

## WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### MINUTES FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING LAND ACQUISITION

HELD TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2009

Chairman Turner opened the meeting by addressing a commercial property located on Duncan Bridge Road, which the Board of Commissioners, had discussed as a possible site for an animal shelter or fire station. Alton Brown stated that both Pat Cooper, Animal Control Officer and Dickie Howard, Fire Chief had viewed the property and neither felt it would meet the needs of their operations.

Chairman Turner indicated he had spoken with Dr. Frank Williams of Cleveland Veterinary and it may be possible to enter into a contractual agreement with Cleveland Veterinary for the housing and disposal of animals collected by White County Animal Control, which would give the Board of Commissioners another possibility to consider as the County is researching options for housing animals collected by Animal Control. Chairman Turner indicated he would rather not spend county funds on an animal shelter facility if there was an alternative. Alton Brown emphasized to the Board that addressing an animal shelter facility was an urgent matter with time running out on the temporary agreement to utilize the Habersham County Animal Shelter, the number of animals which were being collected, and with the recent rabies scare. He also stated the State of Georgia does have requirements for animal shelter facilities – which the property on Duncan Bridge Road did not meet and it would be a significant cost to bring the facility up to the required standard. Chairman Turner suggested that discussions on the purchase of the Duncan Bridge Road property be tabled until the proposed contract costs for Cleveland Veterinary were received and noted the County is currently paying approximately \$3,000 per month to Habersham County for use of their animal shelter.

Commissioner Bryant stated he had been approached regarding the opportunity of the County purchasing the former Family Dodge property which includes the building and 4.5 acres. He thought this could be utilized to house the White County Road Department and Animal Control. This facility is on the City sewer system, has roll up bay doors, and is equipped with the EPD approved tanks for oil disposal. Commissioner Bryant stated the asking price for the property was \$850,000 – which could be purchased with SPLOST funds. Alton Brown explained “new” SPLOST funds would not begin until the later part of 2009 and a portion of those funds would need to go to the Detention Center expansion project. Commissioner Campbell stated he felt this was a good price for the property, if it were possible for the County to purchase it. Chairman Turner indicated that he had concerns with placing the Road Department and Animal Control in the same facility due to potential odors and just did not feel it was a good time to spend \$850,000.

The Board of Commissioners asked Doug Dockery, Director of Public Works, Rolann Smith Public Works Administrative Assistant, and Vickie Neikirk Chief Financial Officer to join them for discussions regarding the former Family Dodge property.

Doug Dockery stated he was familiar with the property and thought it was be a good location for the Road Department, however until the by-pass was constructed, it would be difficult for crews to travel to the north end of the County. Chairman Turner asked how Doug would feel about having an animal shelter in the same facility and Doug stated he was not in favor of that idea.

Chairman Turner asked Vickie Neikirk for her thoughts on the possibility of being able to purchase a property at \$850,000 – in addition to the plans of starting the Detention Center expansion project within the next year – from SPLOST funds. Ms. Neikirk stated that the purchase would have to be financed either through capital financing or bonds.

Alton Brown stated his opinion was this would be poor timing, due to the current economic downturn, to make this type of purchase with SPLOST funds already having been dedicated to the White County Detention Center project within the next year.

Commissioner Bryant stated he felt this property was worthy of being considered for purchase by the County, as a Road Department facility will need to be constructed in the near future and the cost to do so would probably be much higher three or four years from now.

Commissioner Campbell stated that he was not in agreement with locating the animal shelter on the same property as the Road Department and he thought a County Shop should be located on more acreage than the approximate four (4) acres being discussed.

Doug Dockery suggested looking at property off of Jess Hunt Road, just before the White County Pre-K facility – as he thought this would be a good site for a County Shop once the bypass was completed.

Chairman Turner reemphasized that further discussion on the Duncan Bridge Road Property was on hold until he could speak further with Cleveland Veterinary regarding a possible contract.

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

Sealed minutes of the June 16, 2009 Executive Session regarding land acquisition are approved this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 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

*SEALED EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES:  
TO BE SEALED UNTIL PROPERTY IS  
ACQUIRED OR THE PROJECT IS  
ABANDONED O.C.G.A 50-14-3(4)*

*Project Abandoned – Minutes Unsealed  
05/13/2010*