

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION & REGULAR MEETING HELD

MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 2014 AT 4:30 P.M.

The White County Board of Commissioners held a combination Work Session and Regular Meeting on Monday, August 4, 2014 at 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the White County Administration Building. Present at the meeting were: Chairman Travis Turner, Commissioner Terry Goodger, Commissioner Lyn Holcomb, Commissioner Edwin Nix, Commissioner Craig Bryant, County Manager Michael Melton, Finance Director Vicki Mays, and County Clerk Shanda Murphy.

Chairman Turner called the meeting to order.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Pastor Marc Turner of the Cleveland Worship Center / White County Ministerial Alliance 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 June 2, 2014, the Called Meeting Held June 23, 2014, the Called Meeting held June 30, 2014 (including Executive Session Minutes), and the Called Meeting held July 16, 2014 (including Executive Session Minutes).

Ms. Carolyn Miller addressed the Board of Commissioners concerning Mill Lane. She spoke as a representative of the Adair Mill Property Owner's Association and the residents of Mill Lane. She stated that they current condition of Mill Lane did not reflect well on the Adair Mill development at the end of the road. She stated that in 2001 residents of Mill Lane paid for chip seal on the road and gave right of way to the County for future maintenance. She indicated that the County had repaired frequent potholes on the road. She stated that chip seal was not meant to be a permanent surface and the road had a relatively high traffic volume which made this type of surface even less conducive. She stated her concerns that if a permanent surface was not applied to Mill Lane that the money spent on the prep, base, and maintenance would be a waste. Ms. Miller indicated that based on the amount property taxes paid by the owners in Adair Mill they felt they should at least have a paved road leading into their development and while they were aware of several dirt roads in the county, however she seriously doubted if any of the dirt roads led to a development equal to the size of Adair Mill with comparable assessments. Ms. Miller submitted petitions for the paving of Mill Lane for the record and stated that Adair Mill Subdivision would be paving portions of their private roads this Fall.

Chairman Turner stated that he had asked the County Clerk to research any prior commitments made by the Board of Commissioners regarding Mill Lane. Ms. Murphy stated that there was no record of the Board of Commissioners taking any action pertaining to commitment to the paving of Mill Lane in the prior years.

Commissioner Nix stated that he was on the Board of Commissioners when the chip seal was done on Mill Lane, however he did not recall the specifics other than that the County prepped the road and the residents paid for the chip sealing. He believed the idea was for the County to abandon the road to the subdivision property owners; however that was never brought back before the Board of Commissioners after the repairs were complete. Commissioner Nix stated the paving would be estimated to cost \$22,000.00.

Chairman Turner stated that the Board needed to address that triple surface on County roads is intended to be a base prior to asphalt, although the Board's intention was to focus on paving dirt roads – the existing roads with triple surface would need to be addressed at some point.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Goodger, seconded by Commissioner Nix there was a unanimous vote to table the issue of Mill Lane until the Called Meeting on Friday, August 8 in order to allow for time to get an estimate together for the paving costs.

Commissioner Nix asked Ms. Miller if the Adair Mill Property Owner's Association would consider taking maintenance of Mill Lane over if the County paved the road. Ms. Miller stated that she did not think so, however she would need to speak with the other members to make certain. Ms. Michelle Johnson, resident of Adair Mill Subdivision, stated that assessments to the property owners would have to increase in order to take over the maintenance of Mill Lane, for which all property owners would have to be in agreement.

Mr. Doug Dockery, Public Works Director, presented the issue of designating the resurfacing of Paradise Valley Road as the 2015 Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) project to be bid in Spring 2015, as well as including the resurfacing of Asbestos Road (Joe Black Road to Alternate 75) in the same bid package for the benefit of volume pricing.

Chairman Turner stated that with previous LMIG funding, Asbestos Road to Joe Black Road had been resurfaced; however due to a fatal auto accident in that area the District Attorney's Office had asked that the work not go past this point until the criminal case was resolved – which it was.

Mr. Dockery stated that the 2015 LMIG funding would be \$293,368.00 for the resurfacing of Paradise Valley Road – with the remainder of the cost (approximately \$470,636.00) for the two roads (Paradise Valley & Asbestos (Joe Black to Alt 75)) being the county's cost.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb there was a unanimous vote to authorize the resurfacing of Paradise Valley Road as the 2015 LMIG project with this work as well as the resurfacing of Asbestos Road (Joe Black to Alt 75) being bid in Spring 2015 for one course resurfacing.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Nix there was a unanimous vote to authorize the White County Road Department to fill a vacancy for a Heavy Equipment Operator position as included in the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget.

Mr. Doug Dockery stated that the Road Department had a 1995 Ford mowing tractor which was out of service and the cost to repair would be \$3,300.00. He presented a recommendation to purchase a 2013 Massey Ferguson Tractor in the amount of \$112,303.00 at State contract price.

Chairman Turner stated that the option of contracting out the mowing of County right-of-ways should be considered – as the Georgia Department of Transportation is contracting with a company for mowing of right of ways.

Commissioner Nix recounted a prior contract the County had for mowing, which had increased significantly over time.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to table the purchase of the replacement tractor to give Mr. Melton time to research options for contracting County Road mowing operations.

Mr. David Murphy, Public Safety Director, presented the White County Mass Fatality Plan as Annex 11 to the Local Emergency Operations Plan.

Mr. Murphy presented bids received in reference to a 100% Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) funded grant for a mobile emergency generator. He stated this grant was on a fast track – with the project requiring completion by August 31, 2014. He recommended awarding the bid to Anderson Power in the amount of \$52,410.00 - as they were the only firm which provided a bid consistent with the specifications provided and could provide timely expedited delivery.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Holcomb, seconded by Commissioner Bryant there was a unanimous vote to award to for the emergency mobile generator project to Anderson Power in the amount of \$52,410.00 – with the project to be funded by a 100% GEMA Grant.

Mr. Murphy presented a request to add an additional firefighter through the reallocation of capital asset funds within the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget – which would increase the number of full-time paid firefighters to ten (10) including the Fire Chief, Fire Captain / Inspector, and Fire Admin. He made a presentation regarding proposed Fire Department staffing, volunteer participation, and data on incident patterns. Option #1 provided personnel working ten (10) hour shifts Monday-Friday – which would cover approximately 88% of incidents. Option #2 was for extended coverage with rotating shifts 20 hours (Mon-Fri) – which would cover approximately 94% of incidents. Mr. Murphy emphasized that currently and in both options presented all paid firefighters are on-call to be dispatched to first alarm structure fires and motor vehicle crashes with entrapment and second alarm fire in their first due – which guarantees a response even outside of the shift hours. He explained that Saturday's and Sunday's are being covered by volunteers and the on-call dispatch of paid staff.

Chairman Turner emphasized that he had requested, with consideration of adding the tenth (10th) firefighter, options for 24 hour fire coverage as this was the level of service citizens were coming to expect and he was frustrated that the option has not been presented as he had expected.

Commissioner Bryant offered suggestion for revising the shift schedule listed to cover the 24 hour period Monday-Friday and Chairman Turner suggested a rotating shift schedule. Commissioner Nix stated that he wanted careful consideration on the issue in order to determine if a legitimate 24 hour fire service could be provided at this level of staffing. There was a consensus among the Board that they wanted to explore 24 hour fire service options.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Bryant there was a unanimous vote to table the approval of a tenth (10th) firefighter by the reallocation of Fiscal Year 2015 funds in order to allow for additional research and discussion regarding 24 hour fire services.

Ms. Heather Sinyard presented a request for \$5,000.00 to be used for marketing the upcoming Hillbilly Hog BBQ Throwdown. She stated this would be the fifth (5th) year of the event and they had hoped to be self-supporting at this point, however they planned to eliminate the \$5.00 admission fee this year in hopes of increasing attendance. Ms. Sinyard stated that at least 50% of the attendees last year were tourists from more than 50 miles away. She discussed improvements to the 2014 Festival which will make the event more interactive. Chairman Turner emphasized that the idea of government sponsoring this type of event was only meant to be an initial support to get the event going and hopefully the event would be self-supporting going into the sixth (6th) year.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Holcomb, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to provide \$5,000.00 for the marketing of the Hillbilly Hog BBQ Throwdown from Hotel / Motel Tax Funds – with this to be paid to the White County Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Melton stated that he wanted to bring the opportunity to participate in the aerial photography project through the Georgia Mountain Regional Commission (GMRC) back before the Board – as the initial cost was \$31,000.00; however the revised cost is now \$18,644.00 and the City of Cleveland has agreed to pay \$6,214.67 to the project – leaving the County's cost at \$12,429.33. He indicated that the City of Helen did not wish to participate. Commissioner Bryant stated that he had heard that the City of Helen was interested in participating in the project.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Bryant there was a unanimous vote to table the discussion regarding the aerial photography project in order for Commissioner Bryant and Mr. Melton to confirm participation with the City of Helen.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Goodger, seconded by Commissioner Nix there was a unanimous vote to approve the contract with the North Georgia Mountains Authority (NGMA) for the provisions associated with the lodging tax collected and remitted from Unicoi State Park – with the revisions to the contract only updating the reference to the Authority and the current 8% tax rate.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb there was a unanimous vote to table the consideration of the board appointments (YMCA, Building

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Authority, and Behavioral Health and Development Disabilities) until the Called Meeting on Friday, August 8, 2014.

Ms. Vicki Mays, Finance Director, presented the Monthly Financial Status Report (see attached).

Mr. Melton presented the Medcom Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) plan document stating the document required the Board's approval by resolution.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Nix there was a unanimous vote to approve the Medcom Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) plan document resolution.

Mr. Melton informed the Board that he had received a notice of annexation from the City of Cleveland for a small piece of property off Hope Drive. He stated this would be presented at the August 8, 2014 Called Meeting for approval by the Board.

Commissioner Bryant presented a list of dirt roads with estimates for triple surfacing of these roads for the Board's consideration. This list included: Mt. Pleasant Church Road (North End), Gene Nix Road (Asbury Mill to River Bridge), Virgil Hunt Road (Town Creek to Tesnatee Gap), May White Road (Webster Lake Road to Ricky West Road), Lynch Mountain Road (Hwy 255 to the Bridge), Apricot Drive, Rabun Road (Hwy 17 to Bean Creek Church Road), and Gus Abernathy Road – totaling 4.74 miles of dirt road.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to place the above referenced roads out for bid as soon as possible for improvements to be done this year, with the bid document to include two (2) options for pricing – triple surfacing and asphalt at two (2) inches – with improvements to be done ditch to ditch (18' widths where possible).

Commissioner Bryant presented a request from the Sautee Nacoochee Community Association (SNCA) in the amount of \$15,000.00 to be used for the development of a land use plan for the campus.

Commissioner Bryant made a motion that the County Fund \$7,500.00 to SNCA for this project from Hotel / Motel Tax Funds. Ms. Mays stated the funds available in Hotel / Motel Tax were for brick and mortar projects only. Commissioner Bryant rescinded his motion.

Chairman Turner opened the floor for Citizen Participation.

Ms. Cindy Bailey, President of the White Chamber of Commerce, expressed her appreciation to the Board of Commissioners for their continued support in funding the Chamber's tourism promotion efforts and supporting the Unicoi Wine Fest. She announced the Chamber's new website was up and running, work being done on a Georgia Wine Trail App, her recent work with several travel writers, plans for the upcoming Agri-Fest (September 27) and the Annual Chamber Luncheon Banquet.

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Mr. Mark Johnson, President of the White County Historical Society, presented information to the Board regarding “Pottery Comes to Town” held in connection with Agri-Fest (September 27).

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Nix there was a unanimous motion to adjourn the meeting.

The minutes of the August 4, 2014 Regular Meeting are hereby approved as stated this 25th day of August, 2014.

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 Murphy

Shanda Murphy, County Clerk