

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD

MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2014 AT 4:30 P.M.

The White County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Monday, June 2, 2014 at 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the Administration Building. Present at the meeting were: Chairman Travis Turner, Commissioner Terry Goodger, Commissioner Lyn Holcomb, Commissioner Edwin Nix, County Manager Michael Melton, Finance Director Vicki Mays, and County Clerk Shanda Murphy. Commissioner Craig Bryant was not in attendance.

Chairman Turner called the meeting to order.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Reverend Ted Worley of the White County Ministerial Alliance provided the invocation.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to adopt the minutes of the April 7, 2014 Regular Meeting, the April 22, 2014 Budget Work Session, the April 28, 2014 Called Meeting (including Executive Session Minutes), and May 19, 2014 Called Meeting (including Executive Session Minutes).

White County's Finance Department was recognized for receiving the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting as awarded by the Government Finance Officers Association for 2013.

Mr. Bryan Payne, White County Chief Appraiser, stated that the 18,000 + property assessments which were mailed recently did contain an error in the prior year's value – instead of the 2013 value being listed as it should have been the 2012 value was listed in error. He explained that he had discussed the issue with the Georgia Department of Revenue and felt that the best course of action was to send out corrected assessments, which would cost approximately \$9,000.00 in postage.

Chairman Turner asked for an explanation as to how the incorrect assessment notices were allowed to be distributed. Mr. Payne explained that notices were proofed by the office staff and since the correct data was not pulled for the prior year value – it was not possible to tell that the proof was incorrect. Mr. Payne stated that this would be paid through his department's postage line item – which would cause that expense line to be significantly over budget; however this department overall would be under budget for Fiscal Year 2014. Chairman Turner stated this was bad timing for this news as the Board had anticipated these funds to be rolled over into the Fiscal Year 2015 for much needed projects.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Goodger, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb there was a unanimous vote to appoint Mr. Josh Barrett to the White County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors for a two-year term expiring June 30, 2016 (previously held by Mr. Chris Anderson).

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Upon a motion made by Commissioner Goodger, seconded by Commissioner Nix there was a unanimous vote to appoint Ms. Lynnette Griffin to the White County Department of Family & Children's Services (DFACS) Board for a five-year term expiring June 30, 2019 (previously held by Mr. Junius Miles). Chairman Turner asked that a letter of appreciation be sent to Mr. Junius Miles in regards to his years of service on the DFACS Board.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb there was a unanimous vote to appoint Mr. John Erbele (reappointment), Mr. John Ziemer (reappointment), and Mr. Wayne Wiltse to the White County Development Authority for a six-year term expiring June 30, 2020 (new appointment was previously held by Mr. Marc Greene). The appointment to the White County YMCA Board was tabled to allow for additional time to research applicants.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Goodger, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb there was a vote to reappoint Mr. Chad Knott to the White County Water Authority for a two-year term expiring June 30, 2016. The motion passed by a 3-0 vote, with Commissioner Nix abstaining due to him being the Executive Director of the Water Authority.

The appointment to fill Commissioner Nix's seat on the White County Water Authority was delayed until a recommendation is made by the Upper Chattahoochee RC&D for this seat. Commissioner Nix had resigned his position, representing the Upper Chattahoochee RC&D (as appointed by the White County Board of Commissioners), due to his acceptance of the Water Authority Executive Director position.

The appointment to the Region 1 Department of Behavioral Health & Development Disabilities (DBHDD) Planning Board was tabled to allow for additional time to research applicants.

Mr. Melton presented information on the FY 2014-2015 Budget, beginning with the details of the Enotah Judicial Circuit. He stated that Juvenile Court was requesting \$9,050.00 in salary increases – which resulted in a 6.16% increase, the District Attorney was requesting a 1.39% increase including increases in salary and benefit line items due to various personnel changes, the Superior Court was requesting an increase of .97% related to subscriptions & publication expenses. He summarized that the total increase for these three divisions of the Enotah Circuit would be \$20,476.00 (including the \$4,000 health insurance increase for Juvenile Court which was not included in the presented material). Mr. Melton stated that fund balance was available to cover the increase for these divisions.

There was discussion regarding the substantial salary increase requested by the Juvenile Court Division. Mr. Melton stated that in the work group meeting held earlier in the day, Union County Commissioner Lamar Paris had suggested considering a 5% increase instead of the full amount. There was a consensus of the White County Board that this increase should be more in line with what is being considered for County employees.

Mr. Melton presented the FY 2015 draft General Fund Budget balanced at \$16,002,401.89 – which was a decrease of \$32,736.11 from FY 2014. He stated that most all capital requests had

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been deferred to potential SPLOST funding, the budget included 4 new full-time positions (Assessor's Office, Animal Control, E911, and Fire), the 4.7% increase on health insurance, and the \$48,000.00 implementation of the Health Reimbursement Account. He stated that currently \$1,776,779.50 in fund balance was being used to balance the budget – which would leave the County with approximately five (5) months of fund balance on hand and did not include any salary increase at this point. Mr. Melton stated that a 3% increase would be approximately \$220,000.00.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Goodger, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb there was a unanimous vote to authorize a 3% merit increase for the proposed Fiscal Year 2015 Budget.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb there was a unanimous vote to approve (as White County's vote within the Enotah Circuit) the Enotah Judicial Circuit FY 2015 Budget as presented – except the Juvenile Court salary increase would be limited to 3% (\$3,330.00 increase).

Mr. Melton stated that he would advise the other Enotah Circuit counties of the vote by the White County Board of Commissioner regarding the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget.

Mr. Melton advised the Board that White County has received correspondence from the State Properties Commission – renewing the lease for White County DFACS office space for Fiscal Year 2015, if there were no objections from the Board. Chairman Turner asked Mr. Melton to research the issue of the White County Office being a District Office and to the level of service being provided to White County citizens.

Mr. Melton advised the Board that White County would be receiving a Hazard Mitigation Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the amount of \$24,000.00 – with the County's local match being in-kind funds in the amount of \$3,600.00.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Goodger, seconded by Commissioner Nix there was a unanimous vote to authorize the Chairman to execute the documents associated with the \$24,000.00 FEMA Grant.

Commissioner Goodger informed that the Freedom Park Project was very near completion.

Chairman Turner opened the floor for public participation.

Ms. Judy Lovell, with the White County Historical Society advised that plans were being made for the September 27, 2014 "Pottery Comes to Town Show" in connection with the 2014 Agri-Fest.

Sheriff Neal Walden stated that he appreciated the Commissioners authorizing the 3% increase of the County Employees.

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Judge Murphy Miller, Enotah Superior Court, expressed his appreciation to Ms. Vicki Mays for her diligence in working with the Enotah Circuit.

Mr. Doug Dockery, White County Road Department, stated that Leatherford Road was to be paved in the near future, but he did not have a start date for the project from Colditz. Commissioner Holcomb stated that he would be contacting the company directly.

Following announcements and upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting.

The minutes of the June 2, 2014 Regular Meeting are hereby approved as stated this 4th 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