

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD

THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2011 AT 8:30 A.M.

On Thursday, May 5, 2011 at 8:30 a.m. the White County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting in the Grand Jury Room of the White County Courthouse. Present at the meeting were: Chairman Travis Turner, Commissioner Terry Goodger, Commissioner Lyn Holcomb, Commissioner Craig Bryant, County Manager Carol Jackson, Finance Director Vicki Mays, and County Clerk Shanda Smallwood. Commissioner Edwin Nix was not in attendance due to medical issues.

Chairman Turner called the meeting to order.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Reverend Scott Kidd of the Resurrection Episcopal Church provided the invocation.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to adopt the minutes of the Regular Meeting held April 4, 2011, the Called Meeting held April 14, 2011 and the Called Meeting held April 18, 2011, with a portion remaining sealed regarding real estate.

Upon presentation of proclamation to the White County Convention and Visitors Bureau, the week of May 7-15, 2011 was designated Travel and Tourism Week in White County.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Goodger, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb there was a unanimous vote to approve the following consent agenda:

- Approval of changes to the current contract for patching / repair for the Georgia Department of Transportation LMIG (Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant) road projects and 10 other county roads that was previously awarded to Allied Paving, adding \$55,050.00 to the contract price for a revised total of \$184,225 – with the project to only include Cooley Woods Road, Black Road, and a portion of Asbestos Road from Hwy 75 to Boca Hills – to be paid with the remaining 2004 SPLOST funds;
- Award of the bank bid for E/911, Solid Waste, SPLOST Pass Thru, and Drug Education Accounts currently held at Regions Bank to Mountain Valley Community Bank based on the bid received; and
- Approval of the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission contract for application and general administrative services in connection with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the expansion of the White County Senior Center.

-End of Consent Agenda-

Commissioner Bryant stated that the Sautee Nacoochee Community Association had requested \$5,000.00 for sponsorship of the 2011 Hillbilly Hog BBQ Throwdown to be held at the Sautee Nacoochee Community Center on October 21 & 22, 2011. He stated

this was the same amount of monetary sponsorship provided to Cleveland Better Home Town last year for the same event – however this year the sponsorship would go to the Sautee Nacoochee Community Association. Commissioner Bryant stated this was a good event which had brought many tourists into the County last year and the funds could be taken from the Hotel / Motel Tax Proceeds. Chairman Turner asked event representative Heather Sinyard if there were any plans to decrease some of the prize amounts. Ms. Sinyard stated the prize amounts had not yet been confirmed, that funds would be shifted as needed and that prize amounts would be set approximately thirty (30) days prior to the actual competition.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to contribute \$5,000.00 from the Hotel / Motel Tax proceeds to the Sautee Nacoochee Community Association for sponsorship of the 2011 Hillbilly Hog BBQ Throwdown.

Chairman Turner encouraged the public to attend the 2011 Hillbilly Hog BBQ Throwdown on October 21 & 22, 2011 at the Sautee Nacoochee Community Association.

Chairman Turner presented the invoice from the City of Cleveland in the amount of \$9,001.59 in relation to the City Engineer's services on the Hulsey Road Lift Station and Force Main Project.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Holcomb, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a 3 to 1 vote for approval of the invoice from the City of Cleveland in the amount of \$9,001.59 for the City Engineer's services on the Hulsey Road Lift Station and Force Main Project to be paid from 2008 SPLOST Funds. Commissioner Bryant opposed.

Chairman Turner stated that he wanted to postpone the vote for consideration of the contract for SPLOST Management Services with CHA until a later date due to further research being needed regarding the services provided by CHA and the associated contract document. Chairman Turner confirmed there was a consensus with the Board that this item be postponed to a future meeting.

Matt Bidwell, with MSI Benefits, presented additional options to the White County Board of Commissioners for the July 1, 2011 renewal of the County's Employee Benefits Plan. Following is a summary of the presentation of options:

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia – Current Annual Premium \$1,728,674 (County Portion = \$1,406,751, Employee Portion = \$321,923.
BCBSGA Renewal (\$1,000-100%) +32.53%
BCBSGA Renewal (\$1,000-80%) +22.27%
Aetna (\$1,000-100%) +27.09
Alliant (\$1,000-100%) -9.52%
AAHPS (\$500/\$500-100%) +23.23%
CIGNA (\$1,000-100%) +17.90%

United Healthcare (\$1,000-100%) +26.40%

In response to questions from the Board of Commissioners, Mr. Bidwell explained the physician networks with Alliant were very broad and he thought there would be very little disruption with providers not being covered with Alliant if any. He further stated that Alliant had agreed to a 17% rate cap for the July 1, 2012 renewal. He confirmed that Alliant would offer two (2) PPO options, one with a \$500 deductible / 80% co-insurance and the other with a \$1,000 deductible / no co-insurance. Mr. Bidwell s recommended the \$1,000 deductible plan be considered the basic plan and allow employees to buy up to the more expensive \$500 deductible plan. He explained that normally when a group changes carriers that most disruption comes from the pharmacy related issues due to differences in the preferred drug formularies.

Shanda Smallwood explained that if the Board of Commissioners decided to change carrier and leave the Blue Cross Blue Shield (ACCG Pool) the County would no longer be eligible for a wellness grant which the County currently receives in the total value of approximately \$3,000.00 per year. Ms. Smallwood stated the County has had an employee wellness program for the past four (4) years and she recommended keeping this program going since this was the only effective way to potentially decrease the cost of medical claims for the county employees – in addition to the other benefits of having a wellness program.

Mr. Bidwell recommended the County add an incentive for participation in certain wellness related activities at next year's open enrollment – such as employees (and spouse) who do not get routine wellness exams being responsible for a higher premium – as the new healthcare legislation requires all wellness related screenings to be paid at 100%.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Goodger, seconded by Commissioner Bryant there was a unanimous vote to approve awarding the White County Employee Medical Insurance to Alliant effective July 1, 2011, with a 17% rate cap for the 2012 renewal and with \$3,000.00 being added to the Employee Wellness Program in the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget.

The Board of Commissioners expressed their appreciation to Matt Bidwell for his work with the White County Employee Benefits Plan.

In considering various upcoming Board appointments, the following motions were made:

- Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to appoint Dr. Kenneth Kliever to the White County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors for a two (2) year term beginning July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2013 (*position formerly held by*

Ms. Brenda Helton).

- Upon a motion made by Commissioner Holcomb, seconded by Commissioner Bryant there was a unanimous vote to reappoint Ms. Tanya England to the White County Department of Family & Children's Services Board for a five (5) year term beginning July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2016.
- Upon a motion made by Commissioner Goodger, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb there was a unanimous vote to reappoint Mr. Walter Bogart to the White County Convention & Visitors' Bureau for a two (2) year beginning September 1, 2011 and ending August 31, 2013.
- Upon a motion made by Commissioner Holcomb, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to appoint Mr. Dustin Hulsey and Mr. Michael Clackum to the White County Parks YMCA Governing Board for a one (1) year term beginning July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012 (*positions previously held by Mr. Barry Vandiver and Mr. Tony Vandiver*). The Board asked that the remaining board position be re-advertised.
- In considering the recommendations of the White County Library Board and upon a motion made by Commissioner Goodger, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb there was a unanimous vote to re-appoint Ms. Terry Roberts and to appoint Ms. Shirley McDonald (*position previously held by Ms. Cindy Crumley*) to the White County Library Board for a four (4) year term beginning July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2015.
- Upon a motion made by Commissioner Holcomb, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to re-appoint Commissioner Craig Bryant to the White County Water Authority Board as the representative of the White County Board of Commissioners for a two (2) year term beginning July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2013.

Mr. Scott Masters, Director of Emergency Medical Transport with Northeast Georgia Medical Center and Mr. Bill Scandrett, Director of Emergency Medical Operations for White County, approached the Board of Commissioners with considerations for the FY 12 contract for Emergency Medical Services with White County. Mr. Masters stated he and Mr. Scandrett wanted to have an ambulance available for every 911 call which came in – however although call volume and population had increased the emergency medical services had not had a staffing increase in ten (10) years. Mr. Masters explained that in 2010 there were 330 incidents when all ambulances had been dispatched at the same time and 80 incidents when an actual 911 call had come in when an ambulance was not available – therefore White County had to call on a neighboring County for mutual aid. He stated that the counties normally called for mutual aid were Habersham and Hall and he had been getting feedback from the two counties that this was burdensome on them to respond to White County on a regular basis. Mr. Masters recommended adding one (1) additional ambulance and crew during peak call times (8 a.m. – 12 a.m.) and absorbing the additional cost through a fee adjustment to the patients (has not been a fee adjustment in five years) in combination with an increase in the County subsidy. Chairman Turner asked for clarification that an additional ambulance would not need to be purchased – however the current reserve ambulance would be staffed. Mr. Scandrett confirmed Chairman Turner's statement was correct. Mr. Masters stated the increased staffing would bring the contract amount up from \$712,000.00 per year to \$800,000.00 per year – for a three (3) year

term. Mr. Masters said he realized that no-transport calls were a concern to the Board, however ambulances did not leave the county in these cases and could quickly move on to other calls if needed.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Holcomb, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to approve a revised contract with Northeast Georgia Medical Center for Emergency Medical Services in the amount of \$800,000.00 per year for a three (3) year period, which will include the staffing of a fourth (reserve) ambulance, during peak call times.

Chairman Turner expressed the Board's appreciation to the staff of the White County Emergency Medical Services.

Sheriff Neal Walden informed the Board of Commissioners that there was approximately \$30,000.00 in the Inmate Welfare Fund – which was generated through Telephone Commission Revenues.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to approve the White County Sheriff's Office purchase of a new vehicle from the Inmate Welfare Fund / Telephone Commission Revenue.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Holcomb, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to suspend White County's contribution to the White County Employee Retirement Plan effective July 1, 2011 – for the 2012 Fiscal Year – as a cost savings measure to the 2012 Fiscal Year Budget and to be reevaluated January 1, 2012.

Chairman Turner stated the Board wanted to emphasize that during the 2012 Fiscal Year Budget – the County would not be paying for any employee training which was not absolutely necessary due to the tight budget which would be required for FY 2012.

Ms. Shanda Smallwood presented the Commissioners with a copy of the current county policy regarding employee training. She stated that the comments made by the Board of Commissioners were reflected in this current policy; therefore possibly reemphasizing the policy would be the best way to convey what the Board desired. Chairman Turner asked Ms. Jackson to send a memo to County Employees reemphasizing the current policy.

Ms. Vicki Mays, Finance Director, presented the Monthly Financial Status Report for March 2011 (see following report).

Tommy Wiley, Project Manager with Charles Black Construction, Inc. – Construction Manager for the White County Detention Center Construction Project – presented a change order to the Board of Commissioners in the amount of \$94,648.00 in relation to sewer and water infrastructure necessary for the White County Detention Center Construction Project. Mr. Wiley explained the architect had originally budgeted water and sewer improvements for the project at \$28,242.60; however when the City of Cleveland reviewed the infrastructure plans they issued requirements that resulted in the infrastructure budget increasing. Mr. Wiley stated the charges reflected in the change order covered work to the lift station. Chairman Turner stated that

\$500,000.00 of 2008 SPLOST funds had been designated for the necessary water and sewer upgrades. Mr. Wiley stated some changes had been made to the design of the retention pond which resulted in a credit from the firm who is responsible for the site work. He further explained the next change order would include deductions, additions for the unsuitable soils (approximately \$62,000.00), and the difference in the earth work. Mr. Wiley indicated the Sheriff had found \$9,000.00 in value engineering during the last meeting with the architect. Commissioner Bryant asked why the issue with unsuitable soils was not known prior to bidding and construction with the soil tests which had been done. Mr. Wiley responded that they were aware of the unsuitable soils detailed in the soils report, which resulted in the modification of the design of the retention pond – as the amount of unsuitable soil resulted in more fill dirt being needed and less of the onsite soil being able to be used for fill. Commissioner Bryant stressed the importance of a tight budget on the project. Mr. Wiley stressed the major issues with the Hulsey Road site was the amount of fill dirt required and taking construction away for the utilities on the site and the contingency was set up to absorb costs related to the unsuitable soils. He also emphasized that the contingency was not set up for Furniture, Fixtures, & Equipment (FFE); however he had agreed to allow any funds remaining in the contingency to be used for this purpose when construction was complete.

Mr. Larry Goldberg, with Goldberg, Sullivan & McCrerey Architects, reemphasized that originally the plan was to have the jail lower in the site – however in deigning the site at a lower elevation this created more issues with utility and road work; therefore they starting raising the site up and needed fill dirt as well as a retention pond. He stated the hope was the soil from the retention pond could be used as fill dirt on the site so they overdesigned the retention pond. It was discovered the dirt was not suitable for the site; therefore the pond was only dug to the point that the soil from the pond could be used in non-structural locations around the site in order to prevent the need and cost of hauling the soil away from the site. Mr. Goldberg emphasized that they were aware of the unsuitable soils and has addressed that through the design of the retention pond, which did not result in soil that could be used structural locations.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Goodger, seconded by Commissioner Bryant there was a unanimous vote to approve the change directives 1 & 2 from Charles Black Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$94,648.00 for water / sewer upgrades related to the White County Detention Center Construction Project and to be paid from the \$500,000.00 budgeted from 2008 SPLOST Funds for infrastructure improvements.

Mr. Goldberg presented a proposed amendment to Goldberg, Sullivan & McCrerey, Inc. contract for architectural services on the White County Detention Center Construction Project which updated GSM's budget responsibility within the project to \$10,500,000.00 as was agreed with the Board of Commissioners and the Sheriff a few weeks ago.

Commissioner Goodger asked that in addition to the amendment of the contract price that section 2.3 Budget Exclusions, of the current contract also be modified in order to demonstrate that \$10,500,000.00 included the water and sewer upgrades.

Mr. Goldberg expressed that his concern was that he had never done off site work in coordination with a municipality on a project before and he had no way of knowing for certain

about issues 3,700 feet up Hulsey Road – however he would make that change to his contract to reflect this part of the work no longer being an exclusion being the lift station and 3,700 linear feet of 8" force main.

Chairman Turner asked that Mr. Goldberg to resubmit the contract amendment at a later date to the Board of Commissioners to include the change to Section 2.3 Budget Exclusions.

Mr. Tommy Wiley asked to make specific mention that the utility upgrades would be taking place within the back five (5) feet of the DOT easement along Hulsey Road in case any Commissioners received compliant from property owners along Hulsey Road.

Chairman Turner opened the floor for citizen participation. There was no one wishing to make any comments.

Following announcements and upon a motion made by Commissioner Holcomb, seconded by Commissioner Bryant there was a unanimous vote to enter into Executive Session in order to discuss personnel issues.

-See The Following Closed Meeting Affidavit-

Following the Executive Session and upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb there was a unanimous vote to exit Executive Session.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Goodger, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb there was a unanimous vote to adjourn the Regular Meeting.

The minutes of the May 5, 2011 Regular Meeting are hereby approved as stated this the 13th day of June, 2011.

-Execution of May 5, 2011 Minutes on the Following Page-

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

s/Terry D. Goodger
Terry D. Goodger, District 1

s/Lyn Holcomb
Lyn Holcomb, District 2

s/Edwin Nix
Edwin Nix, District 3

s/Craig Bryant
Craig Bryant, District 4

s/Shanda Smallwood
Shanda Smallwood, County Clerk