

**MINUTES FOR THE WORK SESSION OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
HELD MONDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2018, AT 5:00 P.M. IN ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING #1, 301 W.  
CRAWFORD STREET**

**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.

Ed Painter addressed the Board in regards to the possibility of introducing local legislation for a local act to have a referendum in the November 2018 ballot to change the election process for County Commissioners from at-large voting to District only voting. The Chairman election will still be voted on at-large by the entire County.

Dan Strain informed the Board about Parquet Dr. Strain noted that through his research Parquet Dr. has not been entered into the County road system. Parquet Dr. is owned by Jimmy Doyle who has requested this road to be included into the County road system. Strain noted that the only documentation recorded was an affidavit that states which plat would be the official plat. County Engineer Kent Benson noted that Parquet Dr. is a well-built road in good shape but does not meet the width standards to be accepted into the County road system. Chairman Laughter noted that the Board will discuss this further at the March regular meeting.

County Administrator Mark Gibson discussed with the Board an issue of a business within unincorporated Whitfield County that modifies firearms. Gibson noted that residents located close to the business have raised safety concerns regarding the business shooting firearms. Gibson noted that the business is located in C-2 zoning, and that the County does allow shooting ranges with a special use permit acquired through the Planning Commission. Gibson also noted that the business doesn't operate as a shooting range, but does allow consumers to test the firearms by shooting into a berm on premises. County Attorney Robert Smalley noted that State Law doesn't allow the discharge of a firearm within 50' of a public right of way. Smalley noted the County adheres to State Law and that there isn't an ordinance regarding the discharge of firearms in Whitfield County. Smalley also noted that the Board can change the zoning ordinance if they so choose. Commissioner Brooker noted that he has spoken to the owner of the business and he is willing to add additional berms on the premises for additional coverage during the firearm testing.

Buildings and Grounds Director Gary Brown informed the Board of a recent bid for an HVAC control panel at the Whitfield County Health Department. Brown noted that Cornerstone Automation had the lowest bid. Brown noted he will bring the bid for approval at the March meeting.

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Public Works Director Dewayne Hunt informed the Board about that his department has recently requested the following bids; drains at Edwards Park for drainage improvements and a cab & chassis for an herbicide unit, a skid mount herbicide system, a tandem dump truck, a rough terrain forklift and a ½ ton 4wd pickup truck. Hunt will bring these bid items before the Board at the March meeting. Hunt also mentioned the purchase of a Gradall Discovery D152 that he will bring before the Board in March also.

Captain Wesley Lynch from the Sheriff's Office informed the Board of the recent contract for inmate food services at the Detention Center. Capt. Lynch noted that Trinity Services Group had made an error in their previous contract when they quoted their meal prices at \$0.0900. Capt. Lynch explained Trinity Services Group made the error and the contract should have stated \$1.03 per meal.

Fire Chief Edward O'Brien informed the Board about the purchase of a 1940's Antique Fire Engine from the Town of Cohutta. O'Brien noted that they will use the Fire Engine as a parade vehicle. O'Brien also noted that they requested bids for breathing air components which will be purchased using funds from a GEMA grant that the department was awarded in November 2017. O'Brien noted that he hopes to present the agreement for land purchase for Station 12 at the March meeting also.

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: / /