



McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a Work Session
January 11, 2021, 7:00 PM
Government Center Meeting Room

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Charles Newton, IV, Chairman
Wm. "Bill" M. Jopling, Commissioner
Sammie Wilson, Vice Chairman
Gloria Thompson, Commissioner
Frederick Favors, Commissioner

COUNTY REPRESENTATION:

David Crawley, County Manager
Pam Workman, Finance Director
Nikki Milburn, County Clerk
Stephen Sewell, Fire/EMS
Chase Beggs, Planning & Zoning
Judge Valerie Burley, Probate Court

Media: Erin Burditt, McDuffie Progress

Other:

COMMISSIONERS' WORK SESSION

All agenda items are for discussion only. No action was taken during the meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Discussion Concerning Right of Way Easement with Jefferson Energy.

David advised that board that Jefferson Energy is requesting right of way access at Sweetwater Recreation Center. They will be using the space to place free charging stations for hybrid vehicles that require recharging. This will be similar to other charging stations in the community that are located behind White Columns Inn.

This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

2. Discussion Concerning Timber Ordinance.

David advised the board that the state is mandating a timber ordinance for a new statewide permitting system for timber harvesting. This ordinance does not allow for additions of any fees or fines.

This item will be added to the next agenda for the 1st reading.

3. Discussion Concerning Service Delivery Strategy.

David advised that along with the joint comprehensive plan, there will be some needed updates to the service delivery strategy. He just wanted the board to be aware that in the coming months those changes or additions will be discussed.

This item will be continued until further information is available.

4. Discussion Concerning Joint Comprehensive Plan.

David advised the board that next Tuesday night will be the 2nd public hearing for the joint comprehensive plan. This will be the presentation of the proposed plan for the next 5

years. The draft plan was emailed earlier today to the commissioners to allow them plenty of time to review document.

This item was information only.

5. Discussion Concerning Road Resurfacing Projects.

David presented the 2021 LMIG project that shows upcoming road resurfacing and striping for the coming year. Some roads will be priority due to hazards and some will be contingent on the completion of constructions projects being completed. David advised the board to let him know if there are projects not listed so he can evaluate the need. The LMIG project list is due at the end of January.

This item will be continued.

6. Discussion Concerning Road Striping.

David advised that as discussed in the item before, the list of LMIG projects included the striping projects. David advised that if any striping needs that are not listed to let him know.

This item will be continued.

7. Discussion Concerning Board Appointments.

David advised that the Development Authority Board has 2 positions that are needing appointments. 1 seat is for county only and Marcelles Barr has expressed interest in serving another term. The other seat will be a joint appointment with the city, Jamie Alfriend has expressed interest in serving on the board. Chairman Newton stated that with his knowledge of land and timber, he would be an asset to the development authority board.

This item will be on the next meeting agenda.

8. Discussion Concerning Building Renovations.

David advised that there has been a standstill with renovation projects recently. He just wanted to make the board aware that finding contractors has been difficult to complete some of the projects that he was hoping to have completed by now. He advised that he will continue to try and move ahead, he just wanted the board to be aware in case anyone asked about projects.

This item was for information only.

9. Discussion Concerning Copier Leases.

David advised that this is a lease renewal with Pollock for the copiers. He stated that Pam has worked had to get all the copiers under one lease agreement and company. This lease would be for 5 years. Pollock will be upgrading some machines that are older and not extra cost. This will be more efficient and cost savings for the county, the cost is \$2161.00 each month for all equipment.

This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

10. Discussion Concerning Trane Agreement.

David advised that this agreement with Trane is for the continuation of the current maintenance agreement. The cost for the service with Trane is \$23,097.27 annually.

This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

11. Discussion Concerning West Bypass Project.

David wanted to make the board aware that the west bypass extension project is moving ahead. There is a proposal with Altas for CEI services for the duration of the project. The proposal for services totals \$632,800.00.

This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

12. Discussion Concerning Airport.

David advised that the airport advisory committee will begin meeting again. There is currently an RFQ advertised for the airport that will be ending next week. The committee will be meeting to look over the proposals for planning and engineering services. He advised that the last time this committee was meeting, Chairman Newton and Vice Chairman Wilson were the county representatives. Both Chairman and Vice Chairman agreed to serve again.

This item was for information.

13. Discussion Concerning COVID.

David advised the board that as of December 31, 2020 the FMLA COVID Relief Act is no longer active. He has not heard about it being renewed for now. David asked the board moving forward how they would like to handle cases of employees being out for positive COVID test. The board discussed continuing to give employees 10 days of paid leave in situations where they test positive for COVID or are exposed and are required to quarantine. They agreed that they would allow this for the 1st quarter of the year. David advised that with the vaccine being available he is encouraging employees to consider getting it and this would increase the chances of them not getting the virus. The board agreed that they will reevaluate the situation at the end of the 1st quarter and see how to move forward from there. The board discussed that most likely after the 1st quarter, employees will be responsible for using their leave in cases of testing positive.

This item will be continue until the end of the 1st quarter.

14. Discussion Concerning MOU with East Central Health.

David advised that this MOU with East Central will be for testing kits that will allow Fire/EMS to do rapid result test for first responder personnel. The kits are being provided to the department at no cost. Chief Sewell stated that even though they are just for first responder personnel for now, he is hoping that they will be able to provide them for all county personnel in the future.

This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

15. Discussion Concerning Sweetwater.

David advised that he would like to go into executive session at the end for a discussion regarding real estate.

16. Discussion Concerning Protocols.

Commissioner Favors was concerned about what protocols are being taken with EMS with all of the hospitals in the area on diversion. Chief Sewell advised that as of now, when the EMS are advising patients that there are wait times at all hospitals and they may not be seen right away. Chief Sewell advised that they are going still taking patients to hospitals if that is what is required or requested but are letting patients know that the wait times are much longer right now. Chief also advised that they have been helping area counties with transports and vice versa, with longer wait times everyone is having issues with not having units available so the mutual aid agreements with local counties has made a great difference with having backup as needed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION-Real Estate

Entered: Vice Chairman Wilson made the motion to enter the executive session at 8:20 pm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling.

Exited: Commissioner Jopling made the motion to exit the executive session and return to the regular meeting at 8:37 pm. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson.

ADJOURNMENT- 8:38 pm

MCDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Charles G. Newton, IV, Chairman

ATTEST: 
Nikki Milburn, County Clerk