

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION  
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

DRAFT

January 31, 2022

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on January 31, 2022. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Present [in the Chamber] were Commissioners Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, Russell Gray, Anthony Jones and Ed Newsome. Also participating in the Chamber were Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison, County Attorney Spencer Lee, County Clerk Jawahn Ware, and other staff. County Administrator Michael McCoy participated via the audio-conferencing feature. The public and representatives of the media participated in person via live streaming of the meeting on the County's Facebook page and the government public access channel. Commissioner Clinton Johnson was absent.

The Chairman asked the Commission to review the minutes of the January 3rd Regular Meeting and January 10th Work Session.

The Chairman recognized Citizen and Community Organizer for SRBWI (Southern Rural Black Women Initiative) Dr. Kay Eady and Christopher Mitchell (Director of Community Broadband Network Institute for Local Self Reliance) to inform the Commission on broadband and internet service opportunities. Dr. Eady introduced all individuals that were participating via teleconference. She shared the mission of SRBWI and the Commissioners and staff addressed her questions and shared the work being done with Mitchell EMC. The Commission was asked to explore a potential partnership for the areas not serviced by AT&T. The Chairman shared that the Board is open to all partnerships. Mr. Mitchell shared additional information pertaining to electric cooperatives in rural areas.

The Chairman recognized Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison to update the Commission on the County's proposed projects for the Infrastructure Bill. The Chairman shared that there will be an opportunity to meet with US Senator Jon Ossoff to discuss opportunities. The Chairman asked for an executive summary from our legislative advocates from Cornerstone.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to accept the bid to upgrade the fire alarm system at the Dougherty County Jail from Metro Power Inc. (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$865,000. One vendor submitted a bid. The bid was extended to generate more interest and the project has been postponed since 2020 due to the pandemic. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Chief John Ostrander and City of Albany Interim Procurement Manager Joshua Williams were present.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to purchase thirty-five portable radios for Public Works from single source vendor Motorola Solutions (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$104,223.35. Parts are no longer available to repair aged inventory. Funding is

available in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Public Works Director Chuck Mathis was present. Mr. Addison addressed the concerns of Commissioner Gaines.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to purchase forty-seven portable radios for EMS from single source vendor Motorola Solutions (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$201,525.84. Parts are no longer available to repair aged inventory. Funding is available in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). County Administrator Michael McCoy and Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. EMS Director Sam Allen was present. Mr. Addison and Mr. McCoy addressed the concerns of Commissioner Edwards and also stated that we budgeted radios in the ARPA funds.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to purchase two Zoll Medical X Series Monitor/Defibrillators for the EMS Department from sole source vendor Zoll Medical Corporation (Chelmsford, Mass) in the amount of \$55,490.60. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. EMS Director Sam Allen was present. Mr. Addison said that the equipment is budgeted to ensure that EMS has reliable devices.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to purchase two Stryker Power PRO XT Stretchers for the EMS Department from sole source vendor Stryker Medical (Chicago, IL) in the amount of \$35,432.32. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. EMS Director Sam Allen was present.

Commissioner Edwards asked for an update on the Radium Springs water tower. Mr. Addison said that a scope of work from a vendor is being evaluated and an update will be provided to the Commission soon. Commissioner Edwards also asked that the Code Enforcement Director share information on the backyard enforcement code. Attorney Lee addressed by stating that it is the same as the front yard code and the process is to put in a complaint if needed. Commissioner Jones asked that the City of Albany and Dougherty County amend their codes and Attorney Lee said that he will meet directly with him to discuss because most of the County's ordinances currently address the concerns presented. Commissioner Gaines asked on behalf of Representatives Dukes the status of the County's redistricting plans. Attorney Lee said he will follow up with Dougherty County School System Attorney Coleman.

There being no further business to discuss the Commission the meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

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CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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COUNTY CLERK