptions, ma'am?

40 GRACIE FLOYD: Uh-uh (negative). The next
41 one. Right there. I didn't understand. There was a
42 discussion of reducing the general fund by one mil if the road
43 fee was passed.

44 RITA DAVIS: Yes, ma'am.

45 GRACIE FLOYD: Ms. Davis, was this the one mil
46 that Ray Graham was just talking about?

47 RITA DAVIS: Yes, ma'am.

48 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay.

49 RITA DAVIS: He was addressing his thoughts
50 on this slide; yes, ma'am.

1 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Well, I didn't know what
2 it was. He wasn't jumped when he mentioned that, and I didn't
3 understand it because I didn't understand this thing here that
4 you were talking about. I tried to ask earlier. But would
5 you explain that again, please? There was discussion of --
6 there was discussions where?

7 RITA DAVIS: At town hall meetings, at his
8 town hall meeting.

9 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. That wasn't discussed at
10 mine. Why would we want to -- I know we're not going to do
11 this and this is up for discussion, but why would we reduce
12 the general fund by one mil if the road fee was passed?

13 RITA DAVIS: Initial discussion was to give
14 the taxpayers a break, to give them some money back. And like
15 Mr. Graham was saying that would be four dollars on a hundred
16 thousand dollar house. You're asking them to pay potentially
17 twenty, twenty-five, and only giving them four back.

18 GRACIE FLOYD: Four dollars?

19 RITA DAVIS: Yes, ma'am.

20 GRACIE FLOYD: Four dollars back; okay, good.
21 Now I understand what he was talking about. If I was allowed
22 to ask that question earlier, I wouldn't have been so
23 confused. But yeah, I agree with him, as well.

24 RITA DAVIS: Okay.

25 GRACIE FLOYD: I'm not the sharpest knife in
26 the drawer, but I sure as hell am not the dumbest.

27 TOMMY DUNN: We're going to move this. I
28 think we've got something for staff to put together.

29 Now we'll have citizens comments. You've got three
30 minutes to address the chair.

31 LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman, we have one
32 citizen signed up; Elizabeth Fant.

33 ELIZABETH FANT: Elizabeth Fant, District 3.
34 This whole thing is wearing me out.

35 GRACIE FLOYD: Me, too.

36 ELIZABETH FANT: I thought that according to the
37 sign-in sheet and so forth that this was discussion on road
38 fee. I had the same idea as Ms. Floyd, to me discussion of a
39 road fee is not a done deal. The chairman just a minute ago
40 said we're going to have a road fee. Why are we having a
41 meeting on a discussion on a road fee if it's already a done
42 deal? I was about to agree with the road fee thing until the
43 other night when Ms. Floyd had her thing and then I saw really
44 what a hardship it's going to present. And I see other things
45 that came up out of that meeting that I hadn't really noticed,
46 as well.

47 Two things that came up was the county's broke. The
48 county doesn't have but two months' worth of reserve. If the
49 county is broke, broken, then we need to be looking at some
50 things about management and what we're spending money on and

1 so forth because if we're that bad off, we're bad off.

2 The second thing was, people kept saying, oh, well, this
3 money is going to come in and then it's going to go to other
4 things. I heard it was not going to go to other things, but
5 then I also heard in the power point presentation, well, yeah,
6 we could take the money from roads and bridges and put it in
7 the asphalt. That's taking money from somewhere else. And
8 roads and bridges needs that money to do grass cutting, signs,
9 ditches, all the things that it does.

10 The third thing I'd like to mention is a city resident
11 pays double taxes. When they pay their tax bill, they pay a
12 city tax and they pay a county tax, which is a lot more than
13 what a county tax person. Are we saying that they're only
14 going to get what's for their city portion but they don't get
15 enough for county portion, but they're paying twice as much
16 tax? That extra mil, if we put it back into the county, Mr.
17 Graham, I agree that it should probably stay there. But is it
18 going to get for roads or is it just going to go to the
19 general fund? Again, I don't see any guarantee that this
20 paving money is not going to go to parking lots at the civic
21 center, tennis courts, parking lots for fire departments and
22 so forth. And if you all have fixed that roof on the
23 courthouse across the street, somebody needs to go do another
24 inspection. When I travel on Murray Avenue, I can see at
25 least ten tiles that are missing. I vote for a one cent sales
26 tax.

27 LEON HARMON: Time, Mr. Chairman.

28 ELIZABETH FANT: And I have been taking pictures
29 of all the things on roads and I believe I could do a
30 presentation that could prove that we need the one cent sales
31 tax.

32 TOMMY DUNN: For the record, (mic cutting
33 out) I never said that no -- it's a done deal. What this is
34 about, if they -- you've got to have an ordinance before we
35 vote with something in it. That's what this is about, to have
36 something another.

37 Ms. Fant, you can shake your head, and I'm going to tell
38 you what, it's unbelievable you get up and make these
39 statements, and I really don't understand where it's coming
40 from. Is it stemming back because council and the
41 administrator wouldn't give you a job that you asked for and
42 give you a car that you asked for and a salary? This is mind
43 boggling to me.

44 Meeting will be closed.

45

46

(MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:28 P.M.)