

MINUTES

WORK SESSION OF THE
COLQUITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, March 3, 2015
5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Terry R. Clark. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss upcoming agenda items and any other county business deemed necessary. The meeting was duly called and advertised.

PRESENT: Those present were Commissioners Luke Strong, Winfred Giddens, Marc DeMott, Donna Herndon, Paul Nagy, Johnny Hardin, and Chairman Terry R. Clark. Also present were County Administrator Chas Cannon, County Attorney Lester Castellow, Solid Waste Manager Stacy Griffin, Road Superintendent Stanley Kirksey, Compliance Officer Russell Moody, and County Clerk Melissa Lawson.

BOARD PREVIEW: County Administrator Chas Cannon presented an overview of upcoming agenda items to be previewed before the regular meeting of the board at 7:00 p.m.

- Citizens Having Business With The County – Mr. Cannon informed the board that citizen Lee Wingfield had previously requested to be placed upon the agenda to discuss an issue concerning his solid waste bill. Since that time, Mr. Cannon informed the board that he had met with Mr. Wingfield, along with Stacy Griffin, Solid Waste Manager. Mr. Cannon stated that Mr. Wingfield seemed satisfied with the outcome of the meeting but could still be in attendance during the regular board meeting.
- Approval of Resolution to Submit CDBG Application – Mr. Cannon explained that the adoption of this resolution was necessary to begin the 2015 Community Block Development Grant application process. Mr. Cannon informed the board that during the recent ACCG Legislative Conference he had an opportunity to meet with Commissioner Camilla Knowles of the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) concerning this grant. Mr. Cannon stated that the grant amount was \$500,000.00 and if awarded, would be used to resurface Jonah Tillman Road.

Mr. Cannon also informed the board that a meeting hosting regional DCA staff was scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, in the Administrative Conference Room of the Courthouse Annex. Mr. Cannon stated the meeting was an educational opportunity for surrounding municipalities to learn more about DCA grant opportunities.

- Approval to Begin Road Closure Procedures – Beaty Road – Mr. Cannon stated that Commissioner Hardin had received a request from William Suber to consider road closure for Beaty Road, located within Commissioner Hardin's district. Mr. Cannon presented a map of the area and stated that if approved, procedures to begin the road closure process would commence immediately.

Commissioner Nagy questioned the reason for the closure. Commissioner Hardin stated that the area was often frequented by loiters and was disruptive to surrounding residents.

March 3, 2015

Page 2

- Declaration of Surplus County Property – Mr. Cannon stated that the equipment in question was Item #7887, a 930 G CAT Front End Loader purchased in 2006 with approximately 12,471 vehicle hours. Mr. Cannon stated that due to excessive repair costs, it would be more feasible to prepare the vehicle for auction.

(Mac Lawson, Shop Superintendent, entered the meeting at 5:42 p.m.)

Mr. Cannon gave the board an update concerning surplus equipment auction proceeds.

- Bid for Crew Van – Roads & Bridges Department – Mr. Cannon stated that two bids were received regarding the provision of a crew van to be utilized by the Roads and Bridges Department. Mr. Cannon informed the board that Penske Used Trucks of Tallahassee, Florida was the low and recommended bid at \$15,000.00. Mr. Cannon stated that funds for this purchase were included in the current FY 14-15 budget, with the exception of \$1,000.00 that would be derived from auction proceeds.

Commissioner Strong asked if any local bids were received. Mr. Cannon replied that no local bids were received and informed the board that Mac Lawson, Shop Superintendent, conducted an on-site inspection of the vehicle.

At this time, Mac Lawson confirmed that the vehicle was in excellent condition.

- Bid for Side Loader Garbage Truck – Solid Waste Department – Mr. Cannon stated that five bids were received regarding the provision of a side loader garbage truck to be utilized by the Solid Waste Department. He further stated that Consolidate was the low and recommended bid at \$258,179.00 for a Mac LEU Chassis with a New Way 31 Yard body. Mr. Cannon explained this bid included a two year buy back price of \$198,747.00, and further explained that funds were included in the current FY 14-15 budget for this item.

Stacy Griffin, Solid Waste Manager, explained that if the side loader proved beneficial to the solid waste operation he would plan for expanded use in the future.

Commissioner Hardin inquired as to whether older solid waste trucks were still being utilized. Mr. Griffin explained that some of these trucks could possibly be declared as surplus and transported to auction.

Commissioner Giddens questioned the size of the new garbage truck in comparison to existing garbage trucks in the department's fleet.

In addition to the use of the side loader garbage trucks, Mr. Cannon stated that he was currently researching the feasibility of utilizing inmate labor on the back of the garbage trucks. Discussion ensued regarding this issue.

In regards to the purchase of the side loader garbage truck, Mac Lawson stated that if the county did not purchase a warranty, the price was likely to be less.

March 3, 2015

Page 3

At this time, Mr. Cannon gave the board an update regarding a recent incident involving the roll-over of a garbage truck. Mr. Cannon stated that fortunately no serious injuries were sustained by personnel; however, the truck itself sustained damage to the frame and hydraulic tank. Mr. Cannon stated that an insurance claim would be filed if necessary.

Discussion ensued regarding particulars of the incident and associated costs. Mr. Cannon stated the main objective was ensuring that there was no interruption in the provision of solid waste pickup in the county.

- Approval of Live Scan Fingerprint System – Mr. Cannon explained that Captain Julius Cox of the Sheriff's Department was requesting approval to purchase a Live Scan Fingerprint System in the amount of \$17,480.00. Mr. Cannon further explained that a grant was being awarded to the Sheriff's Department by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to cover this purchase, but due to anticipated delays in the grant drawdown process, Captain Cox was requesting that the county fund the purchase and receive reimbursement when the grant money is actually received. If approved, Mr. Cannon stated that immediate funding would be derived from Contingency Funds.

Commissioner Strong inquired if the Sheriff could possibly use Confiscated Asset funds for the purchase, and subsequently reimburse the fund.

Mr. Cannon informed the board that Sheriff Al Whittington would be in attendance at the board meeting to answer any questions regarding this issue.

- Other Business from County Administrator – At this point, Mr. Cannon addressed agenda items received after the agenda deadline.
- Approval of Purchase of OMNI Directional Warning System – Mr. Cannon presented an invoice received from Russell Moody, Emergency Management Director, regarding the provision of a Directional Warning System to be utilized by the City of Funston. Mr. Cannon stated that upon initially purchasing this system utilizing Contingency Funds, the county would be reimbursed in full from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency and matching funds from the City of Funston.
- Approval of Road Construction Signs – Mr. Cannon stated that three bids were received regarding the provision of road construction signs for the Roads and Bridges Department. He further stated that the low and recommended bid was from Universal Signs and Accessories, in the amount of \$5,480.00. Mr. Cannon also noted that funds were available in the current FY 14-15 budget for this item.
- Public Hearings – Mr. Cannon presented a request for rezoning, received from James Nash/Sarah Nash Estate. Mr. Cannon stated that request was to rezone a 1.5775 acre tract located at 1358 Old Doerun Road from AG to C3 for future commercial

March 3, 2015

Page 4

use. Mr. Cannon noted that this application was recommended for approval by the Moultrie – Colquitt County Planning Commission.

- Public Comments – Mr. Cannon stated that Jennifer Alexander, resident of J R Suber Road, intended to attend the board meeting to re-visit the issue of an impending poultry operation to be located upon the road.

ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES: At this time, Mr. Cannon discussed pertinent issues to be brought to the board's attention.

- House Transportation Bill (HB 170) – Mr. Cannon reviewed recent revisions to the transportation bill. Mr. Cannon stated that the bill in its current state would result in increased LMIG funds for the county, further stating that the tax on diesel fuel was still included. Mr. Cannon stated that the current bill provided for recapitalization of the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank, and also provided loan preference for Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties. Mr. Cannon stated this would in turn make an effort to balance any loans or other financial assistance among all regions in the state.
- Commissioner SPLOST Fund Update: Mr. Cannon presented SPLOST funds for each Commissioner's district, presenting monies spent to date and remaining balances. Mr. Cannon also reminded the board that the 2013 SPLOST collections were projected to be lower than originally predicted.

Mr. Cannon reminded the board that the more grant money was utilized, the more savings to each commissioner's respective allocation. Mr. Cannon urged the board to communicate with the Roads and Bridges Department concerning potential LMIG funds, and/or Community Development Block Grants (CDBG).

Chairman Clark reminded all present that the county wide SPLOST funds could be utilized by any commissioner, and had proved to be beneficial in the past concerning emergency road repairs.

At this time, Commissioner Herndon addressed Plymel Road, located within her district. She stated that the road was in terrible shape, and further stated that she, along with her late husband, former Commissioner Billy Herndon, had both worked diligently to get this road paved. Due to limited funds at her disposal, Commissioner Herndon stated the project might necessitate the use of county wide SPLOST funds.

Commissioner Hardin suggested starting on the project, beginning with signatures and obtaining permits, with the possibility of assistance coming in the form of a future SPLOST referendum.

- Mid-Month Review Meeting – Mr. Cannon declared that the board needed more collaborative meeting time, and suggested it in the form of a mid-month work session to be held on the third Tuesday of the month. He stated that this meeting would consist of monthly budget updates, policy discussion, and any other business deemed

necessary. If implemented, Mr. Cannon suggested moving the Pre-Board Work Session to 6:00, and reserving it for pre-board agenda items.

- Monthly Travel Reimbursements – Mr. Cannon reviewed options for commissioner travel reimbursement. Option 1 included a travel reimbursement form that would necessitate supporting documentation and receipts. Option 2 consisted of a set travel allowance in the amount of \$600.00 that would be processed through payroll, in turn making it subject to federal and state taxes. Mr. Cannon requested that the board inform Wayne Putnal, Finance Director, of their chosen option for travel reimbursement.
- Reserve Duty for Army – Mr. Cannon informed the board that he had been recently approached to enlist in the Army Reserves. He stated that his intent was to serve seven years as a drilling reservist, thus completing the twenty years of service required to obtain eligibility for military retirement. Mr. Cannon further stated this would require thirty days annually of service, consisting of weekends and weekdays. Mr. Cannon stated that he intended to utilize his annual leave to compensate for weekday service, and would take advantage of weekend service as often as possible. Mr. Cannon stated that there would be no chance of deployment and in turn, asked for feedback from the Board.

Commissioner Hardin stated that as long as the service did not interfere with the daily operations of the county, he was in favor.

Discussion ensued regarding this subject, and it was the consensus of the board to support the enlistment.

Mr. Cannon vowed to give the board advance notice and keep them informed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Hardin made a motion at 6:32 p.m. to go into Executive Session to discuss the disposition of real estate. Commissioner Giddens made a second. The motion carried unanimously. (An affidavit, as required by Georgia Law, was executed by all Board members present stating under oath that the subject matter of the closed meeting was devoted to the matters within the exception provided by law and identified the specific relevant exception as provided by law. The affidavit is hereby made a part of the minutes by reference thereto.)

REGULAR SESSION: Commissioner Giddens made a motion at 6:44 p.m. to reconvene into regular session. Commissioner DeMott made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Nagy gave the board an update on matters concerning the Parks and Recreation committee.

Commissioner Giddens broached the subject of the energy audit.

March 3, 2015
Page 6

Commissioner Strong questioned the upfront costs and potential savings regarding the energy audit.

Mr. Cannon stated that both companies guaranteed savings to the General Fund and informed the board that any upfront costs would go towards updating infrastructure, which would in turn result in lower maintenance costs.

Again, Commissioner Strong questioned the upfront costs.

Commissioner Herndon stated she would like to have a collaborative discussion with the board before voting on the energy audit issue.

Mr. Cannon stated that a vote would not be necessary at Thursday's called meeting.

Commissioner Giddens questioned costs to repair the leaking roof at the Courthouse, stating that upon heavy rain fall, buckets had to be set up to collect the precipitation.

Mr. Cannon stated that the purpose of the upcoming called meeting on Thursday was for both companies to come in and present their proposals. Mr. Cannon further stated that he felt comfortable with the financial aspect of the audit.

Commissioner Strong questioned if any surrounding municipalities had benefited from energy performance contracting. Mr. Cannon replied that the Colquitt County School System had already realized some of the benefits of implementing an energy program.

Commissioner Giddens questioned the installation of protective glass at the Clerk of Court's office and further questioned why the collection of fines and fees were no longer the responsibility of the Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Cannon explained it was common in most counties for the Clerk of Court to collect these fees and stated that transitioning the process to the Clerk of Court eliminated most of the redundancy in the process. Mr. Cannon also stated that the Clerk of Court, Lynn Purvis, specifically requested the protective glass.

At this time, Commissioner Giddens questioned when the next financial audit would begin.

Commissioner Hardin mentioned that in the past the board was always presented with final results of the fiscal audit.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry R. Clark
Chairman

Melissa Lawson
County Clerk

Approved: _____

AFFIDAVIT

This is to certify that the Colquitt County Board of Commissioners held an Executive Session Meeting (closed meeting) on March 3, 2015, at 6:32 o'clock a.m./p.m. The majority of the quorum present voted in the open meeting to go into Executive Session (closed meeting). The subject matter discussed was applicable under the following code section(s):

O.C.G.A. 50-14-2(1) - Consultation with an attorney regarding pending or potential legal action.

O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(4) - Discussion of future acquisition of real estate. (Notice was given as required and minutes taken.)

O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(6) - Discussion of personnel matters.

I further certify that the subject matter of the Executive Session (closed meeting) was devoted to matters within the exception provided by law and the above checked identifies the specific relevant exception.

This 3rd day of March, 2015.

Terry Clark
Terry Clark, Chairman

Winfred Giddens
Winfred Giddens, Commissioner

Donna Herndon
Donna Herndon, Commissioner

Johnny Hardin
Johnny Hardin, Commissioner

Luke Strong
Luke Strong, Commissioner

Marc DeMott
Marc DeMott, Commissioner

Paul Nagy
Paul Nagy, Commissioner

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 3rd day of March, 2015.

Melissa Lawson
County Clerk or Notary Public
My Commission Expires: _____

