



**PAULDING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
August 11, 2020**

**Watson Government Complex  
Second Floor – Board of Commissioners Meeting Room**

**CALL TO ORDER:** David L. Carmichael, Chairman

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE:** Chaplain Tommy Leonard, Paulding County Public Safety

**PRESENT:** Chairman, David Carmichael; Post I, Ron Davis; Post II, Sandy Kaecher; Post III, Chuck Hart; Post IV, Brian Stover; County Administrator, Frank Baker; County Attorney, Jayson Phillips; County Clerk, Rebecca Merideth

**MINUTES:**

1. *Discussed action to adopt the July 28, 2020 Work Session Minutes and the July 28, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None

**INVITED GUESTS:** None

**BID AWARDS:**

2. *Discussed action to purchase 87 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and supporting equipment to Fire Line Inc. in the amount of \$611,681.00:*

Tabitha Pollard, Finance Director, stated the County had a team of Firefighters go through the bids and test the equipment. Chief Pelfrey stated the County has been using the same brand of equipment since 1996. Currently 60% of the equipment is over ten years old and no longer supported by the company so we cannot get parts. The department has 15 different sizes to fit firefighters. Also, this equipment is 9 to 10 pounds lighter than the current equipment used.

Chairman Carmichael asked if Paulding County will do all the training for this equipment.

Chief Pelfrey stated that they will have a representative from the company come in and assist with training.

Commissioner Hart asked if this equipment would be retro fitted for radios.

Chief Pelfrey stated they would be and it would take 60 days to deliver.

Commissioner Davis asked Ms. Pollard what the funding source would be.

Ms. Pollard stated it would come from SPLOST as much as it can then the Fire Tax would be used for the rest.

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES & DEPARTMENTS:**

Laurie Ashmore, Water System Director introduced the new Plant Manager for Richland Creek, Danny Tatum. Ms. Ashmore thanked the Information Technology Department and the Department of Transportation for all of their assistance, and the Finance Department for helping to obtain pricing on chemicals to treat the water.

Kelly Comstock with Brown and Coldwell updated the Board on the RCR Project. Mr. Comstock stated we have made a lot of progress from construction phase to commission phase. At this point, we are able to fill at 2 feet a week. Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Pipeline has been completed. The next steps are to continue to fill the reservoir to 860 by mid-September; start staff training; continue obtaining some permitting; complete the 30 day operations test; begin setting fish habitat; continue filling at 2 feet a week; startup booster station and ramp up plant production.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON AGENDA ITEMS:** None

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Chairman Carmichael read the following consent agenda item:

- 3. *Appoint Andrea Anderson to the Library Board for a three year term, ending June 30, 2023. She will be replacing Kati Gibson, term expired:***

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 4. *Public Hearing for Citizens to review the JAG Grant:***

Chairman Carmichael opened the public hearing and asked Tabitha Pollard, Finance Director to speak. Ms. Pollard stated this is an annual process, when the Sheriff's Office puts their budget together they apply for grants. Colonel Hunton stated they have been receiving this grant for quite some time and is used for needed equipment. This year the grant will be used to purchase full face masks for PPE and respirators. He further stated that some of the equipment will go to a new unit that will deal with issues that arise inside the facility.

Chairman Carmichael opened the hearing to the public; hearing no comments from citizens, he closed the Public Hearing.

- 5. *Discussed action to authorize the revised unit price Contract Item Agreement for Water Facilities associated with the GDOT Macland Road Widening Project (PI0006049) in the estimated total amount of \$3,678,340.00:*** Laurie Ashmore, Water System Director stated back in April of this year the Board approved an agreement for the Macland Road Widening Project which was part of the GDOT Contract. We are back to discuss the agreement for water relocation, at the time this agreement was entered, the bids had not come in yet. Now that all the bids have been submitted, the bid amounts are higher. She further stated, this is the first time the County has let the contractor handle all of the utility relocations. We will pay for the final production and any overages will be credited back to the County.

Commissioner Davis asked what the time table for completion is.

Ms. Ashmore stated she did not have a time table at this time but the project will start next month.

- 6. *Discussed action to purchase additional equipment and technology to expand the Audio Visual capability to the Courthouse and connect it with the Detention Center Audio Visual Equipment to allow inmates to participate in hearings from their pod within the Detention Facility:*** Tabitha Pollard, Finance Director gave a little history of this item and stated that the item is piggybacking on the one from February which was a bid to replace failing equipment in the Courthouse. In April due to COVID-19, the County did a bid for inmates to participate via audio visual capabilities. Both contracts will be priced using pricing from previous bids. This expenditure qualifies for the CARES Act Funds and can be used so the exposure is minimized in the Courtrooms, but to use those funds we have to spend them before September 1, 2020, so we are trying to get this in place quickly.

Chairman Carmichael asked if this was doable.

Ms. Pollard stated that she spoke with Will Lyons, IT Director and he believes it is doable.

- 7. *Discussed action to adopt Resolution 20-23, consenting to FAA Conditions for Release of A & P School Property:*** Jayson Phillips, County Attorney stated this is for 2.96 acres located at the Paulding Northwest Airport. In order to move forward they have to ask the FAA to release the restrictions. There are (13) thirteen restrictions that must be met to move forward.
- 8. *Discussed action to adopt Resolution 20-24 to authorize the Chairman to execute the modification documents and all other documents related to GEFA loan number WS12L13WR:*** Chairman Carmichael read items (8) eight through (11) eleven of the GEFA Resolutions. Tabitha Pollard, Finance Director, stated the changes in all four of these Resolutions are the same. The change cleans up the terminology. Agenda item (11) eleven Resolution 20-27 has two changes. One is terminology like the other and two is to move the start payment date to give the County more time.
- 9. *Discussed action to adopt Resolution 20-25 to authorize the Chairman to execute the modification documents and all other documents related to GEFA loan number WS13L04WR:*** Tabitha Pollard, Finance Director, discussed with agenda item (8) eight.
- 10. *Discussed action to adopt Resolution 20-26 to authorize the Chairman to execute the modification documents and all other documents related to GEFA loan number WS14L03WR:*** Tabitha Pollard, Finance Director, stated discussed with agenda item (8) eight.

- 11. Discussed action to adopt Resolution 20-27 to authorize the Chairman to execute the modification documents and all other documents related to GEFA loan number WS15L01WR:** Tabitha Pollard, Finance Director, stated discussed with agenda item (8) eight.
- 12. Discussed action to adopt Resolution 20-28 to set the County 2020 M & O Millage Rate at 5.65 mills:** Tabitha Pollard, Finance Director, stated that the 2020 digest feeds into the 2021 budget and there have been several discussions on the M & O rate. Last year the millage rate was 6.75 this year we are rolling it back to 5.65 mills.
- 13. Discussed action to adopt Resolution 20-29 to set the County 2020 Bond Millage Rate at 2.20 mills:** Tabitha Pollard, Finance Director, stated the bond is used to pay debt services for the County.
- 14. Discussed action to adopt Resolution 20-30 to set the County 2020 Fire Millage Rate at 3.10 mills:** Tabitha Pollard, Finance Director, stated in 2007 the citizens by a referendum voted on a fire tax to help fund fire services.
- 15. Discussed action to adopt Resolution 20-31 to set the County 2020 School Millage Rate at 18.75 mills:** Tabitha Pollard, Finance Director, stated each year the Paulding School District goes through the same process as we do. They set their millage rates and request the County approve their rate.
- 16. Discussed action to adopt Resolution 20-32 authorizing the Tax Commissioner to retain a 2.5% fee for the collection of school tax:** Tabitha Pollard, Finance Director, stated this is done every year. The Tax Commissioner includes the School District Tax on the Tax Bill the County mails out.
- 17. Discussed action to approve the 2021 Budget:** Tabitha Pollard, Finance Director, stated the Public Hearing for this Budget was held at the last meeting. The budget is approved at department level, but have not heard of many changes this year. The County is Budgeting conservatively and will revise in January when we see where we are.

Chairman Carmichael thanked Tabitha and her staff for working hard to get this budget out.

## CONCLUSION OF REGULAR BUSINESS

Chairman Carmichael asked the Commissioners if they would like to speak or have any comments/concerns.

Commissioner Davis reminded everyone that today is elections day and reminded them to go vote at their precinct. He further stated that he appreciates Ms. Pollard and her team.

Commissioner Kaecher stated she would like to give a shout out to the School District Board; they have prepared a lot for the unknown this school year. She believes they did a good job trying to prepare for virtual and face to face. She further stated that we all need to support them.

Chairman Carmichael expressed his excitement with the County moving forward with projects.

Commissioner Hart stated he is thankful we can roll the millage rate back; he further thanked Ms. Pollard and her team.

Commissioner Stover stated it is a very important time to vote.

Frank Baker, County Administrator gave an update on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Rides for Wishes Event that will be held on October 10, 2020. Citizen can go to active.com to register. He reminded everyone that 100% of funds received goes to the Make a Wish Foundation.

Chairman Carmichael asked Rebecca Merideth, Executive Assistant / County Clerk to give an update on the 2020 Census.

Ms. Merideth stated currently Paulding County has 67.5% of citizen response for the 2020 Census and ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the State. The City of Hiram ranks 79<sup>th</sup> and the City of Dallas ranks 48<sup>th</sup> out of 539 cities in the State of Georgia. The deadline to self-respond has been extended due to COVID-19 and is now September 30, 2020, giving citizens an opportunity to still get their questionnaire in. The non-response addresses will have a follow up representative come to their door. The representatives are actively going door to door now and following all of the guidelines set in place by the Governor. She further stated the Census Bureau has until December 30<sup>th</sup> to have all of the information and reports to the President. The County is providing a representative in the Administration Building on Wednesday and Friday of each week through August to help citizens with any questions or to help them fill out their online response.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Ron Davis made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Brian Stover. Voting Yea: Chairman Carmichael, Post I Ron Davis, Post II Sandy Kaecher, Post III Chuck Hart, Post IV Brian Stover.