Pickens committee to take up leftover items

Six Mile library branch among issues for consideration

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PICKENS — Members of Pickens County Council's administration and finance committee will roll up their sleeves today and tackle a formidable agenda of items that have been referred to the committee but have yet to be acted on.

County Administrator Chappell Hurst said committee members G. Neil Smith, Jennifer Willis and Sam Wyche will meet at 10 a.m. to deal with 16 items that must either be voted on and returned to full council or carried over to 2010. Taking no action on an item would mean that item's death in committee, Hurst said.

In some cases, that may be the best fate for an agenda item. One such issue, a request to relocate the magistrates in Easley, has been "pretty much" resolved, Hurst said.

"The real problem there was that the roof was leaking in the present facility," he said. "We worked with the city of Easley and got it repaired, so that problem has basically gone away now."

Work on other items, such as work on the county's personnel handbook, hasn't been completed.

"We aren't ready to talk about it," he said. Staff has "been working on developing a new policy, and we've got most of it put together," Hurst said. "But we won't resolve that particular issue (Thursday). That's something we'll have to talk about later."

Another hot-button issue on tomorrow's agenda is the push to open a library branch in Six Mile. However, Hurst said, no matter how appealing a project might be, the council will also consider the economic realities of the day.

"A lot of these are things you would like to do in the future, but the money constraints are going to be the overriding issue at this time," he said. "So I think that's what's going to determine where a lot of these things end up."

Hurst said the heavy committee agenda isn't a result of Councilman Tom Ponder's concern, which he aired at the November council meeting, that some items stay before committees for inordinate periods of time.

"We're basically trying to clean up some things," Hurst said.