

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE CALLED MEETING HELD

FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2012 AT 8:30 A.M.

The White County Board of Commissioners held a Called Meeting on Friday, May 11, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. in the Board of Commissioners Office Conference Room. The purpose of the Called Meeting was to consider entering into Executive Session in order to discuss personnel and to discuss Fiscal Year 2013 Departmental Budget request for various departments. Present at the meeting was: Chairman Travis Turner, Commissioner Terry Goodger, Commissioner Lyn Holcomb, Commissioner Edwin Nix, Commissioner Craig Bryant, County Manager Michael Melton, Interim County Manager Jean Welborn, Finance Director Vicki Mays, and County Clerk Shanda Smallwood.

Chairman Turner called the meeting to order.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Holcomb, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to enter into Executive Session in order to discuss personnel.

-See Attached Closed Meeting Affidavit-

Minutes of the Executive Session are sealed and maintained by the County Clerk pursuant to O.C.G.A. §50-14-1(e)(2)(C).

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Goodger, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb there was a unanimous vote to exit Executive Session.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb there was a unanimous vote to release Mr. David Syfan as County Attorney effective immediately.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to appoint Mr. Bill House as the Interim County Attorney effective immediately at a rate of \$125.00 per hour and for a period of ninety (90) days.

The Board of Commissioners expressed their appreciation to Mr. David Syfan for his service to White County since 2006.

The following department presented the following summarized requests for the Fiscal Year 2013 Budget to the Board of Commissioners:

Sheriff Neal Walden stated that his budget request for the White County Sheriff's Office included pay increases for employees and the purchase of eight (8) patrol cars. He said the high mileage vehicles currently in their fleet were a safety concern and maintenance costs were increasing due to the high mileage. Chief Deputy Bob Ingram stated that one-half (1/2) of the vehicles in the Sheriff's Office inventory had in excess of 100,000 miles on them and one-third (1/3) of the vehicle inventory had in excess of 150,000 miles on them. Sheriff Walden explained that other than the vehicle purchases, the budget contained a projection of the expenses associated with the operation of the new Detention Center through the entire 2013 Fiscal Year.

May 11, 2012 – Called Meeting Minutes (continued)

Mr. David Murphy, EMA/E911 Director, presented the budget proposal for EMA & E911 which included a minimal increase in operational costs due to maintenance type issues, the addition of one (1) Communications Officer and capital outlay requests in the amount of \$85,000.00. Mr. Murphy stated that call volume had steadily increased over the years for all user agencies and that E/911 had assumed additional dispatching duties from the Sheriff's Office and the City of Helen – therefore he was requesting an additional Communications Officer. The capital outlay request included a new generator for the Mauney Building and additional funding for the federally mandated narrowband / digital radio requirements. He explained that the Board of Commissioners had approved moving forward with the narrowband / digital project in 2010 in four phases as funding became available with a total cost estimate of \$750,000.00. He stated that phase 1 and phase 2 would be complete by the end of Fiscal Year 2013. The most expensive piece of equipment needed in the Fiscal Year 2013 Budget would be required in order for the fire paging system to operate on the narrowband / digital system through a simulcast as opposed to adding additional tower sites in order to maintain the same coverage area. The cost of this equipment would be approximately \$60,000.00; however he thought there would be grant funding of \$25,000.00 available to offset the expense. Mr. Murphy explained that in order to meet the federal radio requirements, in 2010 the Board of Commissioners had an option to go onto Hall County's 800 MHZ system – which would have cost in excess of \$8 million or to install the system they were currently working on at the cost of approximately \$750,000.00. He highlighted that thus far in the project, due to grant funding which had been received, the County had paid \$.37 on the \$1.00 up until this point. There was discussion regarding evaluating the size of the generator to be purchased in order to allow for adequate service for the Senior Center as well as the Mauney Building.

Chief Dickie Howard, White County Fire Department, presented a budget proposal which included the addition of two part-time firefighters to stand by at one station for 12 hours (8 am – 8 pm) seven days a week, 365 days per year. Chief Howard said this addition would greatly assist with reducing response times during the peak hours. He estimated the cost of this expanded coverage to be \$99,050.98 annually. He explained that when he became Chief the average on scene response time was 14.2 minutes and the current on scene response time is 10.2 minutes; however the average time for a fire truck to arrive on scene is 16.4 minutes. Chief Howard indicated that he wanted to begin paying all volunteers on a per hour basis instead of a per call basis – thereby converting them all the part-time employees. He estimated this change to a per hour basis would increase the total response fees paid on an annual basis by \$1,700.00. He said the paid full-time staff was working on hydrant maintenance, station maintenance, and would be assuming fire inspections, etc. during the day.

Mr. Doug Dockery, Public Works Director, presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2013 Budget for the White County Road Department – which included the addition of three (3) employees, which would bring the total Road Department Staff to twenty (20) employees. He stated he had lost four (4) employees during the past year or so who he had not been allowed to replace – which made doing the right of way mowing operations very difficult since the County had not renewed the commercial mowing contract compounded with the reductions in personnel. Mr. Dockery asked the Board to consider allowing the Road Department to budget funds for overtime, as currently any overtime is being paid as compensatory time – thereby increasing the burden on the reduced staff when employees take the additional paid time off earned as compensatory time.

May 11, 2012 – Called Meeting Minutes (continued)

Ms. Jean Welborn indicated that the estimated reduction in the tax digest, if the millage rate remained the same, would result in a reduction in revenues of \$876,643.00 for the 2013 Fiscal Year. Ms. Welborn noted the option which the Board of Commissioners will have in July when setting the millage rate to approve the “roll up rate” which would make up for the decrease in revenue due to the decreased tax digest.

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

The minutes of the Called Meeting held May 11, 2012 are hereby approved as stated this 4th day of June, 2012.

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