

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING LAND ACQUISITION

HELD THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2009

The White County Board of Commissioners met in an Executive Session on Thursday, July 2, 2009 for the purposes of discussing potential land acquisition (see the following closed meeting affidavit). Present were Chairman Travis Turner, Post 1 Commissioner Joe Campbell, Post 2 Commissioner Craig Bryant, County Manager Alton Brown, Purchasing Manager Beverly Bollefer, and County Clerk Shanda Smallwood.

Alton Brown stated he would like to discuss the property on Albert Reid Road, as a potential location for a White County Animal Shelter, which Windstream currently has on the market. This currently serves as a location for Windstream service personnel – which will be relocating to Habersham County. Mr. Brown indicated this property was the most “shovel ready” property which had been discussed as a possible site for an animal shelter – based on the information presented by the Georgia Department of Agriculture at the June 29, 2009 work session. Mr. Brown stated the current asking price for the property was \$290,000.00 – he asked the Board of Commissioners to authorize negotiations on the property, beginning with a request for Windstream to donate the property to White County for a tax write off.

Chairman Turner indicated he had spoken with Jackie Dean, with Windstream, and he should have information regarding the possibility of a donation within the next few days. He further stated he wanted to tour the entire facility prior to authorizing any negotiations.

Mr. Brown indicated the main office building on the Windstream property would be used for the animal shelter with the additional out buildings to be used for storage space.

Commissioner Campbell stated he would like to see the “vanilla” shelter plans, which the representative from the Department of Agriculture stated at the June 29, 2009 work session she could provide, as he felt this was a very good time to look at constructing a building with construction costs being very low at this time and he did not agree with purchasing a property which we would need to spend a great amount on improvements to meet the State standards.

Mr. Brown stated that he did not think very much money would need to be spent on converting the Windstream property to an animal shelter facility.

Commissioner Bryant asked if concrete floors would need to be poured in the house area. Beverly Bollefer stated that only self sustained dog kennels would need to be added. Commissioner Bryant stated he was concerned about having the appropriate foundation, as he did not think the current wood floor would be sufficient. Ms. Bollefer indicated there was a portion of concrete flooring in the structure. Commissioner Campbell stated the structure was built on a crawl space.

Chairman Turner stated he wanted to tour the facility and see about the possibilities of a donation of this property to White County before moving forward with any decision on the property.

Mr. Brown recommended that the Commissioners include the Chief Animal Control Officer, Pat Cooper in their tours and discussions. He also emphasized the importance of remaining focused on this project, as Habersham will no longer be able to house animals collected by White County Animal Control after July 17, 2009 and housing the animals at Cleveland Veterinary is an expensive, most likely very temporary alternative at the present time.

Commissioner Bryant stated he would like to look further into the possibility of constructing a facility on the property behind the White County Road Department Facility, if there was enough space. Chairman Turner asked the staff to determine the amount of land available at this location and the suitability of the site for building.

Beverly Bollefer stated that Pat Cooper had contacted a company who had estimated the cost of an animal shelter for the County a few years ago and she was expecting to receive some information from this company within the next few days. Chairman Turner asked this information to be forwarded to him when it is received.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Campbell a vote to exit the Executive Session and adjourn the called meeting was unanimously approved.

No further discussion regarding land acquisition – no decision made on any properties discussed

Sealed minutes of the July 2, 2009 Executive Session regarding land acquisition are approved this 3rd day of August, 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

s/Shanda Smallwood
Shanda Smallwood, County Clerk

<p><i>SEALED EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES: TO BE SEALED UNTIL PROPERTY IS ACQUIRED OR THE PROJECT IS ABANDONED O.C.G.A 50-14-3(4)</i></p> <p><i>Project Abandoned, Minutes Unsealed 05/13/2010</i></p>
