



MINUTES

APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2024 – 10:30 A.M.
COUNCIL BOARD ROOM WITH ZOOM OPTION
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

Members Present:

Sen. Thomas Alexander, Rick Bradley, Bob Briggs, Grady Butler, David Cauthen, Dennis Claramunt, Roel Cruz, Joe Dill, Ed Elliott, Ensley Feemster, Mike Forrester, Vince Gaulin, Britt Gillespie, Don Godbey, Robert Halfacre, Jane Hall, Mickey Haney, Laura Hinty, Henry Jolly, Butch Kirvin, Ruth Littlejohn, Alan Mitchell, Charles Pinson, Brian Ramey, E Riley, Terence Roberts, Bob Walker, Cindy Wilson

Guests Present:

Ryan Collins, Daniel Gambrell, Dr. Joey Von Nessen

Staff Present:

Chip Bentley, Trey Eubanks, Brooke Ferguson, Jill Francisco, Jeff Guilbault, Amanda Mlinar, Steve Pelissier, Tim Womack, Arlene Young, Don Zimmer

Call to Order

Secretary Don Godbey called the meeting to order. Mr. Riley offered the invocation. Mr. Pelissier introduced a new board member, Vince Gaulin, of Pendleton, who was appointed by the Anderson County Municipal Association. Mr. Pelissier introduced the speakers and other guests in attendance. Mr. Godbey asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 23, 2024, board meeting. Mr. Ramey made a motion to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Elliott. The motion was unanimously approved. The financial statement was accepted as information.

Palmetto State Housing Study

Mr. Godbey introduced Research Economist, Dr. Joey Von Nessen, from the USC Darla Moore School of Business. Dr. Von Nessen reported on the Palmetto State Housing Study and the economic outlook for 2024. He gave reasons for an imbalance of supply and demand in housing stating that high population growth along with a long period of underbuilding was exacerbated by increased interest rates. He explained that housing has just begun to see growth. However, inventory challenges are still significant, so prices are still high. Dr. Von Nessen discussed the resilience of the economy and explained that it is in the process of readjustment. He stated that the positive aspects of the economy are steady consumer spending, stabilizing household financial resources, and a healthy labor market. He noted that inflation and rising interest rates have negatively affected purchasing power. He gave his opinion on the probability of a recession.

Dementia Care Training

Mr. Godbey asked Amanda Mlinar, ACOG Family Caregiver Support Program Supervisor, to brief the board on the Dementia Care Training offered by the Family Caregiver Program. Ms. Mlinar explained that Dorinne Dubois, who is specially trained in dementia care education, has implemented an education and outreach component in the program. Ms. Dubois provides training for individual caregivers as well as groups who encounter someone living with dementia. Ms. Mlinar encouraged board members to take information back to their towns to share with police, firefighters, EMS, and other professionals.

Legislative Report

Mr. Godbey called on Mrs. Brooke Ferguson, Economic Development Director, to present the Legislative Report. She discussed the budget and reviewed items of interest including \$1 million of funding for South Carolina COGS. She highlighted the bill creating the Executive Office of Health and Policy. The Department of Aging would be incorporated into this new office. The conference report on the constitutional carry bill was adopted by the House and the Senate and signed by the Governor. The Crossover Deadline is April 10 this year.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Godbey called on Mr. Pelissier to give the Executive Director's report. Mr. Pelissier reminded the elected officials that March 31st is the deadline to file the required Ethics Statement. He informed board members that ACOG committee appointments will be made in April. He asked that any board member who wishes to change committees, please let him or Chairman Collins know. Mr. Pelissier will contact new board members to discuss their committee preferences.



The next board meeting will be held on April 26, 2024, at 10:30 AM in the ACOG Board Room. Members may also attend through Zoom.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.

Don Godbey, Secretary

The South Carolina Appalachian Council of Governments has complied with the Freedom of Information Act in scheduling and conducting this meeting.

