

**WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD**

**MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2024 AT 4:30 P.M.**

The White County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Monday, April 1, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. 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, and County Clerk Shanda Murphy.

Chairman Turner called the meeting to order.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Pastor Jeff Groves of The Bridge Church and The White County Ministerial, provided the invocation.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb there was a unanimous vote to adopt the minutes of the March 4, 2024 Regular Meeting and the March 25, 2024 Work Session & Called Meeting.

A proclamation was presented in recognition and appreciation of the White County Public Safety 911 Communications Personnel.

Ms. Kathy Wood, Northeast Georgia Southern Off Road Bicycle Association, presented Yonah Preserve Trails related artwork to White County. This was a tapestry for display depicting the 152-year-old “Majestic Sycamore” tree at Yonah Preserve crafted by Theresa Bradley.

Mr. Derick Canupp, Director of Public Works, presented the bids received for the 2024 LMIG (Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant) Project to include patching Albert Reid Road, Kinsey Town Road, and overlaying Adair Mill Road. He recommended this be awarded to the low bidder Pittman Construction in the amount of \$1,075,038.85. The LMIG funds received were \$476,005.65 and the project would require \$599,033.20 in SPLOST funding. Mr. Canupp advised it would be approximately six to eight weeks before the work would begin.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to award the 2024 LMIG (Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant) Project to include patching Albert Reid Road, Kinsey Town Road, and overlaying Adair Mill Road to Pittman Construction in the amount of \$1,075,038.85 – with funding to be \$476,005.65 from LMIG and \$599,033.20 in SPLOST funding.

Mr. Canupp presented an application for Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) 2024 Supplemental Local Road Assistance (LRA) grant and recommended for these funds to be used for deep patching on Lothridge Road and Pless Road. He estimated the project cost would be \$670,743.25 which could be funded with the \$589,521.38 LRA grant and \$81,221.87 in SPLOST funds. He advised that the contract for this project would be brought before the Board for award at a future date once the grant funds were received.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb there was a unanimous vote to approve the application for Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) 2024 Supplemental Local Road Assistance (LRA) grant and for these funds to be used for deep patching on Lothridge Road and Pless Road.

Mr. David Murphy, Public Safety Director, introduced a proposal for District 2 Public Health, Emergency Preparedness to purchase and install an emergency generator for vaccine storage at the White County Health Department Facility. Mr. Mark Palen, Director of Emergency Preparedness District 2 Public Health, advised

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that carryover funds were available for the project and there would be no cost to the county. He stated that the generator installed price would be \$9,195.00 plus a \$5,500.00 meter drop charge for Georgia Natural Gas connection and he just needed the county's permission to have this work done at the county building housing the White County Health Department.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Holcomb, seconded by Commissioner Nix there was a unanimous vote to approve District 2 Public Health, Emergency Preparedness to purchase and install an emergency generator for vaccine storage at the White County Health Department Facility.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Goodger, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb, there was a unanimous vote to approve the implementation of the 2023-2024 Classification Compensation Study in the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget. The Board emphasized that it would be very important for all departments to be frugal in their spending as the goal is to be able to have this implemented without a millage rate increase and hopefully with some rollback of the millage rate.

Chairman Turner announced that \$3 million in state funding for the county's new library building project had been included in the State's Fiscal Year 2025 Budget. He expressed appreciation to Senator Steve Gooch and Representative Stan Gunter for their championing of the request for these funds. Commissioner Goodger stated that he had been made aware of Congressionally Directed Funding available through U.S. Senator John Ossoff's Office and the deadline for requests for this funding is April 5, 2024. Ms. Delana Knight, Northeast Georgia Regional Librarian expressed her enthusiasm regarding the state funding received and the opportunity to possibly receive additional federal funding for this much needed project.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Holcomb, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to approve the application for \$3,000,000.00 in Federal Congressional Directed Spending through U.S. Senator Ossoff's Office for funding for the Library Construction Project.

Mr. Pittard presented the monthly Financial State Report (see attached).

During County Manager Comments, Mr. Pittard stated that he is pleased with the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget process thus far.

Commissioner Goodger stated that he appreciated everyone's help with the library project and stated that he was very pleased with the results of the county taking over operation of the Transfer Station.

Commissioner Holcomb stated that he was also very pleased with the Transfer Station operations.

Chairman Turner expressed his appreciation again to Senator Gooch and Representative Gunter for their work on securing funding for the library project in the State's Fiscal Year 2025 Budget.

Chairman Turner opened the floor for public participation.

Mr. Chris Dorsey, 164 Mill Lane Cleveland, Ga – expressed his concern regarding any concessions that might be tied to federal funds received for the library project. He stated that any concessions should be made public. He submitted his written comments for the meeting record file.

Ms. Joanna Tuttle with the Sautee Nacoochee Community Association urged the Board to consider adopting the Historic Preservation Ordinance which had been on the table for some time. She recommended scheduling a work session with Mr. Joe Rothwell, Planner with the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission.

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Mr. Doug Patterson, 326 Hawthorne Drive Cleveland, Ga – he cautioned the Board on accepting the state and federal funds for the library project stating, “the devil is in the details”.

With no additional public comments, Chairman Turner closed the floor.

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 1, 2024 Regular Meeting were approved as stated this 6<sup>th</sup> day of May, 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