

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE CALLED MEETING HELD

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2021 AT 4:30 P.M.

The White County Board of Commissioner held a Called Meeting on Tuesday, August 24, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the White County Administration Building. Present for the meeting were: Chairman Travis Turner, Commissioner Terry Goodger, Commissioner Lyn Holcomb, Commissioner Edwin Nix, Commissioner Craig Bryant, County Attorney Mary Jane Henneke, Finance Director Jodi Ligon, and Interim County Manager / County Clerk Shanda Murphy.

Chairman Turner called the meeting to order.

Chairman Turner reviewed the provisions of the employment contract with Joey Cason for the position of County Manager. He stated that the starting salary would be \$112,000.00 (to be evaluated after 6 months of employment based on establish goals), three (3) weeks paid time off, \$5,000.00 in relocation expenses (refundable to the county if employment ends during the initial 24 months), county provided vehicle for use when conducting county business, and a start date of September 20, 2021.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to approve the employment contract with Joey Cason for the position of County Manager.

Mr. Cason expressed his appreciation to the Board of Commissioners for the opportunity and he expressed his enthusiasm to begin his work with White County on September 20, 2021.

Chairman Turner stated that the Board needed to make project designations for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, which will be received over the next few years. He recommended that the Board consider the construction of a multi-purpose facility at Yonah Preserve which could be utilized for many different things to benefit the community; however, the priority use of the facility would be for vaccine distribution, emergency sheltering, emergency mass care, etc. He also recommended an additional climate controlled storage building be constructed on the Yonah Preserve property for logistics support for public health and emergency management. Chairman Turner also stated that it would be a good idea to go ahead and grade an area for a future open-air arena while grading equipment is on site – although the arena would not be funded through the ARPA funds. Ms. Murphy stated that White County would be receiving a total of \$5,981,150.00 in ARPA funds – with \$2,991,075.00 having been received in May 2021 and the other \$2,991,075.00 would be received within 12 months of the first disbursement. Funds are required to be designated by December 31, 2024 and must be expended and all work complete by December 31, 2026. Finance Director, Jodi Ligon, who has been designated as the county’s lead contact for ARPA, stressed that all ARPA funds must be used to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Holcomb, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to approve the designation of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for construction of a multi-purpose facility at Yonah Preserve which could be utilized for many different things to benefit the community; however, the priority use of the facility would be for vaccine distribution, emergency sheltering, emergency mass care, etc. and for an additional climate controlled storage building to be constructed on the Yonah Preserve property for logistics support for public health and emergency management.

Mr. John Sell, Director of Community & Economic Development, presented a (federal) grant application for National Telecommunications & Information Administration (NTIA) funding for expansion of broadband

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service. He stated that Windstream had requested the county apply for this funding on their behalf. Mr. Sell advised that no other internet provider requested the county to do this other than Windstream. He explained that Trailwave has requested the county apply for state grant funding for an expansion project they have proposed. He presented the following details of the Windstream project:

White County NTIA Summary - Windstream

County	State	Households	Total Cost	Funding	Windstream
White	GA	4,680	\$10,023,336	\$7,720,299	\$2,303,037

Mr. Sell advised that the grant application with Trailwave would be from state American Recovery Plan (ARP) funds and presented the following details on the Trailwave project:

White County **America Recovery Plan (ARP)** – Trailwave/HEMC

County	State	Households	Total Cost	Funding	Trailwave
White	GA	5,120	\$15,000,000	\$12,000,000	\$3,000,000

Mr. Sell advised, that due to the overlay in proposed projects, White County could not apply for ARP funds for both Windstream and Trailwave. He confirmed that White County would not be contributing financially to these projects and would only serve as a conduit of the grant funds if awarded.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Nix there was a unanimous vote to approve the county’s submission of a grant application as shown above for Windstream (NTIA Funds) and Trailwave (ARP Funds).

Mr. Glenn Purcell with Trailwave expressed his appreciation to the Board for their partnership.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Nix there was a unanimous vote to enter into Executive Session in order to discuss matters of litigation, real estate, and personnel.

-See The Following Closed Meeting Affidavit-

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

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 24, 2021 Called Meeting were approved as stated this 30th day of August, 2021.

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

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s/Edwin Nix
Edwin Nix, District 3

s/Craig Bryant
Craig Bryant, District 4

s/Shanda Murphy
Shanda Murphy, County Clerk

CLOSED MEETING AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF WHITE

AFFIDAVIT OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The White County Board of Commissioners, being duly sworn, states under oath that the following is true and accurate to the best of their knowledge and belief:

1.

The White County Board of Commissioners met in a duly advertised meeting on August, 2021.

2.

During such meeting, the Board voted to go into closed session.

3.

The executive session was called to order at 5:00 a.m./(p.m.)

4.

The subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting was devoted to the following matter(s) within the exceptions provided in the open meetings law:

Consultation with the county attorney or other legal counsel to discuss pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the county or any officer or employee or in which the county or any officer or employee may be directly involved as provided in O.C.G.A. R. 50-14-2(1);

Discussion of tax matters made confidential by state law as provided by O.C.G.A. 111, 50-14-2(2) and (insert the citation to the legal authority making the tax matter confidential)

Discussion of the future acquisition of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A. 111 50-14-3(4);

Discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a county officer or employee as provided in O.C.G.A. 11L 50-14-3(6);

Other (describe the exemption to the open meetings law): _____ as provided in (insert the citation to the legal authority exempting the topic) _____.

This 24th day of August, 2021.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 24 day of August, 2021.
Shanda Murphy
Notary Public
My commission expires: 10/03/22
**Shanda Murphy
Notary Public
White County, GA**

Travis C. Turner
Travis C. Turner, Chairman
Terry D. Goodger
Terry D. Goodger, District 1
Lyn Holcomb
Lyn Holcomb, District 2
Edwin Nix
Edwin Nix, District 3
Craig Bryant
Craig Bryant, District 4