

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION & CALLED MEETING HELD

MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2014 AT 4:30 P.M.

The White County Board of Commissioners held a Work Session and Called Meeting in the Board Room of the Administration Building on Monday, August 25, 2014 at 4:30 p.m. 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.

Boy Scout Troop 140 was welcomed and recognized for their attendance.

Upon presentation of proclamation to the Enotah Anti-Drug Coalition – September 2014 was proclaimed “Recovery Month in White County”.

Mr. Mike Davis, Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Fire Management Officer and Mr. Frank Riley, Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Council Director presented information on the Fire Adapted Communities Project.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Bryant there was a unanimous vote of support for White County Staff to partner in the Fire Adapted Communities Project.

Mr. Jerry Brown, Executive Director of the Helen / White County Convention & Visitor’s Bureau, presented the newly released tourism marketing video for White County.

Mr. Tom O’Bryant, Director of Community Development, present the OTP Property Development Committee’s final report on their recommendations for the development of the 1000+/- acre recreational site (see attached report).

The Board’s appreciation to the OTP Committee Members: Dr. John Crumpton, Barry Vandiver, Doug Head, Laurie Burkett, Sheriff Neal Walden, James Turner, Bill Huff, Jerry Brown, Buddy Belflower, Bob Hirshi, and Scott Campbell.

Chairman Turner stated that work had already begun on identifying the access points and options for the bridge needed to make the property accessible from the current recreational facility.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb there was a unanimous vote to adopt the following meeting minutes:

- August 4, 2014 Work Session and Regular Meeting;
- August 8, 2014 Called Meeting; and
- August 20, 2014 Called Meeting (including sealed Executive Session Minutes).

August 25, 2014 – Work Session & Called Meeting Minutes (continued)

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Goodger, seconded by Chairman Turner there was a unanimous vote to designate the 1000 +/- acre recreational site (formerly known as the Outdoor Therapeutic Program (OTP) Property) as Yonah Preserve in recognition of the property's proximity to Yonah Mountain and the goal to provide various recreational facilities on the property while also preserving the natural beauty of the area.

Mr. David Murphy, Director of Public Safety, presented options for 24-hour fire protection as requested by the Board of Commissioners. The proposal included the hiring of three additional full time positions in order to establish total staffing of 12 fire protection positions (Chief, Captain, and ten firefighters). This would allow six (6) personnel to be assigned to rotating 24-hour shifts providing 24/7/365 coverage with the other six (6) personnel covering peak call times of 8 am to 6 pm Monday through Friday. He emphasized that the 10-hour shift personnel would be paged for response to all structure fires and other calls in their first due area. The 24-hour personnel would be housed at the Leaf Fire Station. Commissioner Nix indicated that he wanted the Board to provide a more central location for the 24-hour fire personnel to be housed at – such as possibly renovating a space in the back of the Administration Building for the equipment and personnel. Mr. Melton was instructed to contact the City of Cleveland and the City of Helen regarding their willingness to also provide 24-hour fire personnel, as well as speak with the City of Helen regarding the County having 24-hour access to their ladder truck.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to approve the addition of three full-time firefighter positions in order to provide the 24-hour fire protection (1 to be funded by the transfer of capital funds to personnel costs in the FY 2015 budget and 2 to be funded from contingency), to pursue a central location with improved access for the 24-hour personnel to respond from at the Administration Building, and authorization to amend the FY 15 to include transfers necessary for this action – with 24-hour staffing being effective October 1, 2014.

In considering White County's participation in the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission (GMRC) aerial photography project there was no motion made. Chairman Turner stated that the issue failed by lack of a motion.

Ms. Vicki Mays presented the issue of the financial liability currently on the books for the White County Health Department and Ninth District utility bills in the amount of \$42,188.35. She stated that the Health Department had begun paying their portion of the utility bills July, 2014; however she needed authorization on how to proceed with the existing liability.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Holcomb, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to approve the write-off of the \$42,188.35 financial liability associated with the utility expense at the White County Health Department / Ninth District Office.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Nix there was a unanimous vote to table the consideration of the utilization of pooled cash procedures for separate funds.

August 25, 2014 – Work Session & Called Meeting Minutes (continued)

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Holcomb, seconded by Chairman Turner there was a vote to designation Commissioner Edwin Nix as White County's voting delegate for the 2014 Legislative Leadership Conference. Commissioner Nix opposed the motion. Motion passed by a 4-1 vote.

Mr. Kevin Hamby, CHA SPLOST Manager, presented the Monthly SPLOST Status Report (see attached report).

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

Mr. Melton advised the Board of Commissioners that bids for the improvements to eight (8) county dirt roads would be in on September 4, 2014 and would be ready for the Board's consideration thereafter.

There was discussion regarding vehicles for the White County Sheriff's Office and repairs to a salvage van previously used by the Senior Center. Commissioner Bryant asked that the issue of vehicle purchase for the Sheriff's Office be placed on the next Work Session agenda.

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

The minutes of the August 25, 2015 Work Session and Called Meeting are hereby approved as stated this 6th day of October, 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