

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING HELD

FEBRUARY 2, 2009, AT 4:30 P.M.

The White County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session at 4:30 P.M. in the Grand Jury Room of the White County Courthouse, Cleveland, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Travis C. Turner, Post 1 Commissioner Joe R. Campbell, Post 2 Commissioner Craig Bryant, County Manager Alton Brown, Chief Financial Officer Vickie Neikirk, and County Clerk Jean Welborn.

Chairman Turner called the meeting to order. After the pledge to the flag, Dean Dyer brought the invocation.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, the minutes from the Regular Meeting held January 5, 2009 and Called Meeting held January 28, 2009 were unanimously adopted.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Bryant, the following Consent Agenda Items were unanimously adopted:

1. Adopted the following Resolution:

“WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-4

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL CODE OF WHITE COUNTY, GEORGIA, CHAPTER 26 (EMERGENCY SERVICES), ARTICLE II (E-911 TELEPHONE), DIVISION 2 (E-911 TECHNICAL ADVISORY BOARD), SECTION 26-56 (CREATED), SECTION 26-57 (COMPOSITION), SECTION 26-58 (PURPOSES), AND SECTION 29-59 (COMPENSATION)

WHEREAS, the White County Board of Commissioners wishes to revise the White County Emergency 911 Technical Advisory Board as hereinafter set out;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Commissioners of White County, and it is hereby resolved by authority of the same, that the White County Emergency 911 Technical Advisory Board be revised as follows:

Chapter 26, Article II, Division 2, Section 26-56 is hereby deleted in its entirety and the following substituted in lieu thereof:

“Sec. 26-56. Created.

There is hereby created the county emergency 911 technical advisory board, also known as the public safety board.”

Chapter 26, Article II, Division 2, Section 26-57 is hereby deleted in its entirety and the following substituted in lieu thereof:

“Sec. 26-57. Composition.

The technical advisory board, also known as the public safety board, created in this division shall consist of eleven (11) members who shall be:

- 1. The Sheriff or designee;*
- 2. The county fire chief or designee;*
- 3. The county Emergency Management Agency/911 Director;*
- 4. The county director of the county emergency medical services;*

5. *The chief of police for the City of Helen, Georgia, or designee;*
6. *The chief of police for the City of Cleveland, Georgia, or designee;*
7. *The county Manager or designee;*
8. *The county Public Works Director or designee;*
9. *The county Coroner or designee;*
10. *The Fire Chief of the City of Cleveland or designee; and*
11. *The Fire Chief of the City of Helen or designee.”*

Chapter 26, Article II, Division 2, Section 26-58 is hereby deleted in its entirety and the following substituted in lieu thereof:

“Sec. 26-58. Purposes.

The purpose of the technical advisory board, also known as the Public Safety Board, is to assist the Director of the White County EMA/911 system in:

1. *Reviewing and analyzing the progress by public safety agencies in developing and maintaining 911 system requirements.*
2. *Recommending steps of action to effect the necessary coordination, regulations, development, and maintenance of a 911 system.*
3. *Identifying mutual aid agreements necessary to effect and maintain the 911 system.*
4. *The promulgation and maintenance of necessary rules, regulations, operative procedures, schedules, and other such policies and administrative devices as shall be deemed necessary and appropriate.*
5. *Providing ongoing technical oversight of the 911 system operations.”*

Chapter 26, Article II, Division 2, Section 26-59 is hereby deleted in its entirety and the following substituted in lieu thereof:

“Sec. 26-59. Compensation.

The members of the technical advisory board, also known as the Public Safety Board, created in this division shall not be compensated from monies deposited into the emergency telephone system fund.”

The effective date of these amendments shall be February 2, 2009.

RESOLVED, this 2nd day of February, 2009.

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

s/Joe R. Campbell
Joe R. Campbell, Post 1

s/Craig Bryant
Craig Bryant, Post 2

ATTEST:

s/Jean Welborn
Jean Welborn, County Clerk”

2. Authorized the execution of Addendum #1 to Contract between the Legacy Link, Inc. and the White County Commission for nutrition program services provided at the White County Senior Center Program.

Vickie Neikirk, Chief Financial Officer, presented the monthly financial report for the month of December, 2008 (see copy attached).

Upon motion made by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Bryant, the following Resolution was unanimously adopted:

“WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION NO. 2009- 5

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSMITTAL OF THE
WHITE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN SHORT TERM WORK
PROGRAM UPDATE TO THE GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT CENTER AND GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FOR REVIEW, COMMENT AND
RECOMMENDATION**

WHEREAS, White County has reported accomplishments and updated its Short Term Work Program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of White County, Georgia, as follows:

Section 1. The Commission hereby authorizes the transmittal of the White County Comprehensive Plan Short Term Work Program Update for review, comment, and recommendation to the Georgia Mountains Regional Development Center and requests its favorable consideration.

Section 2. The Commission hereby certifies that the process utilized in developing the Comprehensive Plan Short Term Work Program Update meets the minimum public participation requirements for local plans in the State of Georgia.

RESOLVED, this 2nd day of February, 2009.

**WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**

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

s/Joe R. Campbell
Joe R. Campbell, Post 1

s/Craig Bryant
Craig Bryant, Post 2

ATTEST:

s/Jean Welborn
Jean Welborn, County Clerk”

Upon motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, the following Resolution was unanimously adopted:

“WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-6

WHEREAS, White County has heretofore, on September 1, 1987, in accordance with O.C.G.A. Section 48-13-51(a)(3), levied a 5% excise tax upon the furnishing for value to the public of any room or rooms, lodgings, or accommodations furnished by any person or legal entity licensed by, or required to pay business or occupation taxes to, White County for operating within the special district a hotel, motel, inn, lodge, tourist camp tourist cabin, campground, or any other place in which rooms, lodgings, or accommodations are regularly furnished for value;

AND WHEREAS, the proceeds of said 5% excise tax has been used in accordance with O.C.G.A. Section 48-13-51(a)(3);

AND WHEREAS, in accordance with O.C.G.A. Section 48-13-51(b)(3), White County desires to levy said excise tax pursuant to said subsection (b) at the rate of eight (8) percent of the charge for the furnishing of the above-described lodging or accommodations;

AND WHEREAS, White County, situated in the Northeast Georgia Mountains, relies heavily upon tourism for economic stability; that the tourism industry in White County and surrounding areas has an impact on the total economy and the State of Georgia;

AND WHEREAS, the projects or tourism product development that could be provided to White County with a 3% increase in the lodging excise tax as provided in O.C.G.A. Section 48-13-51(b)(3) would make a very positive impact on White County and the surrounding area and the State of Georgia;

AND WHEREAS, in each fiscal year during which such a tax is collected under O.C.G.A. Section 48-13-51(b)(3), an amount equal to not less than 50 percent of the total amount of taxes collected that exceed the amount of taxes that would be collected at the rate of 5 percent shall be expended for promoting tourism, conventions, and trade shows by the destination marketing organization designated by White County;

AND WHEREAS, the remaining amount of taxes collected that exceed the amount of taxes that would be collected at the rate of 5 percent which are not otherwise expended for promoting tourism, conventions, and trade shows as above set out, shall be expended for tourism product development. White County identifies the projects or tourism product development purposes and specifies the allocation of proceeds as follows:

“TOURISM PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Parks, trails and recreation facilities – To include, but not limited to capital cost and operating expenses for property acquisition for parks, trails and recreational facility development and other associated items to improve destination appeal and support visitor experience.

Way-finding signage – To include way-finding signage to all attractions and tourist related businesses in the county.

Meeting, convention, exhibit and public assembly facilities – To include, but not limited to, capital cost and operating expenses for property acquisition, construction of new facilities, or renovation of existing facilities for the purpose of providing visitors with accommodations for conventions, meetings and special events.

Performing arts, museums, art galleries and gardens - To include, but not limited to capital cost and operating expenses for property acquisition or improvements for facilities related to performing arts, crafts or heritage arts, museums, galleries, gardens and associated activities that would support and enhance the visitor experience to such related activities.

Lakes or reservoir – To include, but not limited to capital cost and operating expenses for property acquisition, design and maintenance for multi-purpose lakes or reservoirs, that would include limited, passive recreation for fishing, small docks or board walks, non-motorized boating, environmental education and study supporting the outdoors, eco-tourism and water related experience of visitors while maintaining water quality standards established by the State of Georgia.

Pedestrian facilities – To include, but not limited to, land acquisition, capital cost and maintenance for construction and improvement of sidewalks, bridges and multi-use paths and associated landscaping for improved pedestrian/visitor movement and connectivity to attractions and location around the county.”

AND WHEREAS, if enacted, White County shall expend an amount equal to the amount of total taxes collected under O.C.G.A. Section 48-13-51(b)(3) which would have been collected at a rate of 5 percent in accordance with the provisions of O.C.G.A. Section 48-13-51(a)(3).

NOW, THEREFORE, the White County Board of Commissioners does hereby adopt this Resolution and asks for an enactment of a local Act by the General Assembly allowing White County to levy the tax under O.C.G.A. Section 48-13-51(b)(3) at the rate of eight (8) percent. At the time that the local Act becomes effective, White County shall cease such levy at the rate of five (5) percent under subsection (a) of said Code.

RESOLVED, this 2nd day of February, 2009.

White County Board of Commissioners

s/Travis C. Turner

Travis C. Turner, Chairman

s/Joe R. Campbell

Joe R. Campbell, Post 1

s/Craig Bryant

Craig Bryant, Post 2

Attest:

s/Jean Welborn

Jean Welborn, County Clerk”

The Board of Commissioners discussed the County property known as the Old Oak Springs School Property located on Campbell Street. This property was once owned by the Board of Education, then it was conveyed to the County. A daycare was once operated on the property through a sublease back through the Board of Education. The building is dilapidated and has been vacant for the past 2 ½ years. Alton Brown stated that the staff would like to have permission from the Board of Commissioners to begin the process of disposal of the property, either through sealed bid or an auction; that some people in the neighborhood had expressed an interest in taking over the property for community use, but no plans had been presented; that there was vandalism going on there; that he felt that it was time to get the property back on the tax roll.

Jean Welborn stated that the property was 2.18 acres. Commissioner Campbell stated that he felt that it would cost more to renovate the building than the property would be worth.

Commissioner Bryant stated that they might look at having the building torn down and using the

Minutes from Regular Meeting Held February 2, 2009, Continued

property for something later. Commissioner Campbell stated that he would also like to know what it would cost to demolish the building. Alton Brown asked the Board of Commissioners if they had a preference on sealed bids or auction. Mr. Brown stated that his recommendation was a sealed bid.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Bryant, the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to seek bids on the demolition and cleanup of the existing building on the old Oak Springs School property located on Campbell Street and then seek sealed bids on the purchase of the property, with and without the building improvements. The Board of Commissioners will reserve the right to refuse any and all bids on this project.

The Board of Commissioners discussed the proposed abandonment of a portion of Willett Drive. Eddie Collis, the property owner at the end of the drive, was present and discussed the road. Rolann Smith, Administrative Assistant at the Public Works Department, discussed the problems with maintenance on the county road. Mr. Collis stated that he had placed a security gate across the road at his property line. The abandonment by the County of maintenance on the portion of the property beyond the security gate was agreed to by all parties; however, Mr. Collis objected to the abandonment of an additional 150 feet of the road located immediately adjacent and outside of his property line.

After discussion, it was agreed that the property owners should be notified of a proposed abandonment of the portion of Willett Drive beyond the security gate on Eddie Collis' property line and that an advertisement should be placed in the White County News advising the citizens that a public hearing would be held on this subject in conjunction with the March 2, 2009 meeting. It was agreed that the County would install a culvert just outside the security gate near Mr. Collis' property line.

The Board of Commissioners discussed the funding amount and funding source for furniture and equipment for courthouse renovated spaces. Beverly Bollefer, Purchasing Director, explained the list of required items and estimated prices (see copy attached). After discussion and upon motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, it was unanimously voted to authorize the following: a) Courtroom furniture, with Option A, at \$10,550; b) Hearing Room furniture at \$3,250; and c) Clerk of Court Record Room renovations and equipment at \$13,094, with the total not to exceed \$27,000 and to be paid from the Public Safety portion of the current SPLOST.

Judge Barrett on behalf of all the Judges expressed his appreciation to the Board of Commissioners for the Courthouse improvements.

The proposed executive session was postponed until Friday, February 6, 2009, at 1:00 P.M.

Alton Brown explained that the Board of Commissioners had approved a contract through Georgia Mountains RDC on December 16, 2008, contingent upon the receipt of two grants, for Digital Aerial Photography and Lidar. Mr. Brown stated that he had received an email from Georgia Mountains RDC on Saturday stating that there were no promises on the grants but needed an okay to proceed by Wednesday. The Board of Commissioners stated that the expense was only approved contingent upon the receipt of the grants. Upon motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, it was unanimously voted to rescind the agreement to enter the contract for the Digital Aerial Photography and Lidar.

Shirley McDonald announced that Tyler Dorsey, 10 years of age, had started a food drive for the first two weeks in February, wherein food and contributions would be collected and turned over to the White County Food Bank. Commissioner Campbell challenged all elected officials to bring a case of food for this cause.

Chairman Turner announced the following meetings: Work Session of Wednesday, February 25, 2009, at 9:00 A.M. and Regular Meeting of Monday, March 2, 2009, at 4:30 P.M.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Bryant, the meeting was adjourned to conduct interviews for the appointments to the Park and Recreation Board.

Minutes from Regular Meeting Held February 2, 2009, Continued

Travis C. Turner, Chairman

Joe R. Campbell, Post 1

Craig Bryant, Post 2

Jean Welborn, County Clerk



WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

59 SOUTH MAIN STREET – SUITE A; CLEVELAND, GA 30528
(706) 865-2235 Fax: (706) 865-1324

Court Room furniture:	Qty.	Est. Price	Total
14' benches refinished * (option A)	5	\$200	\$1,000
14' benches new (option B)	5	1,400	7,000
Stackable/ganged chairs (option C)	40	60	2,400
Matching Attorney tables	2	600	1,200
Conference chairs	6	150	900
Secretary chairs	3	100	300
Jury Chairs swivel on mounting brackets	13	300	3,900

*If option A is chosen additional seating will be needed for courthouse hall

Stackable/ganged chairs	25	50	<u>1,250</u>
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Option A (total including additional chairs needed) \$8,550 + \$2,000 = \$10,550

Option B 13,300

Option C 8,700

Hearing Room:	Qty.	Est. Price	Total
Judges Chair	1	250	250
Conference Chair	9	150	1,350
Witness Stand	1	300	300
30" x 60" Conference Table	2	400	800
24" x 36" Sec. Table	1	200	200
16' bench refinished	1	250	250
Sec. Chair	1	100	<u>100</u>
Total			\$3,250

Clerk of Court Record Room:	Qty.	Est. Price	Total
Add and install 6 tier carriage	1	2,770	2,770
Add and install 8 tier carriage	1	3,008	3,008
Move Existing System	1	1,300	1,300
Add and install movable 8 tier carriage	2	3,008	<u>6,016</u>
Total			13,094

Minutes from Regular Meeting Held February 2, 2009, Continued

Estimated Budget needed for furniture	29,644
Freight Charges – estimated	750
5% Unforeseen Expenses	<u>1,467</u>
 Total Budget:	 \$31,861