

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

DRAFT

November 28, 2022

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on November 28, 2022. Vice Chairman Clinton Johnson presided and called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. Present were Commissioners Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, Russell Gray, Anthony Jones, and Ed Newsome. Also present were County Administrator Michael McCoy, County Attorney Alex Shalishali, County Clerk Jawahn Ware and other staff. 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. Chairman Christopher Cohilas was absent.

The Vice Chairman asked the Commission to review the minutes of the November 7th Regular Meeting and November 14th Work Session.

The Vice Chairman recognized William Wright, representative for AFRAM Tech, Inc. to continue discussing an issue of unfair practices with ARPA funding. Mr. Wright said the primer is about building capacity within the City. Commission Gray said that delegations pertain to items that have not had a public hearing. He also asked that Mr. Wright condense his time down to the actual topic requested. Vice Chairman Johnson asked Mr. Wright to bring back information pertaining to the dates for his upcoming workshops.

The Vice Chairman called for a discussion to purchase one John Deere 350P Excavator from state contract vendor Deere & Company (Cary, NC) for Public Works. The local vendor, Dobbs Equipment (formerly known as Flint Equipment) will be servicing the unit. The purchase price is \$366,161.37 with a proposed trade-in value of \$110,000 for Unit #511519. The actual cost will be \$256,161.37. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII- Storm Drainage Improvement. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Public Works Director Chuck Mathis and City of Albany Buyer Cory Gamble were present. Mr. McCoy recommended approval and said that it was past the life cycle.

The Vice Chairman called for a discussion to purchase one John Deere 300P Excavator from state contract vendor Deere & Company (Cary, NC) for Public Works. The local vendor, Dobbs Equipment (formerly known as Flint Equipment) will be servicing the unit. The purchase price is \$332,446.61 with a proposed trade-in value of \$80,000 for Unit #511450. The actual cost will be \$252,446.61. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII- Storm Drainage Improvement. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Public Works Director Chuck Mathis and City of Albany Buyer Cory Gamble were present. Mr. McCoy recommended approval and said that it was past the life cycle.

The Vice Chairman called for a discussion of the proposed county priorities that will be presented to the State Legislative Delegation for the meeting on Tuesday, November 29, 2022.

County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Action on this item is scheduled in the following Special Called Meeting. Mr. McCoy shared the local proposed projects as follows:

- \$1.5 million for the Radium Springs Amphitheater
- \$200,000 for an Intergenerational Facility Feasibility Study
- \$2.5 million for County Parks Improvements
- \$699,000 for the Westtown Library Improvements
- EMS Medicaid Reimbursement
- LMIG Program Funding
- Mental Health Reform
- State assuming full Financial Responsibility for State Prisoners
- LOST Renegotiations
- Public Notification of Tax Increase

Vice Chairman Johnson thanked Mr. McCoy for the EMS reimbursement and asked him to present to the delegation the cost of the loss of 10 miles relative to ambulance transports. Mr. McCoy shared that he would ask the legislature to consider developing a process to help future LOST renegotiations run smoother. It was shared how important it is to provide an ask and to allow the Legislature to determine if funding can be granted. Commissioner Gaines asked that this information be given to the Board ahead of time to examine and have a comprehensive review. Commissioner Edwards asked about funding for Radium Springs and other projects. Commissioner Johnson suggested that we put these ask under our “wish list” because local parks are within the County budget. Commissioner Edwards asked for a code enforcement ordinance to be added as an ask and Commissioner Gaines asked for funding for the libraries. Mr. McCoy shared he has tried to provide various “out of the box” ideas to the Board, especially throughout the unincorporated areas, as requested; and the list reflects the progressive attempts. Commissioners Edwards and Gaines agreed with Mr. McCoy and provided kudos to him.

The Vice Chairman called for a review of the FY23 ARPA Budget in consideration of funding for the unbudgeted expense to make basketball court improvements at Robert Cross Park in the proposed budget amount of \$55,151.22. FY23 ARPA Contingency is the recommended funding source. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Action on this item was scheduled in the following Special Called Meeting. Mr. McCoy provided the Board with an overview of the available funding from the FY23 ARPA budget with a carryover tranche total of \$10 million which the Board approved. Commissioners Gaines and Johnson asked about funding for housing. There was a clarification on the desires of the Board by Vice Chairman Johnson. Mr. McCoy reminded the Board that they approved their priorities on ARPA funding. He added that if the Board is interested in housing, he will need clarity on what they would like and would provide new recommendations. A lengthy conversation ensued. Vice Chairman Johnson asked that a housing discussion be brought back to the Commission in a Work Session on ARPA FY23 Budget.

The Vice Chairman called for a discussion of the County’s adherence to the Fair Labor Standards Act and the payment of overtime. County Administrator Michael McCoy and County Attorney Alex Shalishali addressed. Human Resource Interim Erica Potts was present.

Mr. McCoy provided the historical context of the two issues that sparked the topic being brought to the Board. Commissioner Johnson clarified the initial concern and shared that Commissioner Edwards supported the administrator's duties. He also said that there were no accusations of Mr. McCoy and having multiple discussions on this topic was not needed. Mr. McCoy shared that Commissioner Gaines requested on November 23rd that this be added to the agenda. Commissioner Gaines told the Board that she believed there should be a policy. Vice Chairman Johnson stated that this is under the administrator's authority and asked the attorney to address. Attorney Shalishali shared his concerns about the continued discussion, FSLA, and other policies. He also made it clear that this was within the administrator's abilities and warned the Board of potential exposure to the County. It was also shared that nothing was unlawful relative to this situation. Commissioner Gaines shared that she was just seeking clarity and this should be standardized. The Vice Chairman stressed that we should not continue to dig into information pertaining to operations and decided that the topic be removed from the agenda.

Mr. McCoy clarified that only \$2,600 was provided to the employees. Commissioner Gaines restated her opinion on how to pay should be provided to nonexempt employees. Vice Chairman Johnson recognized the efforts of the Deerfield football team, and he presented a ACCG Specialty Track plaque to Commissioner Newsome.

There being no further business to discuss the Commission adjourned for a Special Called Meeting at 12:26 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK