

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING & CALLED MEETING HELD

MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2015 AT 4:30 P.M.

The White County Board of Commissioners held a Budget Public Hearing & Called Meeting on Monday, June 15, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the White County Administration Building. Present at the meeting were: Chairman Travis Turner, Commissioner Lyn Holcomb, Commissioner Edwin Nix, Commissioner Craig Bryant, County Manager Michael Melton, County Attorney Bill House, Finance Director Vicki Mays, and County Clerk Shanda Murphy. Commissioner Terry Goodger was not in attendance due to him traveling out of state.

Chairman Turner called the meeting to order.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Rev. Dan Landen of Mossy Creek United Methodist Church provided the invocation.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Nix there was a unanimous vote to adopt the minutes of the Called Meeting held May 18, 2015 included Executive Session Minutes.

Mr. Melton made the presentation for the proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Budget (see attached presentation) which contained a balanced general fund budget of \$15,867,394.00.

Chairman Turner asked that the record reflect that the White County Health Department had a current fund balance of \$297,000.00. He stated that in consideration for the Fiscal Year 2017 budget, it would be a possibility for a portion of this fund balance to be used to lower the county's contribution to public health.

Chairman Turner opened the floor for public comment concerning the proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Budget.

Mr. Shannon Hamilton, 3012 Simpson Park Road Gainesville, GA: Mr. Hamilton asked for an explanation on the basis for determining the amount of SPLOST funds designated for the roads and bridges in White County. Commissioner Bryant stated that the Board looks at the road priorities identified and the revenues collected by the County - then the Board determines the amount which can be spent of road projects.

Mr. Joseph Cerniglia, Joe Black Road Cleveland, GA: Mr. Cerniglia expressed his concerns surrounding land use and properties not being taxed based on the best use of the property but instead being taxed on the current use.

Sheriff Neal Walden asked that the Board of Commissioner reconsider providing pay increases to county employees. Chairman Turner explained that the Board would reconsider this upon

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receiving the Fiscal Year 2015 audit results, as the Board want to ensure that an adequate fund balance (minimum of three months) is being maintained.

The Budget Public Hearing was closed.

Ms. Molly Laughlin, Enotah Judicial Circuit Felony Drug Court Coordinator, made a presentation to the Board (see attached presentation).

Chief Deputy Bob Ingram made a presentation to the Board regarding recommended courthouse security renovations. The proposed renovations included six segments: rebuild of current security camera system, renovation of the door locking system, replacement of the metal detector, installation of an x-ray screening system, renovation of the courthouse entryway, and replacement of duress alarms. The total cost of the security renovations was \$99,189.74 and was proposed to be funded by SPLOST. Sheriff Walden stated that the entryway renovations were definitely a priority. Chief Ingram stated that they had spoken with the county maintenance department and the cost was reflective of materials only as the project was being done at a minimum cost. Chairman Turner stated this would be considered by the Board at a later date following their review of the information submitted.

Mr. John Stover of Carter & Sloope Engineering presented the Board of Commissioners with information on options for bridge construction and installation at Tesnatee Creek Cross at the White County Recreational Complex (Asbestos Road Park to Yonah Preserve) in the area of the current filed #7. He stated that the most economical and low maintenance bridge solution would be a precast, steel reinforced concrete beam (PSC) bridge with a cast-in-place concrete deck. He indicated that the life span of this type structure was 40 to 50 years (conservatively) and the estimated construction cost would be +/- \$275,000.00. Mr. Stover indicated the project would have an estimated 90 day bid timeline and the permitting required through the Corp of Engineers would be the most time consuming process of the project and this agency would have new regulations in place on August 1, 2015 in addition to their regional conditions. Mr. Melton indicated that the County could do the earth work in late fall / early winter then construction could proceed with the concrete being pre-cast. Mr. Stover stated that he would need to verify the weight limit for the proposed structure.

Ms. Melanie Rosdahl stated that her property is in proximity to the proposed bridge and she has concerns about aesthetics of the concrete structure and the potential noise. She asked that the Board reconsider the aesthetic look of the concrete bridge compared to a timber bridge option.

Several other residents of the Yonah Valley area expressed their concerns regarding the bridge as well – asking for the Board to consider a fence or barrier around the proposed site. Chairman Turner expressed the Board's desire to be a good neighbor to the residents who live in the area surrounding the future recreational site. He asked that County Staff contact Mr. Michael Alexander, POA President, and meet with him in order to define the project site and to provide the residents with more information on the project.

There was a consensus among the Commissioners that the Board would be prepared to further discuss the bridge project at the June 22, 2015 meeting.

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The Board of Commissioners was presented with a renewal contract for the landscape maintenance at Freedom Park by The Chattahoochee Group. There was a consensus that this item should be bid out and the item would be reconsidered at the June 22, 2015 meeting. The Board asked staff to verify the terms of the installation contract at Freedom Park as well as the contract being proposed.

The Board of Commissioners was presented with the annual audit engagement letter for the annual financial audit from Rushton & Company, LLC. There was a consensus that this item would be considered at the June 22, 2015 meeting once Ms. Vicki Mays, Finance Director, had an opportunity to provide the Board with the total annual amount paid to Rushton & Company LLC for auditor services.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Bryant there was a unanimous vote to approve the contract with Trailwave / HEMC for fiber services from the White County Courthouse to the Mauney Building in the amount of \$1,190.00 per month (\$14,280.00 / annually).

Mr. Melton presented a request from the White County Road Department for the purchase of a 2015 Ford F150 Crew Cab Truck. The cost presented was state contract pricing at \$27,366.00 from Allan Vigil Ford – with the recommended funding source being SPLOST. There was a consensus of the Board that the Road Department should obtain a quote from the Jacky Jones Ford (local dealership) to bring before the Board at the June 22, 2015 meeting.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Holcomb, seconded by Commissioner Nix there was a unanimous vote to establish the committee for the Comprehensive Plan update as the White County Chamber Economic Development Committee and the White County Development Authority.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb there was a unanimous vote to appoint Mr. Chuck Edwards to the White County Chamber of Commerce Board for a two (2) year term to expire June 30, 2017 (previously held by Ms. Judith Barber).

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Bryant there was a unanimous vote to appoint Mr. Thomas Carter to the White County Department of Family & Children's Services Board to fulfill the remainder of a five (5) year term to expire June 30, 2016 (previously held by Ms. Tanya England).

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb there was a unanimous vote to appoint Mr. James Himstedt to the White County YMCA Board for a one (1) year term to expire June 30, 2016 (previously held by Mr. Jim Waits).

In considering the re-appointment of Commissioner Craig Bryant to the White County Water Authority to represent the Board of Commissioners for a two (2) year term expiring June 30, 2017 – there was not a quorum present to vote on this issue as Commissioner Nix abstained due to holding the Executive Director position for the Water Authority and Commissioner Bryant

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abstained from voting to appoint himself. There was a consensus that this issue would be reconsidered at the June 22, 2015 Called Meeting.

Mr. Tom O'Bryant, Director of Community & Economic Development, presented revisions to the White County Alcohol Ordinance.

He stated that with recent state legislation related to manufacturers providing "samples" in connection with a paid tour and being allowed to sell a designated amount of alcohol to customers – the County could allow this to strictly fall under the state regulations.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Holcomb, seconded by Commissioner Bryant there was a unanimous vote to repeal White County Code Section 6-132 Manufacturer's Tasting Room, and defer these regulations to the Georgia Department of Revenue's requirements.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Nix there was a unanimous vote to institute compensation for the Alcohol Beverage Commission Board Members at \$35 per meeting for the chair and \$30 per meeting for the board members.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Bryant there was a unanimous vote to revise the White County Alcohol Ordinance in order to allow licensed retail package dealers to sell "growlers" as outlined within changes made to Section 6-104.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb there was a unanimous vote to amend Section 6-138 Temporary Special Event License and Section 6-142 License Fees, in order to increase the number of events allowed per year per organization from 6 to 15 with the organization being allowed to submit one blanket application for all events planned within the year.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Holcomb, seconded by Commissioner Bryant there was a unanimous vote to amend Section 6-105 Required Sales Ratio, in order to establish monetary penalties for retail licensees who are late filing the sales ratio reports as required by the ordinance.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb there was a unanimous vote to amend Section 6-45 Processing of Application, in order to allow anyone who was denied an alcohol license to reapply to the Alcohol Beverage Commission within six (6) months.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Holcomb, seconded by Commissioner Bryant there was a unanimous vote to appoint Commissioner Edwin Nix as White County's voting delegate for the 2015 ACCG Legislative Leadership Conference.

Ms. Vicki Mays, Finance Director, presented the Monthly Financial Status Report (see attached).

June 15, 2015 – Public Hearing & Called Meeting Minutes (continued)

Mr. Melton provided information to the Board of Commissioners on the Transportation Bill recently passed by the Georgia General Assembly. The Board asked that this be discussed further at the June 22, 2015 meeting.

Mr. Melton presented information on behalf of Sheriff Neal Walden related to the COPS Grant whereby the Federal Government supplements the hiring of officers for a three (3) year period at 75% (grant) / 25% (county). Mr. Melton stated that he did not know how many officers the Sheriff would like to fund through this grant, however he was requesting permission to apply for the program funding (for which the deadline was June 19, 2015) and if the White County's application were approved this would come back before the Board of Commissioners for approval to add the positions.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Bryant there was a unanimous vote to approve the White County Sheriff's Office application for the COPS Program.

Mr. Melton stated that in September 2014 the Board of Commissioners approved the White County Sheriff's Office to purchase three (3) vehicles not to exceed \$115,000.00 from SPLOST. Mr. Melton stated that the Sheriff's Office had purchased a fourth vehicle from the funds remaining after the purchase of three (3) vehicles and needed an additional \$2,459.00 in SPLOST funding for the fourth vehicle. He noted that this item needed to be resolved for audit purposes.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Chairman Turner there was a unanimous vote to approve the purchase of the fourth vehicle and the additional \$2,459.00 in SPLOST Funding.

The Board discussed possible options to address issues of additional funding & purchases above and beyond those authorized by their vote from occurring.

Chairman Turner opened the floor for citizen participation.

Mr. Joe Cerniglia, Sautee Hard Cider, expressed his frustration with the process he has had to go through in order to start his business and obtain his alcohol license including the fee he was charged by being licensed as a manufacturer.

Ms. Cindy Bailey, President of the White County Chamber of Commerce, presented information to the Board regarding activities the Chamber will be involved with in the coming months and advertising funds that had been awarded through the state.

Mr. Shannon Hamilton 3012 Simpson Park Road Gainesville, GA expressed his concern regarding the safety of bridges in White County. He asked that the Board improve the safety of bridges at Airport Road, Roy Powers Road, and Charlie Thomas Road. He expressed his appreciation for the additional signage which had been placed in these areas; however he asked that measures be taken to prevent vehicles from being able to exit the bridges – with temporary measures requested immediately.

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Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb there was a unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting.

The minutes of the June 15, 2015 Budget Public Hearing and Called Meeting are hereby approved as stated this 22nd day of June, 2015.

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

s/Travis C. Turner
Travis C. Turner, Chairman

s/Terry D. Goodger
Terry D. Goodger, District 1

s/Lyn Holcomb
Lyn Holcomb, District 2

s/Edwin Nix
Edwin Nix, District 3

s/Craig Bryant
Craig Bryant, District 4

s/Shanda Murphy
Shanda Murphy, County Clerk