

2012/25

**RESOLUTION**  
**Policy Statement 15**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE BEAUFORT COUNTY POLICY FOR  
WORKING ON PRIVATE PROPERTY.**

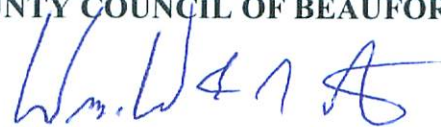
**WHEREAS**, Beaufort County employees shall not enter private property for the purpose of correcting drainage problems, unless the Engineering Department, the Stormwater Management Utility, or the Public Works Department can conclusively determine that actions of Beaufort County or another government entity created the problem. County employees shall obtain permission from the private property owner, in the form of formal written easements or rights-of-way, before entering the private property to correct problems caused by the actions of Beaufort County or other government entities. The County Administrator may recommend an exception to this policy based upon the health and welfare of the residents of the private property in question or their neighbors, and refer his recommendation to the Public Facilities Committee for its review and recommendation to the Council.

**WHEREAS**, This policy encourages Beaufort County employees to secure easements or rights-of-way to traverse property with ditches and other infrastructure so as to move water in the best interest of the Beaufort County Stormwater Management Program. Before any drainage work on private property may be done without properly executed easements or rights-of-way obtained in accordance with paragraph 2 above, the County Administrator must approve the work, after appropriate recommendation(s) from the Engineering and/or Public Works Departments.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Beaufort County Council does approve the Policy for Working on Private Property.

Adopted this 10<sup>th</sup> day of September 2012.

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY**

By: 

Wm. Weston J. Newton, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Suzanne M. Rainey, Clerk to Council

Amending Policy Statement #15, adopted July 28, 2003.

## RESOLUTION

### **A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE BEAUFORT COUNTY POLICY FOR WORKING ON PRIVATE PROPERTY.**

**WHEREAS**, Beaufort County Council has designated certain public roads that are maintained by the County's Public Works Department. (Other "public roads" within the County are designated and maintained by the Federal or State governments). All public roads are designated and maintained as public roads by the County Public Works Department; all other roads are private roads. Beaufort County employees shall not enter private property for the purpose of repairing or improving non-public roads, except as provided hereunder.

- (A) Citizens who have not asked for their roads to be converted from private road(s) to a public road(s) may apply to the County Administrator (County Engineer) by petition to have their road(s) classified as "County maintained public roads". Such roads shall not be maintained until the appropriate rights-of-way or easement are donated to the County, and the property owner agrees the road(s) will be designated a "public road(s)" and the petition has been accepted.
- (B) It is the policy of Beaufort County that it will not maintain "private driveways" as defined herein. A "private driveway" is defined as any vehicular pathway where ownership of the land abutting both sides of such pathway is the same and the pathway serves less than six (6) discrete dwelling units, and the property owners have not granted either an easement or a right-of-way to the County, as appropriate and the road is not designated as a public road.
- (C) Exceptions to this policy may be granted, on a case-by-case basis, by a majority vote of County Council upon the recommendation of the County Administrator. Exceptions to this policy will be considered: upon receipt of a petition in writing from all the property owner(s) of a "private driveway" that serves five (5) or more discrete dwelling units, and the property owner(s) agreement to execute either an easement or a right-of-way (or assignment thereof) to the County as appropriate, and accept a public road designation. The County Administrator may recommend an exception to this policy based upon medical needs of occupants of private dwelling units abutting "private driveways", and refer his recommendation to the Public Services Committee for its review and recommendation to Council.

**WHEREAS**, Beaufort County employees shall not enter private property for the purpose of correcting drainage problems, unless the Engineering Department, the Stormwater Management Utility, or the Public Works Department can conclusively determine that actions of Beaufort County or another government entity created the problem. County employees shall obtain permission from the private property owner, preferably in the form of formal written easements or rights-of-way, before entering the private property to correct problems caused by the actions of Beaufort County or other government entities. The County Administrator may recommend an exception to this policy based upon the health and welfare of the residents of the

private property in question or their neighbors, and refer his recommendation to the Public Services Committee for its review and recommendation to the Council.

**WHEREAS,** This policy encourages Beaufort County employees to secure easements or rights-of-way to traverse property with ditches and other infrastructure so as to move water in the best interest of the Beaufort County Stormwater Management Program. Before any drainage work on private property may be done without properly executed easements or rights-of-way obtained in accordance with paragraph 2 above, the County Administrator must approve the work, after appropriate recommendation(s) from the Engineering and/or Public Works Departments.

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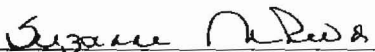
Adopted this 28<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2003.

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY**

By: 

Wm. Weston J. Newton, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Suzanne M. Rainey, Clerk to Council