**WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024 AT 4:30 P.M.**

On Monday, February 5, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. the White County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting in the Board Room at the Administration Building. Present for the meeting were: Chairman Travis Turner, Commissioner Terry Goodger, Commissioner Lyn Holcomb, Commissioner Edwin Nix, Commissioner Craig Bryant, County Manager Billy Pittard, Finance Director Jodi Ligon, and County Clerk Shanda Murphy.

Chairman Turner called the meeting to order.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Rev. Dennis Turner, Cleveland First Baptist Church & White County Ministerial Alliance, provided the invocation.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to adopt the minutes of the January 8, 2024 Combined Work Session & Regular Meeting and the January 29, 2024 Combined Work Session & Called Meeting including Execuitve Session minutes.

Ms. Amie Veater, Elections Supervisor, presented a request for purchase & installation of Access Control Systems in the Elections & Voter Registration Office in order to establish a system in compliance with Georgia Rules and Regulations requiring controlled, documented entry to restricted areas. She stated the quotes were from ACG Solutions who manages the countywide security system. Ms. Veater advised that the quote was divided into two (2) parts – a quote for the interior doors which would apply to three (3) doors that would be fitted with key fob entry access in the amount of $6,114.00 and a quote for the exterior doors which would also apply to three (3) doors that would be fitted with key fob and pin entry access in the amount of $8,740.12. The total project cost was $14,854.12. Ms. Veater explained that fitting the doors with this equipment would continue the secure access which already exists and would provide a documented log of access as required. Chairman Turner stated that the proposed funding mechanism would be SPLOST.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Goodger, seconded by Commissioner Nix there was a unanimous vote to approve purchase & installation of Access Control Systems in the Elections & Voter Registration Office in order to establish a system in compliance with Georgia Rules and Regulations requiring controlled, documented entry to restricted areas through ACG Solutions in the amount of $14,854.12 – to be funded by SPLOST.

Ms. Barbara Overton, Director of Senior Services, presented the Fiscal Year 2024 Coordinated Transportation Contract with the Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS) for the White County Senior Center. She explained this is an annual contract renewal that represents funds received by White County for transportation provided to program participants and that technically White County is a subcontractor of the services under the contractor Deanna Specialties and the County is reimbursed $9.50 per trip provided.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Holcomb, seconded by Commissioner Nix there was a unanimous vote to approve Fiscal Year 2024 Coordinated Transportation Contract with the Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS) for the White County Senior Center.

Mr. Derick Canupp, Director of Public Works, presented a request for the purchase of a replacement lowboy trailer for the White County Road Department. He stated that the current trailer was made in 1971 and is in considerable disrepair, this was advertised for bid, and this was submitted in the current CIP (capital improvement plan). The only bidder was Rockland Cargo Equipment, Inc. in the amount of $58,089.00 with a 40-to-45-week lead time for delivery.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to approve the purchase of a replacement lowboy trailer for the White County Road Department from Rockland Cargo Equipment, Inc. in the amount of $58,089.00 – to be funding by SPLOST.

Ms. Jodi Ligon, Finance Director, presented the monthly financial status report (see attached).

Chairman Turner stated that the property at Duncan Bridge Road and Starlight Drive had been purchased over a year ago for Fire Station #9. He asked that staff be prepared to discuss moving forward with this project at the next Work Session (02/26/2024) and be able to outline the necessary steps for this process.

Chairman Turner opened the floor for public comment.

Ms. Teresa Stansel, 2521 Adair Mill Road Cleveland, Ga - read and submitted a prepared statement as well as “served” Chairman Turner and Commissioner Bryant with amended complaints filed with the State Ethics Commission.

Ms. Lillian Hall, 543 Leigh’s Crossing Cleveland, Ga – read a prepared statement (not submitted) expressing her concerns regarding the Board’s restriction of public participation, specifically related to short-term rentals / zoning. She raised concerns of money laundering and conflicts of interest.

Mr. Chris Dorsey, 164 Mill Lane Cleveland, Ga - spoke about the U.S. Treasury Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FCEN), the types of activities this unit would investigate, and connections to the housing crisis in White County. He referenced a published report of FCEN that stated short-term rentals were the main source of money laundering in 2024. He stated that in light of this information and the previous information stated relative to Chairman Turner and Commissioner Bryant – the two should resign to avoid more damage and embarrassment.

Ms. Monica Knight, 942 Logan’s Ridge Road – spoke in detail of how helpful and supportive the Board and staff had been to her and those in her subdivision in dealing with property issues during 2022. She said it bothered her greatly for people to get up and state that the Board is not helpful or accessible because that was certainly not her experience.

Mr. James Allison - stated he is a lifelong resident of White County, and he works in the real estate industry. He wanted to ask that the Board consider waiving the current road standards for a major subdivision on a 55-acre tract off Westmoreland Road. He stated that the cost of paved road improvement would probably result in the project not being feasible. He stated the project would help with the current affordable housing shortage. Chairman Turner asked that Mr. Pittard coordinate a meeting with Mr. Allison and Mr. John Sell on this request.

With no additional comments, Chairman Turner closed the floor.

Chairman Turner stated that he would address false allegations made against him – he does not own or manage any short-term rentals, nor does he currently plan to do so, he will respond to any ethics complaint filed against him if and when he receives such notice.

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 5, 2024 Regular Meeting were approved as stated this 4th day of March, 2024.

**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