

**MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL CALLED WORK SESSION MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2017, AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING #1, 301 W. CRAWFORD STREET**

**SPECIAL CALLED WORK SESSION**

The Chairman called the work session to order.

**The following members were present:**

R. Lynette Laughter, Chairman  
Harold Brooker, Vice Chairman  
Barry W. Robbins, Member  
Roger Crossen, Member  
Greg Jones, Member

**Others Present:**

Mark Gibson, County Administrator  
Robert Smalley, County Attorney  
Department Heads  
Press

**Work Session:**

Chairman Laughter called the work session to order.

Chairman Laughter noted that with the retirement of Dalton Fire Chief Bruce Satterfield and the resignation of Dalton Parks and Recreation Director Steve Card, that it would be an opportune time to start discussions with the City of Dalton about integrations with both of these departments. The Board was favorable to have discussions with the City about integrating these departments.

County Administrator Mark Gibson informed the Board that County Attorney Robert Smalley is working on a lease agreement with tenants at the recently acquired Grant Farm. Gibson noted that currently the tenants monthly fee is \$1,000. Gibson noted that the lease will be presented for approval at the next regular meeting in March. Gibson further noted that the HVAC system in the house is over 35 years old and needs replacing. Buildings and Grounds Director Gary Brown noted that to replace the unit would be approximately \$15,000. The Board was in favor of replacing the unit.

Finance Director Alicia Vaughn informed the Board about the possibility of renegotiating the current School Resource Officer's reimbursement from the County Schools. Vaughn noted that in 2002 the Sheriff's Office received a grant for the purpose of having SRO's at the local schools. Vaughn further noted that the grant period was for three (3) years plus one (1) additional year. Vaughn noted that currently there are five (5) SRO's whom the County Schools reimburse along with a 25% benefit rate. Vaughn noted that the benefit rate should be increased to at least 40% to cover their benefits. Vaughn also noted that if the Board would like to ask the Schools for reimbursement of vehicles, uniforms and training she could bring that up during discussions with the Schools. Vaughn further noted that the County Schools fiscal year begins in July 2017 and if the Board would like to move forward with these adjustments they could start the discussions now.

Finance Director Alicia Vaughn informed the Board that the funding for the Georgia Northwestern Technical College expansion was appropriated by the State of Georgia, but the budget hasn't been signed by the Governor. Vaughn noted that once the Governor has approved the budget the County's portion of the funding can be sent to the Technical College System of Georgia.

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Fire Chief Edward O'Brien informed the Board of surplus outdated air bottles that are no longer useful to the department and would like for them to be sold on GovDeals.com. O'Brien noted that he would present this item at the upcoming regular Board of Commissioners meeting in March.

Fire Chief Edward O'Brien informed the Board of a recent RFP for replacement roofs for Stations 2 and 3. O'Brien noted that Tri-State Roofing in Chattanooga had the lowest bid of \$45,080 for both roofs. O'Brien noted that he will request approval of the bid at the March regular meeting.

Fire Chief Edward O'Brien informed the Board that an RFP has been sent out for uniforms for the department. O'Brien noted that he will request approval of the bid at the March regular meeting.

Public Works Director Dewayne Hunt informed the Board that he will request approval to purchase a single axle dump truck, a F-350 shop truck, and a hook and lift truck at the next Board meeting. Hunt further noted that he will also present a list of surplus vehicles and equipment for the board to declared surpluses and to be sold on GovDeals.com.

Public Works Director Dewayne Hunt spoke to the Board about excess millings. Hunt noted that one (1) mile of milling equals to fifty-five (55) tandem truck loads that the department will have to haul back and forth to Public Works and store. Hunt further suggested several options for the excess millings, they could sell or give them away to contract hauling companies, public works could deliver them at no cost to private properties or haul them back to public works to sell to the public. The Board noted would have to discuss this topic further before a decision is made.

The work session was adjourned.

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R. LYNETTE LAUGHTER, CHAIRMAN  
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /