

**WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2016 AT 4:30 P.M.**

The White County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Monday, February 1, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room at 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, Reverend Tim Morgan of Faith Lutheran Church provided the invocation.

Upon a motion made Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb there was a unanimous vote to adopt the minutes of the January 4, 2016 Regular Meeting and the January 13, 2016 Called Meeting including Executive Session Minutes.

Chairman Turner stated that the Board would be conducting a Public Hearing in order to receive any public comment regarding the proposed abandonment of a portion of County right of way (0.412 acres) along a previously abandoned section of Old Blue Creek Road.

Mr. Melton provided an overview of the roadway abandonment being considered stating that this request was submitted by Mr. Craig McDonald (who was not in attendance) and this portion of Old Blue Creek Road had not been used in many years and actually lead off into Lake Laceola. He explained that this was a portion of roadway which was not abandoned when the County closed this portion of Old Blue Creek Road in order for Lake Laceola to be built.

Chairman Turner opened the floor for public comment on this item.

Ms. Lola Shelnut, 1579 Old Blue Creek Road stated she was concerned that this abandonment would create a safety issue since a second entrance had not been constructed on that side of the subdivision (as shown on the approved subdivision plat) and the access along Old Blue Creek Road was the only access for all of the residences in the Laceola Subdivision. She asked the Board to delay the abandonment until the issue of the second entrance was addressed. Ms. Shelnut stated that she would have never supported the abandonment of the large portion of Old Blue Creek Road several years ago if the second entrance had not been part of the plan that was approved.

Mr. Aaron Anderson, 1454 Old Blue Creek Road stated that he had the same concerns as Ms. Shelnut.

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Upon a motion made by Commissioner Goodger, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb there was a unanimous vote to table the vote on a decision regarding the proposed abandonment of a portion of County right of way (0.412 acres) along a previously abandoned section of Old Blue Creek Road.

Chairman Turner stated that the Board would now be conducting a Public Hearing in order to present and receive any public comment on a proposed ten (10) year Solid Waste Plan for White County.

Mr. Tom O’Bryant, Director of Community & Economic Development presented the plan which was developed by the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission (GMRC) as a service under the County’s membership with the Commission. He explained that by adopting the Solid Waste Plan, the County’s Qualified Local Government (QLG) status would remain effective and make the county eligible for different grants and programs.

Chairman Turner opened the floor for public comment on the proposed ten (10) year Solid Waste Plan for White County.

Chairman Turner brought up the issue of litter along county roadways. He asked Mr. Melton to check with the Board of Education and see if there are additional options to educating the county’s youth on not littering. Sheriff Neal Walden stated that he is currently looking into community service program options in order to assist with cleaning litter along the county roadways.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Bryant there was a unanimous vote to adopt the following resolution approving The White County Solid Waste Plan (2016-2025).

## **WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2016-02**

**WHEREAS,** The Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act of 1990 requires all local governments in Georgia to prepare or be included in a Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan; and

**WHEREAS,** Georgia’s Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Solid Waste Management, as promulgated by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, require local governments to update the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan every ten years in order to remain in compliance with State law and be eligible to receive Solid Waste grants, loans, and permits; and,

**WHEREAS,** a process has resulted in a Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan update for White County and its municipalities; and,

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**WHEREAS,** minimum requirements for public participation in the development of the Plan update as mandated by the Minimum Standards has been met.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that White County certifies that public participation and other requirements of the Minimum Standards have been met and the Comprehensive Solid Management Waste Plan Update covering White County and its municipalities is hereby adopted as the Plan of record.

**ADOPTED** this 1<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2016.

**WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

ATTEST:

s/Shanda Murphy  
Shanda Murphy, County Clerk

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

s/Terry Goodger  
Terry Goodger, District 1

s/Lyn Holcomb  
Lyn Holcomb, District 2

s/Edwin Nix  
Edwin Nix, District 3

s/Craig Bryant  
Craig Bryant, District 4

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb there was a unanimous vote to support a resolution to be presented to the White County Chamber of Commerce by the State of Georgia, designating White County as “Georgia’s Outdoor Adventure Destination”.

Mr. Steve Gibson of the Unicoi Wine Trail Association requested \$5,000.00 in sponsorship from County Hotel / Motel Tax Funds for the marketing of the Unicoi Wine Fest. He stated that the festival would be held on June 4, 2016 at The Santee Nacoochee Community Association (SNCA).

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Goodger, seconded by Commissioner Bryant there was a unanimous vote to fund \$5,000.00 from Hotel / Motel Tax proceeds to the Unicoi Wine Trail Association through the White County Chamber of Commerce for the marketing of the 2016 Unicoi Wine Fest.

Mr. Melton presented a notice of intention for annexation by the City of Helen for 3.50 acres +/- owned by Elite Hotel Management LLC in Land Lot 39 of the 3<sup>rd</sup> District of White County.

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Mr. Jerry Elkins, Helen City Manager, stated that a Marriott Brand Hotel was going to be constructed on the site and although the property owner would need to improve the access to the property the adjacent road, Dandy Lane, would continue to be a county road.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to support the notice of intention for annexation by the City of Helen for 3.50 acres +/- owned by Elite Hotel Management LLC in Land Lot 39 of the 3<sup>rd</sup> District of White County.

Mr. David Murphy, Director of Public Safety, presented the bids received for the purchase of a 56kw mobile emergency generator to be funded with Hazard Mitigation Grant Funding. He stated that the low bid received was \$32,500.00 from Gen-Tech and explained that the County would pay 25% (\$8,175.00) and the grant would cover 75% (\$24,375.00).

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Holcomb, seconded by Commissioner Bryant there was a unanimous vote to approve the purchase of a 56kw mobile emergency generator from Gen-Tech in the amount of \$32,500.00.

Mr. David Murphy, Public Safety Director, presented the bids received for the installation of the manual transfer switches at various critical county facilities. The low bidder was Freeman Electric in the amount of \$7,900.00 and explained that the County would pay 25% (\$1,975.00) and the grant would cover 75% (\$5,925.00).

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb there was a unanimous vote to award the installation of manual transfer switches to Freeman Electric in the amount of \$7,900.00.

Mr. Melton presented a draft sketch of proposed changes to the White County Senior Center Parking Area. Mr. Melton stated that the next step, if the Board approved of the sketched plans, would be to turn it over to the County Engineering Firm – Carter & Sloope. The Board directed Mr. Melton to get with the Engineer.

The Board of Commissioners asked that Mr. Melton and Ms. Murphy present some options to them for an Employee Longevity Plan. Pros and cons were discussed with options for step increases every fifth year of service as well as increases for obtaining certifications. Mr. Melton stated that the County's retirement plan was lacking for those with longevity – as the county contribution is capped at \$2,200.00 per year. Ms. Murphy stated that she had spoken with several other surrounding counties and none offered an increase tied to longevity exclusively. There was a consensus of the Board that Mr. Melton and Ms. Murphy would gather additional information on retirement options through the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) and bring that back to the Board at a later date.

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

During County Manager Comments, Mr. Melton advised the Board that remittances from the Clerk of Superior Court's Office had been received with some checks written on the account

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dating back to the middle of 2015. He stated that the county auditors had noted this as a finding in the FY 15 Audit and he suspected this would be true for the FY 16 Audit as well. He noted that all funds received by the Board of Commissioners Office had been deposited.

Mr. Melton presented a request to the Board for purchase of a chipper for the White County Road Department from Mason Tractor in the amount of \$33,150.60 including the trade-in of the current chipper.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Bryant there was a unanimous vote to approve the purchase of the chipper for the White County Road Department in the amount of \$33,150.00 (including trade-in) from Mason Tractor.

Chairman Turner opened the floor for citizen participation.

Ms. Cindy Bailey of the White County Chamber of Commerce briefed the Board on the Chamber's new website as well as the current branding campaign.

The citizen participation portion of the meeting was closed, due to no further comments.

Chairman Turner asked that Mr. Melton advise all the various county boards that they must comply with open meetings requirements.

Commissioner Nix encouraged the Board to consider opening Yonah Preserve up in the near future for public access. Chairman Turner stated that the upcoming bridge construction would be the first step in that direction. Mr. Melton advised that the bids for the Yonah Preserve Bridge and the Veteran's monument at Freedom Park would be due in by February 26, 2016.

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

The minutes of the February 1, 2016 Regular Meeting are approved as stated this 7th day of March, 2016.

**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

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s/Craig Bryant

Craig Bryant, District 4

s/Shanda Murphy

Shanda Murphy, County Clerk