

**WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MINUTES OF THE CALLED MEETING HELD**

**MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2014 AT 4:30 P.M.**

The White County Board of Commissioners held a Called Meeting on Monday, April 28, 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 and stated that instead of the normal Work Session held on the last Monday of the month – this meeting had been advertised as a Called Meeting which would allow the Board to act on each item as they go through the agenda, therefore eliminating the need to have a Regular Meeting the following Monday (May 5, 2014). He stated that this decision was precipitated by the needed for the Board to make a decision regarding the employee benefits renewal prior to May 1.

Clarksville Fire Chief Jerry Palmer presented a proclamation to the White County Fire Department in recognition and appreciation of their mutual aid response during the recent fire on the Clarksville City Square.

Ms. Shanda Murphy presented the Memorandum of Agreement for White County's continued participation in the Enotah Judicial Circuit's Juvenile Justice Project through Family Connections. She noted that this was a continuation from the 2013 agreement which does not include any local funds and to which Lumpkin County serves as the fiscal agent.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb there was a unanimous vote to approve the 2014 Memorandum of Agreement for White County's continued support of the Enotah Judicial Circuit's Juvenile Justice Project.

Chairman Turner emphasized the importance of any request coming before the Board of Commissioners to consider, to contain a recommended funding source.

Mr. Matt Bidwell of MSI Benefits Group presented the options available for the Fiscal Year 2015 renewal of the employee benefits program (see attached presentation). Both options presented kept the County's increase to less than 5% plus 2%-3% for the implementation of a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA). The Alliant renewal option was a 4.7% (\$73,477.00) increase and the Blue Cross renewal option was a 1.8% (\$28,065.00) increase. Mr. Bidwell explained that with either option the HRA would only be implemented on the base plan where employee costs would remain the same; he highlighted the difference in the deductible / maximum out of pocket of the differing options, as well as the difference in prescription drug benefits. Ms. Murphy stated that with the current plan structure there was an additional benefit with the buy-up option; however that was not the case with the structure being presented. Chairman Turner asked Mr. Bidwell to explain what amount of the increase was a result of the

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Affordable Health Care Act (ACA). Mr. Bidwell stated that \$140,000.00 of the total cost was associated with taxes, fees, and benefit changes directly resulting from the ACA. Mr. Bidwell estimated the County's liability with the HRA to be \$20,000.00 to \$40,000.00 during the plan year.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Holcomb, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a vote to renew the employee medical benefits with Blue Cross Blue Shield with implementation of the HRA on the base plan. Commissioner Bryant, Commissioner Nix, and Chairman Turner opposed the motion. This motion failed by a 2-3 vote.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Chairman Turner there was a vote to renew the employee medical benefits with Alliant with implementation of the HRA on the base plan. Commissioner Nix voted in favor of this motion. Commissioner Holcomb and Commissioner Goodger opposed the motion. This motion passed by a 3-2 vote.

Ms. Murphy asked for confirmation as to if the buy-up plan would continue to be offered, it was noted that the base / buy-up structure would continue as it currently is being offered since quite a few employees now elect the buy-up option.

Dr. John Crumpton, Chairman of the OTP Development Committee, presented a report to the Board of Commissioners (see attached) detailing the committee's activity, proposed uses by priority, facility management / maintenance needs, needed access improvements, details on proposed sports facilities, and details on proposed archery / shooting range facilities.

Chairman Turner asked Mr. Melton to have Building Inspection & Maintenance staff provide a report on the current status of the facilities and that additional community meetings were needed in order to request additional input on the use of the facilities and inform the community on the activity to date. He emphasized the need for funding, which the Board would need to discuss further, as well as continued work on available grant opportunities.

Mr. Melton stated that the current contract with Northeast Georgia Physician's Group for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) would be expiring June 30, 2014. He stated that Northeast Georgia Physician's Group was willing to renew the contract for one year (expiring June 30, 2015) at the current rate of \$800,000.00 annually.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Goodger, seconded by Commissioner Bryant there was a unanimous vote to renew the contract with Northeast Georgia Physician's Group for a one (1) year term at the cost of \$800,000.00 annually.

The Board of Commissioners considered the previous request made by the White County Parks YMCA for funding associated with a mobile classroom and sound proofing the stage area. There was a consensus that the Board was very appreciative of the offer from St. Paul's Catholic Church for the mobile classroom unit; however the Board was not in support of the funding necessary to relocate the unit and to get it operational. The Board was however supportive of the needed renovations to the stage area.

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Upon a motion made by Commissioner Holcomb, seconded by Commissioner Nix there was a unanimous vote to approve SPLOST funding in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 for renovations to sound proof the stage area at the White County Parks YMCA gym to include block work, insulation, drop ceiling, doors, and HVAC work.

Mr. Melton presented bridge inspection information received from KCI. He stated that three (3) bridges were in need of minor maintenance – Webster Lake Road Bridge, New Bridge Road Bridge @ White Creek, and New Bridge Road Bridge @ Dean Creek and one (1) bridge was in need of more extensive maintenance – Town Creek Road Bridge. He asked the Boards approval to contact the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) regarding possible funding for the work needed to Town Creek Road Bridge and he explained that he would be gathering additional information from KCI and the cost of repairs on the other bridges.

There was a consensus of the Board that Mr. Melton should contact the GDOT as discussed and bring the information back to the next Work Session for consideration in incorporating the cost of repairs in the County's SPLOST program.

Mr. Doug Dockery, Director of Public Works presented the bids received for the leveling and resurfacing for the Skylake Road Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG) Project. He stated that the low bidder was CW Matthews at \$298,216.36.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Nix there was a unanimous vote to award the contract for the leveling and resurfacing of Skylake Road to CW Matthews in the amount of \$298,216.36.

Mr. David Murphy, Director of Public Safety, presented a budgeted request for the purchase of equipment for the White County Fire Department to include three (3) extrication cutters in the amount of \$16,500.00. He explained that these cutters would be better suited for use on newer vehicles, would complete the update on this equipment throughout all the County fire stations, and would be the same brand currently housed at the other county fire stations. He stated this was a sole source item, in keeping the brand the same throughout the stations for interoperability, and would be purchased from Georgia Fire & Rescue Supply LLC.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Goodger, seconded by Chairman Turner there was a unanimous vote to approve the purchase of three (3) extrication cutters from Georgia Fire & Rescue Supply LLC in an amount not to exceed \$16,500.00 as budgeted in the FY 2014 budget.

Mr. Murphy presented the contract renewal for the CodeRed Emergency Notification System and stated this was a budgeted item for FY 2014. This is a three year contract with annual renewal option with annual installments of \$3,667.67 for a total of \$11,612.80 over three (3) years.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Goodger, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb there was a unanimous vote to approve the contract renewal with CodeRed Emergency Notification System in the annual amount of \$3,667.67 (\$11,800.00 for the three year period) as budgeted.

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Sheriff Neal Walden requested \$105,000.00 in funding for the purchase of twenty-two (22) units of in-car video equipment. This was not included in the Sheriff's Office budget for Fiscal Year 2014.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb there was a unanimous vote to approve the \$105,000.00 purchase of in-car video equipment plus the purchase of two (2) vehicles in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.00 – for a total of \$165,000.00 from contingency.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Bryant there was a unanimous vote to table the following mid-year board appointments until May: Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, DFACS Board, Development Authority, YMCA Governing Board, Water Authority, Building Authority, and Region on Behavioral Health.

Mr. Melton stated that the Board had asked staff to research the requirements for amending the current alcohol ordinance to allow for Sunday retail sales (not consumption). He stated that Georgia Law required the issue of Sunday sales to be presented to the voters of the County by referendum. Therefore, the Board would need to adopt a resolution for the call for referendum on Sunday retail sales.

Commissioner Nix stated that if the City of Cleveland was going to put this issue on the November ballot that in order to allow market fairness for the businesses in the City / County – the County would also need to include the issue on a referendum.

Chairman Turner expressed concern regarding potential confusion if the City of Cleveland also included the issue of distilled spirits on the ballot as well.

Mr. Melton stated that any referendums to be placed on the November ballot would need to be turned into the Elections Superintendent by the first of July.

There was a consensus that this item would be tabled until the May meeting- providing the County time to research the plans of the City of Cleveland regarding Sunday sales and distilled spirits.

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

Commissioner Goodger provided a positive update on the progress of the Freedom Park construction project – noting the project was moving ahead very well and that the Board was planning an opening ceremony on July 4.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to enter into Executive Session in order to discuss personnel.

-See Attached Closed Meeting Affidavit-

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*Minutes of the Executive Session are sealed and maintained by the County Clerk pursuant to O.C.G.A. §50-14-1(e)(2)(C).*

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Holcomb, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to exit Executive Session.

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

The minutes of the April 28, 2014 Called Meeting are hereby approved as stated this 2nd day of June, 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