

MICHAEL T. ROSE
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SENATE DISTRICT 38P



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Robert J. St. Onge, Jr.
Secretary, South Carolina Department of Transportation
955 Park Street
P.O. Box 191
Columbia, SC 29202-0191

November 10, 2011

RE: Town of Lincolnville

Dear Mr. Onge:

I am writing to request documents and other information related to a grant awarded by SCDOT to the Town of Lincolnville in 2008 for the installation of sidewalks on Lincoln Avenue, known as Phase III Sidewalk Enhancement Grant. My interest is to help the Town if at all possible. I am told by the Mayor of Lincolnville that he originally was dealing with Mike Covington at SCDOT.

Mayor Aiken says that at some point the grant was converted to another "type" of grant, and that the staff members changed. I am interested in, among other things, obtaining all records as to why there was a switch in the type of grant or the type of grant administration.

Mayor Aiken told me that the contractor who got the bid for the project, Swamp Fox, entered into a contract with the Town, and was told about the grant with SCDOT. The Mayor explained to me that they were aware of how their invoices would be paid: 80% by DOT and 20% by the Town.

It is my understanding that during 2008 and part of 2009, things were going smoothly, but that at some point DOT said that it had to stop the project, due to a Federal directive of some sort. The Mayor explains that he believes that the Federal directive stopped these kinds of grants state-wide, in order to audit the activity and payments. I would like to know the details of this matter, please.

Due to the termination of the project, the contractor, Swamp Fox, had to stop work, and is apparently claiming from the Town the remaining amount due under the contract, which is claimed to be around \$78,000. I am told that the contractor left unused materials onsite. The Mayor believes that someone at SCDOT ran an estimate as to the amount of work that would be left to do on this project, and that the estimate was around \$47,000.

There was apparently another issue that came up, which involved the Town's use of the funds to in turn pay its 20%. The Mayor explained to me that this method of payment was allowed under the first type of grant with the original people, but not later in the process.

I have spoken with the Town's attorney, who says that her office requested all documents related to this grant, via a FOIA request, and only received 2010 documents. She is in active litigation with the contractor over the amount owed on the contract.

I would like to have made available to me the following documents:

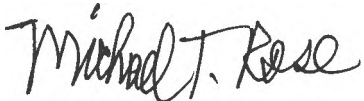
1. A copy of the entire file(s) related to all of Lincolnville's Phase III activity, under the original contract and under the new contract;
2. All documents/letters/memos/emails,etc. related to a Federal directive to monitor enhancement grants, which may have led to the termination of this grant.

Please make this information available as soon as possible, by November 25th if that is feasible.

In addition, please tell me the name and contact information regarding with whom I may meet at DOT to discuss this matter.

Thanks very much.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael T. Rose". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael T. Rose
Senator