

MINUTES FOR THE WORK SESSION OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2020, AT 5:00 P.M. AT EDWARDS PARK COMMUNITY CENTER, LOCATED AT 115 EDWARDS PARK, DALTON, GA 30720

WORK SESSION

Whitfield County is currently under a public health state of emergency as the community responds to the COVID-19 pandemic and in keeping with guidelines on public gatherings by Governor Kemp's Executive Orders 08.15.20.01 and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: this meeting will be open to the public with social distancing measures in effect. Attendees will be seated with six (6) feet of spacing between them and seating for the meeting is limited to 50 persons. Due to reduced seating capacity, the meeting will also be livestreamed using the following link: <https://livestream.com/accounts/25637515/events/7960637>

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 (VIA TELECONFERENCE)
Department Heads
Press
Citizens

Work Session:

Chairman Laughter called the work session to order and explained to the audience work sessions are for Commissioners to discuss agenda items that may be put on the regular meeting agenda. She also mentioned that tonight's agenda was packed and there would be no time for public comment. Chairman Laughter informed the audience if they would like to speak with her about a specific topic she can meet with them individually, or have a meeting where residents can all speak.

Chairman Laughter introduced Dr. Zachary Taylor Director of the North Georgia Health District to members of the audience. Dr. Taylor informed the audience about a recent study that determined the use of masks can reduce the spread of COVID-19. Then Chairman Laughter gave each Commissioner opportunity to state his/her feelings about a mask mandate. Commissioners Robbins, Jones, Crossen and Brooker did not support a mask mandate but Chairman Laughter did.

CARES Act Reimbursements

County Administrator Mark Gibson informed the Board about purchases that will be reimbursed by the CARES Act funding. Gibson noted EMA Director Claude Craig has been working with several departments to ensure the process goes as smoothly as possible.

Sheriff's Office – Purchase of New X-Ray Parcel Scanner

Major Gibson informed the Board they put out a bid for a new parcel X-ray scanner for the Courthouse. Mjr. Gibson noted the current scanner is over 10 years old and is beginning to show wear. Mjr. Gibson further noted the low bidder was Auto-Clear, with the low bid of \$17,250.

Driver Services Building

County Administrator Mark Gibson informed the Board of the intent the State Board and Properties Commission have to construct a new customer service center for the Department of Driver Services building located on Wagner Drive. Gibson noted the County owns the property the current DDS building is on but the Properties Commission would like for the property to get transferred to the State. Gibson noted the County could choose to only transfer the portion of the land they are currently using, not the entire lot.

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SDS Road Paving

Public Works Director Dewayne Hunt noted to the Board that the recent Service Delivery Strategy agreement with the City of Dalton wherein, it was agreed upon to either provide up to \$200,000 in kind road paving or issue a check to the City of the same amount. Hunt informed the Board due to the amount of projects Public Work has coming up it would be better to issue the check.

Vehicle Lease Program

Public Works Director Dewayne Hunt presented the Board with lease program information. Hunt noted Enterprise would be the best program to choose from. The lease agreement would be for 22-25 vehicles on a four year cycle using \$150,000 of capital funds.

Public Works Items

Public Works Director Dewayne Hunt informed the Board about an issue at Colston Lane. Hunt noted this subdivision is on a slope and when it rains the lower side of the yards to flood since there are no drainage ditches. Hunt would like to construct drainage ditches to help with flooding but this is on private property.

Public Works Director Dewayne Hunt presented the Board with a department budget update. Hunt noted the following:

LMIG Funding & 2015 SPLOST Funds

2021 LMIG \$\$ = \$1,075,000 which will require \$545,500 from GF

2015 SPLOST balance = \$2.3 million

PW is in Phase 2, Bridge Rehab project for 5 bridges

Dawnville Road over Coahulla Creek - \$541,200

Lower Dug Gap Road over Swamp Creek - \$115,600

Old Tilton over Swamp Creek - \$208,700

Houston Valley over East Chickamauga Creek - \$126,400

Beaverdale Road over Coahulla Creek - \$568,800

Bridge repair cost estimates are now \$1,560,700

Old cost estimates were \$700,000 (no field inspections)

2020 LMIG Budget (\$1,170,374 for \$1,671,963 project total)

\$183,750 – ENG Services \$128,625 from LMIG and \$55,125 from GF

\$700,000 – Bridge Rehab \$490,000 from LMIG and \$210,000 from GF

\$551,749 – Paving, \$0 from GF

Not Budgeted – Emergency Repairs (Additional \$87,350)

\$140,000 - \$98,000 from LMIG & \$42,000 from GF (Old Dixie Culvert)

\$44,300 - \$31,000 from LMIG & \$13,300 from GF (Old Tilton Culvert)

\$55,500 - \$38,850 from LMIG & \$16,650 from GF (Utility Culvert)

\$16,748 - \$11,724 from LMIG & \$5,024 from GF (Marla Culvert)

\$35,587 - \$24,911 from LMIG & \$10,676 from GF (Ridge Culvert)

2020 Revised Budget (\$1,671,963 project total)

\$800,000 from LMIG for Bridge Rehab (LMIG + Match)

\$205,000 (current) from LMIG for Culvert Replacement (\$165k available)

\$236,464 increase to GF budget (\$265,125 / \$501,589 match total)

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2021 Proposed Budget

\$400,000 from LMIG for Bridge Rehab + \$171,428 match = \$571,429

\$700,000 from LMIG for Projects + \$300,000 match = \$1,000,000

\$501,589 Total match

Paving from 2015 SPLOST

2021 Budget

\$00k from LMIG and additional \$00 for match

Paving from LMIG and 2015 SPLOST

Do not expect \$0 from current SPLOST (PAYGO)

2022 Budget Revised

\$ 00 from LMIG and additional \$ 00 for match

Paving from LMIG and 2015 SPLOST

The work session was adjourned.

R. LYNETTE LAUGHTER, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /