

Special  
Council Meeting Minutes  
For  
February 25, 2008  
Branchville Town Hall  
7:00 P.M.

**PRESENT**

Mayor Tim Cooner  
Mayor Pro Tem Glenn Miller  
Councilwoman Georgianna Harmon  
Councilwoman Amy Bryant  
Councilman Charles Dukes  
Councilman Chris Ott

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Rhonda Thompson Town Clerk

**GUESTS**

Carolyn Campbell	Olivia Hughes	Joe Walters	Kirk Nivens
Betty Skolasky	Debra Perugini	David Brandyburg	JoAnn Woodrum
Richard Gregory	"Chip" Senn	Barrett Jeffcoat	Brandon Bone
Gidget Vickers	Beverly Berry	Lyle Davis	Lemond Thomas
Dan Campbell	Ralph Edwards		

Mayor Cooner called the meeting to order and asked that all stand for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

Mayor Cooner welcomed everyone out tonight and mentioned there was a room full of people. Mayor Cooner then recognized David Brandyburg and JoAnn Woodrum with the SCDOT, Mr. Chip Senn and his crew with Senn Construction and Mr. Kirk Nivens with Nivens & Nivens.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Cooner said this meeting was called because of the safety concerns that the SCDOT had regarding the open ditch. Mayor Cooner said he would ask Mr. Kirk Nivens to bring Council up to date on the project. Mr. Nivens started by saying that the project has been in planning for about five years, and flooding was taken into consideration. Mr. Nivens went on to say that the DOT Enhancement project is limited to a maximum of \$250,000.00 and its purpose is beautification and not drainage. Available SCDOT funds would not allow construction of drainage improvements necessary for the project and does allow for construction of the beautification elements. The lack of these available funds for the project delayed initiation of construction. SC Commerce kindly provided a matching grant for the project to construct the beautification elements but specifically said their funds were not to be used for drainage work. The drainage ditch workflow will increase by approximately 2% of its current flow. Mr. Nivens also stated the drainage

system would function properly if built as designed. Engineering calculations proving how the design would function was submitted to the hydraulic engineering department of SCDOT and were approved. Both the Town and the County have and will continue to cooperate with SCDOT when funds are available for the purpose. Mr. Nivens continued on to say that the Town has stopped work on the project after signing the contract with the Contractor and giving the Contractor the notice to proceed. This would make the Town liable for all costs the Contractor has incurred for the job which is currently estimated to be approximately \$150,000. None of which will be reimbursable from either of the grants. The expenses that the Contractor has incurred will be solely the Town's to pay.

Mayor Pro Tem Miller then expresses his opinion of the ditch and said it was done in poor planning. Mayor Pro Tem Miller asked who put up the barricades and Mr. Brandyburg with the SCDOT said the Town of Branchville put them up, and Mayor Cooner said at SCDOT's request.

Ms. JoAnn Woodrum with the SCDOT spoke to say that the DOT is in agreement that the ditch is not safe or acceptable the way it sits right now.

Mayor Cooner said that the Town has taken the initiative to place barricades at the ditch and will also place barrels there. Ms. JoAnn Woodrum informed the Mayor that the stripes on the barricaded need to point towards the flow of the traffic not towards the ditch.

Councilman Ott motioned to let to Contractor proceed with the construction of the Streetscape and Councilwoman Bryant seconded. Mayor Pro Tem Miller abstained from voting.

Mayor Cooner spoke briefly regarding the parking being changed to angle parking.

Mayor Cooner asked for a motion to adjourn and Councilman Dukes motioned and Councilwoman Bryant seconded.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rhonda Thompson  
Town Clerk