

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION HELD

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2016 AT 4:30 P.M.

The White County Board of Commissioners held a Work Session on Monday, February 29, 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, County Attorney Bill House, Finance Director Vicki Mays, and County Clerk Shanda Murphy.

Chairman Turner called the Work Session to order.

MR. JOHN ERBELE, OF THE NORTH GEORGIA MOUNTAIN AUTHORITY, TO INTRODUCE MR. PATRICK BRENNAN, THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SAUTEE NACOOCHEE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (SNCA).

Mr. John Erbele, of the North Georgia Mountains Authority and member of the Sautee Nacoochee Community Association (SNCA) introduced Mr. Patrick Brennan – the new Executive Director of the Sautee Nacoochee Community Association (SNCA). Following a review of Mr. Brennan’s past experience with museums and non-profits – Mr. Brennan showed a video about SNCA. He detailed that the focus of the center was “to change lives”. He expressed appreciation to the Board of Commissioner’s for continued support of the SNCA and stated that he looked forward to a continued relationship with White County.

DISCUSS THE ISSUE OF LITTER ALONG HWY 129 SOUTH WITH THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND ADVANCED DISPOSAL.

Chairman Turner stated that the Board of Commissioners had been contacted by several citizens who are very concerned about all the litter on the roadways in White County, particularly the state routes. The Department of Transportation Area Engineer, Matt Needam, stated he was aware of the problem. He indicated that they would be contracting the mowing of state right of ways and that trash pickup would be part of a maintenance contract. Chairman Turner asked the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to provide dates to the county for the trash pickup and mowing. Mr. Needam also stated that he could look at getting a prison work detail crew to clean up along Hwy 129. Mr. Bobby Bright of Advanced Disposal (Manager of the White County Transfer Station located off Hwy 129) said he would work with the County to progressively educate the garbage haulers in the county. Mr. Melton informed that the Sheriff was working on a program that would allow county inmates to assist with cleaning county roadways and that additional “No Littering” signs had been posted with more having been ordered. Mr. Michael Meaders, who lives off Post Road, commented on the condition of roadways in the area he lives in stating that folks need to start taking responsibility for the condition of our county. Commissioner Nix offered that the County may need to look at

allocating funds for an inmate work detail crew to assist the County Road Department in cleaning the roadsides. Ms. Reverta Allen, who owns property off Asbury Mill Road, stated that someone had dumped a sofa on the roadside. Mr. Melton said he would get with Ms. Allen the following day. Chairman Turner asked Mr. Bright for an update on the restroom facilities that Advanced Disposal had agreed to construct at the Transfer Station. Mr. Bright stated that he was awaiting the final plans from the architect to move forward on the project.

MR. GREG SUPIANOSKI, VP OF OPERATIONS FOR THE GEORGIA MOUNTAINS YMCA, TO DISCUSS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FEE STRUCTURE OF THE 2016 RECREATIONAL FOOTBALL SEASON AND FOR GYM USE AT THE ASBESTOS COMMUNITY CENTER.

Mr. Greg Supianoski, VP of Operations for the Georgia Mountains YMCA, presented the Commissioners with a summary of the fees charged by surrounding counties for recreational football registration. He indicated that by comparison, White County was paying more per participant than any of the surrounding counties and that was mostly due to White County providing basic helmets and pads to participants. He did stress that current helmets do meet safety standards; however he would like to upgrade to a five star helmets, which would cost approximately \$25,000.00. The Board of Commissioners recommended evaluating an admission fee to recreational activities in order to cover the equipment cost. Mr. Supianoski offered three recommendations: 1) maintain current cost (\$110.00) to the participant but eliminate providing helmet/pads/uniform or 2) increase cost to participant to \$180 and include helmet/pads/uniform or 3) offer the two previous options and allow the parent to choose. Mr. Supianoski stated that they would need direction from the Board of Commissioners in time for plan for the season which begins in August (registration begins in May). He also informed the Board that the White County YMCA has provided more than \$42,000.00 in scholarships this year. He also asked the Board to consider supporting a nominal fee to charge for the use of the gym. He explained that people are allowed to use the gym when an activity is not scheduled, however the use does require additional maintenance and upkeep. The Board asked Mr. Supianoski to provide membership costs to them.

DISCUSS THE REQUEST, MADE BY MR. CRAIG MCDONALD, FOR THE ABANDONMENT OF A PORTION OF COUNTY RIGHT OF WAY (0.412 ACRES) ALONG A PREVIOUSLY ABANDONED SECTION OF OLD BLUE CREEK ROAD.

Chairman Turner reviewed that when this item was discussed at the previous meeting, Ms. Lola Shelnut had concerns regarding the abandonment and how that relates the approved subdivision plan for Laceola showing two (2) accesses – one of which was never constructed off Blue Creek Road. Ms. Shelnut stated that she would have never supported the closing of Old Blue Creek Road if the second entrance was not required due to her safety concerns related to a dam north of her property (at Woodlands Camp). Chairman Turner explained that the previous developer was no longer involved in the project, that the previously proposed access was now under water, and asked Mr. Bill House, County Attorney, if there was any way the county could now require this second access. Mr. House indicated that based on the information he had, the abandonment request was separate issue from that of the second access all together.

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Chairman Turner asked that Mr. Melton review records of the last inspection of the Woodlands Dam and forward his findings to Ms. Shelnut. Mr. McDonald stated that he was committed to building the road through as far as he can, then negotiate with Mr. Blalock (who still owns 71 acres with an easement for access) for the roads to be connected in order to create the second access – which was intended to be the main entrance for Laceola.

There was a consensus that this item for the requested abandonment would be placed on the March 7, 2016 voting agenda.

MR. DAVID MURPHY, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY, TO PRESENT AN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT STATEWIDE MUTUAL AID AND ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT.

Mr. David Murphy presented a Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement which was historically an agreement renewed annually for support and resources from other participating jurisdictions in the case of an emergency. He noted that this agreement would now be renewed every four years.

There was a consensus that approval of this agreement would be placed on the March 7, 2016 Consent Agenda.

DISCUSS BIDS RECEIVED BY THE WHITE COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT FOR DROP IN SPREADER UNITS.

Mr. Melton reviewed the bids received by the White County Road Department for drop in spreader units. He stated that the low bidder was O.G. Hughes & Sons at \$7,767.00. He indicated that the Road Department was requesting authorization to purchase two (2) units for a total of \$15,534 to be paid with disaster relief funds.

DISCUSS PREPARATION OF GRAVEL ROADS FOR 2016 PAVING PROJECTS (PAVING PREVIOUSLY AWARDED TO ALLIED PAVING FOR A PORTION OF GENE NIX ROAD, A PORTION OF MT. PLEASANT CHURCH ROAD, BARRETT MILL ROAD, GROVER MILES ROAD, YONAH VALLEY ROAD, SHULER ROAD, AND HEFNER ROAD).

Mr. Melton stated that the Board of Commissioners had awarded the 2016 paving projects contract to Allied Paving in August 2015 for approximately \$800,000.00. The Board had discussed bidding out the prep work needed on these roads prior to paving; however a decision had not been made. He was seeking direction as the Road Department has limited equipment which can be used on the prep work and are running behind schedule with their maintenance work. Mr. Melton stated he would have a summary of the status of rights of way and / or easements for the 2016 projects within a few weeks.

There was a consensus of the Board that the prep work for the 2016 paving projects should be bid out.

DISCUSS BIDS RECEIVED FOR THE YONAH PRESERVE BRIDGE PROJECT AND THE FREEDOM PARK VETERAN’S MONUMENT.

Mr. John Stover of Carter & Sloope Engineering presented the bids received for the Yonah Preserve / Tesnatee Creek Bridge Project. He stated that the low bidder was Square Deals, Inc. in the amount of \$595,267.91. He did indicate that all bids included a 5% allowance for change orders.

There was a consensus of the Board that this item would be placed on the voting portion of the March 7, 2016 Regular Meeting Agenda- with recommended funding being the 2008 SPLOST.

There were some residents present from Yonah Valley Road – who expressed concerns regarding a buffer between their property & Yonah Preserve as well as damage done by crews accessing Yonah Preserve from the gate at the end of their road. Mr. Melton stated that he would meet the concerned residents on site on the next day to look at any issues.

Mr. John Stover presented the bids received for the relocation of the Veteran’s Monument from the front of the Courthouse to Freedom Park. He stated that the low bidder was E & P General Contractors in the amount of \$93,592.00 – which included a commitment to have the Veteran’s Monument completed on the Saturday prior to Memorial Day.

There was a consensus of the Board that this item would be placed on the voting portion of the March 7, 2016 Regular Meeting Agenda- with recommended funding being the Hotel Motel Tourism Product Development (for the monument relocation) and SPLOST (for the handicap ramp at the Courthouse).

DISCUSS AN AMENDMENT TO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE COUNTY’S USE OF STATE PROPERTY.

Chairman Turner stated that the State had agreed to offer White County an additional 27 acres (in addition to the 1000 acre Yonah Preserve site) and within the agreement usage of the land was broadened to include a future fire station and fire related activities. Mr. Melton explained that a fire station in this area would currently provide fire coverage to 3,189 more structures.

There was a consensus that approval of this amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources would be placed on the March 7, 2016 Voting Agenda.

The agenda for the March 7, 2016 Regular Meeting was reviewed and approved.

The meeting schedule for March and April was discussed – it was determined that a combined Work Session and Regular Meeting would be held on March 28, 2016 and a meeting would not be held on April 4, 2016.

The Work Session was adjourned.

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The minutes of the February 29, 2016 Work Session were approved as stated by the White County Board of Commissioners.

March 7, 2016

s/Shanda Murphy
Shanda Murphy, County Clerk