

MINUTES

The Spalding County Board of Commissioners held a Special Called Meeting in Room 108 in the Courthouse Annex, Wednesday, June 21, 2017, beginning at 10:00 a.m. with Chairman Bart Miller presiding. Commissioners Rita Johnson, Raymond Ray and Donald Hawbaker were present. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor joined the meeting at 10:15 a.m. Also present were County Manager, William P. Wilson Jr., Assistant County Manager, Eric Mosley, Interim Public Works Director, Tim Crane and Leisure Services Supervisor, Kelly Leger. Mr. Wilson recorded the minutes.

I. Call To Order by Chairman Bart Miller.

Invocation led by Commissioner Donald Hawbaker.

Pledge to Flag led by Commissioner Rita Johnson.

II. Agenda Items:

1. Discussion possible projects for consideration in the 2017 TSPLOST.

William Wilson, County Manager, stated that the Board met with the Cities on Monday and reviewed the projected funding and what the projects the Cities would like to be included as part of the TSPLOST.

Mr. Wilson advised the projected proceeds from the TSPLOST is \$42 million, the County's portion is 66.5% of that total or \$27,930,000. The Board approved the intersection for Orchard Hill, which is in the CTP, in the amount of \$2 million. This leaves \$25,930,000 to allocate. He then stated that there is an attachment to the agenda that lists the projects discussed in April which totals \$42.5 million, so we are now tasked with reducing the suggested projects by approximately \$15 million. Mr. Wilson then asked the Board to review the list provided.

LCI Intersection #3 - \$1.5 million – Commissioner Flowers-Taylor inquired at the last meeting regarding the design for Intersection #3 which is East McIntosh, Jordan Hill, North Hill Street and that area. The Board on December 16, 2013 established priorities for Intersections 2 and 3 with Intersection 2 being the priority and 3 being the secondary. The Board also approved design criteria for these intersections at that same meeting.

Mr. Wilson advised that for Intersection #2, the roundabout was approved and is currently under construction and on schedule. He then stated that there were three design plans presented at that time for Intersection #3. The final vote was for a "T designed intersection" or a four way stop intersection and to shift the intersection west more onto the Hammond property. However, since that time he has received a call from Mr. Hammond who will be coming to a Commission meeting to express his concerns about how that will impact the plans that he has for his property. Commissioner Flowers-Taylor has asked that we look at those three designs again.

Mr. Wilson then stated that the three designs were forwarded to the Board in an email. He advised that the cost for shifting the intersection to the west, as approved by the Board in December 2013 is estimated at \$1.5 million. The cost for shifting this intersection to the east is about the same \$1.6 million.

Mr. Wilson reminded the Board that the County has applied for a GTIB

(Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank) Grant for the \$1.5 million on this project and we hope to have a response by June 30th. Right now the \$1.5 million would come out of the TSPLOST as discussed at the meeting in April.

Commissioner Hawbaker stated that the funds for that intersection were originally to come out of the 2008 SPLOST.

Mr. Wilson stated that originally we included a combined total for intersections 2 and 3. The right of way for intersection #2 was drastically higher than estimated, plus we encountered more underground storage tanks than anticipated and other expenses that were not anticipated.

Commissioner Hawbaker asked if there would be any 2008 SPLOST funds remaining once Intersection #2 is complete.

Mr. Wilson advised that there will not be much left at all, he estimated approximately \$100,000. Due to these facts, the Board had discussed putting Intersection #3 on the TSPLOST.

Orchard Hill Intersection – Johnson, Macon and McDonough Roads will be \$2 million. We committed to this intersection at the meeting on Monday with the Cities.

Tri-County Crossroads – We do have a Tri-County Crossroads study that was done in 2009 as part of an LCI and one thing mentioned in that study was a connector road between Moreland and Zebulon Roads. That road is estimated at \$5.3 million. Which is one of the largest projects discussed at the meeting in April.

Paving Dirt Roads – The Board had initially planned for 14.5 miles, \$21.7 million. Brian Upton, Tim Crane, Chad Jacobs and Mr. Wilson have reviewed the roads from the discussion in April. The parameters taken into consideration include:

- Each road will be designed to a 35 M.P.H. speed limit, which will cut down on both vertical and horizontal alignment problems and will make grading them a little simpler.
- We are looking at 80' right of ways.
- Where roads cross at 45-60° angles we are looking to make those “t interchanges” for sight distance and safety concerns.
- We are still looking at 26' of base and 24' of asphalt.

There are a lot of utilities on many of these roads, about half of the list of 15 roads given have water which will have to be relocated and the other half do not.

Mr. Wilson advised that the current plans is to go forward with engineering on approximately 10-15% of these roads to come up with a good cost estimate. Each of these roads have their own set of obstacles for example Pineview has a culvert that will have to be sized to accommodate the 100 year flood. Additionally, some of these roads have a lot of rock especially near the rock quarry.

Brian Upton is in the process of estimating the cost for the roads; however, if we designate \$21.7 for dirt road that is going to be a huge portion of the

\$25.7 million that we will have available to spend.

Resurfacing – It had also been discussed that \$10 million would be designated for resurfacing projects. Which would be 90 miles of roadway to be resurfaced.

During that meeting we also had questions regarding transit and there was discussion regarding a bike/pedestrian trails. He advised that the Roosevelt Railroad plan and the Transit Feasibility Study were available for review. He then added that he had some numbers from McIntosh Trail for transit and he provided a copy of the CTP.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor joined the meeting.

Commissioner Miller asked how many of the dirt roads discussed would be paved.

Mr. Wilson stated that it would cost approximately \$21.7 million to pave the 15 roads designated at the April meeting. He also advised that one of the considerations, as discussed in that same meeting, would be the 80' right of way and the residents on the roads being willing to deed the right of way. He then reminded the Board of the policy that 90% of the residents must be willing to commit to right of way easements in order to be considered for paving.

Mr. Wilson then advised that he knew of two large land owners on one of the road on the list, Yarbrough Mill Road, that do not want that road paved. That is 1.7 miles of road to be paved and you may not get the required 90% of homeowners to sign a right of way easement.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then asked what constituted the 90%, if it is based on the number of households or the number or property owners.

Mr. Wilson stated it would be based on 90% of the road frontage.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor then expressed her concern that if we list a road for paving and we are not able to acquire 90% of the right of way needed then we won't be able to use that money.

Mr. Wilson stated that he had asked King and Spalding for clarification, he isn't sure that the actual roads will have to be listed on the ballot; therefore, if we are not able to get the 90% of right of way then we could utilize those funds to pave another road that we can get the required right of way. However, he believes that the public is going to want a list of dirt roads that will be paved.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that if we are asking the citizens of Spalding County to support another penny in tax then the people need to be able to see that something is actually being done. She added that she wasn't saying that the Moreland Road connector road doesn't need consideration, she just doesn't know if the majority of the people in Spalding County would see the Tri County Crossroads project as being of benefit to them. It will benefit people coming into the county from Upson, Pike and maybe Barnesville or people leaving from here and going there, but I don't feel it would be beneficial to the maximum number of citizens in the county.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she would like to see funding

allocated for an engineering study on the Tri County Crossroads project so if funding becomes available through another source that we have a study that is project ready to present should funding become available.

Mr. Wilson suggested that the dirt road be divided into three Tiers and that five roads be placed in each Tier. Then we go ahead and do the design and engineering plans on all of them and then we allocate a set amount for paving of dirt roads. He stated he would have to check with King & Spalding to see if it can be done in that way. So when we get ready to do another TSPLOST we will already have the design and engineering done on the roads and we can go ahead and get the right of way so that the project will be "shovel ready."

Commissioner Ray stated he feels it would be beneficial to go ahead and do what Mr. Wilson suggested and do the design and engineering on all of the dirt roads under consideration and for the Tri County Crossroads during this TSPLOST so that the roads that are not paved during this TSPLOST the design and engineering will be complete on and ready for future funding. We will fund the projects that we have the property rights for and the remaining roads we will work diligently to obtain the right of ways so those projects can go forward as funding becomes available.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor stated that she and Commissioner Johnson feel that there should be some type of public meeting on the TSPLOST. People are going to see what is being planned and they are going to want to see "stuff happening" pretty quick and if you can designate the road that will be resurfaced that is fine. We have to let people know what this SPLOST is for and give the residents the opportunity to say their road needs to be paved or resurfaced.

Commissioner Hawbaker asked if \$10 million could be bonded so that road resurfacing could take place quickly and residents could see the funding at work more quickly. Mr. Wilson stated he would check into the cost of bonding part of the project.

Mr. Wilson then summarized his directives:

- Get with Raymond James and King & Spalding on estimated bonding of just the resurfacing, \$8 million to resurface roads.
- \$13,750,000 to proceed with design and engineering on all 15 dirt roads as identified at the April 2017 meeting to a point to where the residents will know what affect paving their road will have on them.
 - Once planning and engineering is complete authorize Steve Manley to go to the residents, explain the impact that paving the road will have and proceed with acquisition of donated right of way for the individual roads.
- \$500,000 for Moreland Road/Tri-County Crossroads design and engineering.
- \$2 million for Orchard Hill Intersection.
- \$1.5 million to be set aside for Intersection #3 until we know if the GTIB will assist in funding this project. It will be added to contingency if the GTIB covers the costs.

Mr. Wilson will get pricing on installation of sidewalks from Intersection #2 to Intersection #3.

Set a Special Called Meeting and Public Hearing for July 17th at 10:00 a.m. and

11:00 a.m. respectively.

Commissioner Flowers-Taylor added that she had been talking with Brian Upson regarding public transit and the 5307 funding can be used for starting a transit system. The funds can be used for bus purchases, bus stops, sidewalks adjacent to bus stops. She added that Mr. Upson said if we can utilize the numbers from McIntosh Trail since McIntosh Trail has been operating for more than two years then there is a chance that the State will fund maintenance and operations at 50%.

Mr. Wilson reminded the Board that we have two more meetings this week: one tomorrow at 5:45 p.m. for final adoption of the budget and then the Zoning Public hearing will start at 6:00 p.m. and an Executive Session.

Mr. Wilson stated that we are looking at remodeling the meeting room, we have been talking about this for years. Our citizens have complained a lot about the chairs and the stained carpet and other things. He will be asking the City of Griffin if we can utilize their chambers for the July 17th and possibly the first meeting in August while we renovate this area. We will be painting, replacing the carpet and changing the dais up a little bit. We are moving forward with recording the meetings, we will move the news media to the back of the room and there will be other changes. Probably the meeting the morning of July 17th will be at the City also, he will be contacting Kenny Smith to see if he can make those arrangements. Costs for these renovations were budgeted in the FY2017 and FY2018 budgets.

III. ADJOURNMENT

***Motion/Second by Johnson/Ray to adjourn the meeting at 11:53 a.m.
Motion carried unanimously by all.***

/s/ _____
Bart Miller, Chairman

/s/ _____
William P. Wilson, Jr., Clerk