



**PAULDING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION MINUTES
June 22, 2021**

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

CALL TO ORDER: David L. Carmichael, Chairman

**INVOCATION
& PLEDGE:** Pastor Gene Morehouse, Westside Christian Church

PRESENT: David L. Carmichael, Chairman; Keith Dunn, Post I; Sandy Kaecher, Post II; Chuck Hart, Post III; Brian Stover, Post IV; Jayson Phillips, County Attorney; Rebecca Merideth, County Clerk

MINUTES:

1. *The June 8, 2021 Work Session Minutes and the June 8, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes were available for review.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Team Paulding: Employee of the Month Mr. Melvin Talley with the Water System Department aired for the Commissioners and audience.

The Board of Commissioners presented a Public Safety Award to Law Enforcement Communications Supervisor, Heather Emory with the Sheriff's Office GCIC Division.

INVITED GUESTS: None

BID AWARDS:

2. *Award a Contract to Steele and Associates for the Burnt Hickory Park Access Improvements in the amount of \$183,475.00. Funded by SPLOST:*
Discussed action to award a Contract to Steele and Associates for the Burnt Hickory Park Access Improvements in the amount of \$183,475.00. Funded by SPLOST. Michael Justus, Parks & Recreation Director, stated this project was designed by Chuck Rann with Edison Engineering. These improvements will give access to 60 undeveloped areas of Burnt Hickory Park.

Chairman Carmichael asked why there was such a large difference in the 2 bids received.

Mr. Rann, stated that the higher bid was simply too high for this project. The lower bid from Steele and Associates was in the range we were expecting. This project will contain a few bridges and access to trails.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES & DEPARTMENTS:

Sheriff Gary Gulledge gave an update on the Sheriff's Office statistics from January 2021-May 2021.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

CONSENT AGENDA: Chairman Carmichael read the following consent agenda items:

3. *Deputy Rodney Schubert retired from the Sheriff's Office on June 11, 2021; the policy to retire a service pistol to a Deputy has been met by Deputy Schubert. The Sheriff's Office request to retire Deputy Schubert's Glock Pistol, Model 21 serial #TYN964.*
4. *Action to consider the annexation of 15.4 acres of property located off Villa Rica Highways into the City of Dallas. Post I.*

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

5. *Accept a \$600,000.00 Appalachian Regional Commission Grant for the Hiram (SR 92) Sewer Extension.*

Discussed action to accept a \$600,000.00 Appalachian Regional Commission Grant for the Hiram (SR 92) Sewer Extension. Laurie Ashmore, Water Department Director stated this sewer extension will extend the existing sewer that was installed 5 years ago in Downtown Hiram from Hiram Sudie Rd. passed Nebo Rd. This is intended to sewer properties that currently have septic tanks, which are failing. This project has been in the works for over a year now. In February the Water Department went before the Board asking to submit a Grant application for \$600,000 to go towards this project. We have an opportunity to get State revolving funds at a 0% interest rate for 5 years for the matched funding.

Chairman Carmichael asked if we know the estimated amount we would be getting from the State.

Ms. Ashmore stated the estimated amount is \$1.7 million.

Commissioner Hart asked Ms. Ashmore to explain what the Grant was designed to do.

Ms. Ashmore stated is it intended to create jobs. She further stated that because of the failing septic tanks we cannot put any business in that area and that Environmental Health has been watching very closely for many years.

Chairman Carmichael asked George Jones, Department of Transportation Director if that section of SR 92 is completed or if we can add this project to the construction.

Mr. Jones explained there is two phases of the SR 92 project. Phase 1 is currently under construction, which goes from Malone Rd to Nebo Rd with a completion date of July 2022. Phase 2 which is from Nebo Rd North is still in the engineering phase and currently predicted to have a 2023-2024 time frame.

Ms. Ashmore stated our engineers have been in contact with GDOT making sure there will be no conflicts between the two projects.

6. Award a Contract to top ranked respondent, Prime Engineering in the amount of \$108,379.44 for the final design, bidding and award phases of the engineering services for the (SR 92) Hiram Sewer Extension.

Discussed action to award a Contract to top ranked respondent, Prime Engineering in the amount of \$108,379.44 for the final design, bidding and award phases of the engineering services for the (SR 92) Hiram Sewer Extension. Laurie Ashmore, Water Department Director stated this was a part of the 2020 qualification based selection process. Prime Engineering received that Contract for the engineering and award phase.

7. Accept a Grant awarded to the Felony Drug Court, and authorize the Chairman to execute all of the necessary documents needed.

Discussed action to accept a Grant awarded to the Felony Drug Court, and authorize the Chairman to execute all of the necessary documents needed. Judge Bucci stated this program was launched in January of 2016. This program has inducted over 120 participants and graduated over 50. This is a very tough program that takes 2 years to complete. Judge Bucci brought Hudson, a participant from this program, to give a testimonial.

Hudson shared that he simply wouldn't be here today without this program. He has seen numerous lives saved due to Drug Court. This program gives you all the necessary tools you will need to succeed.

Commissioner Kaecher congratulated Hudson and told him to keep up the good work.

Chairman Carmichael asked Judge Bucci about the matched funding.

Judge Bucci explained that the State Funding Committee granted a Grant of \$254,976 to fund the program through the end of the year. There is a 10% match that is typically funded by DATE funds.

Commissioner Stover asked Judge Bucci how many participants are currently in the program.

Judge Bucci stated that there is currently 30 which is low.

Commissioner Stover asked Judge Bucci if more funding would help to accept more participants into the program. He also asked if there was any other way to help expand this program to help more people.

Judge Bucci explained that his program is for people facing a revocation of probation or has new charges. This program cannot be forced on anyone, they have to want to join the program. He further stated the program has the capacity to accept more participants, but they have to want it. This is a very tough program and is not easy.

8. *Accept a Grant awarded to the Mental Health Court, and authorize the Chairman to execute all documents needed.*

Discussed action to accept a Grant awarded to the Mental Health Court, and authorize the Chairman to execute all documents needed. Judge Lyles stated this program started in March of 2019. This program currently has 6 active participants and 1 additional participant in custody in order to get sober before starting the program. This program not only deals with substance abuse but mental health as well. He further stated that out of the 6 current participants, 5 are employed with driver's licenses, sober and mending family relationships. This Grant requires a matched funds of \$11,607 which will come from DATE funds.

Commissioner Kaecher thanked Judge Lyles and Judge Bucci for all they do for these programs.

Jayson Phillips, County Attorney shared a story of when Paulding County had a mentally unstable inmate that needed immediate help and there was no place to give help. At the time Paulding County did not have the resources to help that inmate. He further stated that programs like this eliminate that kind of dilemma from happening.

CONCLUSION OF REGULAR BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

Chairman Carmichael asked the Commissioners if they would like to make any announcements or comments.

Sandy Kaecher shared an update on Mulberry Rock Park, they are finishing up the engineering phase, pulling permits and should be starting by this fall.

Brian Stover shared that there will be a Community Job Fair this coming Friday from 2-6 and Saturday from 10-2 at the College and Career Academy in New Hope.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: None

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