



**PAULDING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION MINUTES
April 25, 2023**

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

CALL TO ORDER: David L. Carmichael, Chairman

**INVOCATION
& PLEDGE:** David L. Carmichael, Chairman

PRESENT: David L. Carmichael, Chairman; Keith Dunn, Post 1; Sandy Kaecher, Post II; Virginia Galloway, Post III; Brian Stover, Post IV; Jayson Phillips, County Attorney; Frank Baker, County Manager; Rebecca Merideth, County Clerk.

MINUTES:

- 1. The April 11, 2023 Work Session Minutes, the April 11, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes and the April 20, 2023 Joint Board Meeting Minutes were available for review.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Team Paulding: County Spring Events aired for the Commissioners and audience.

INVITED GUESTS: None

BID AWARDS:

- 2. The 2023 Asphalt Project Contract III to the lowest bidder, Bartow Paving Company Inc., in the amount of \$2,866,353.65. Streets included in the Contract are located in Posts 1, 2, 3, and 4. Funding for this project will be allocated from General Funds and SPLOST:*
Award the 2023 Asphalt Project Contract III to the lowest bidder, Bartow Paving Company Inc., in the amount of \$2,866,353.65. Erica Parish, Transportation Deputy Director stated Contract III includes 13.31 miles of patching, milling, leveling and resurfacing of sixty-one (61) streets within twelve (12) subdivisions. The Finance Department went to bid on March 10, 2023 receiving five (5) bids. Bartow Paving Company, Inc.’s bid came in 11.7% lower than the County Engineers estimate.
- 3. The 2023 Asphalt Project Contract IV to the lowest responsive bidder, Bartow Paving Company Inc., in the amount of \$2,918,412.19. Streets included in the Contract are located in Posts 1, 2, and 3. Funding of the project will be from General Funds and SPLOST:*
Award the 2023 Asphalt Project Contract IV to the lowest responsive bidder, Bartow Paving Company Inc., in the amount of \$2,918,412.19. Erica Parish, Transportation Deputy Director stated Contract IV includes 12.5 miles of patching, milling, leveling and resurfacing of sixty-six (66) streets within thirteen (13) subdivisions, with two (2) non-subdivision streets. The Finance Department went to bid on March 10, 2023 receiving four (4) bids. Bartow Paving Company, Inc.’s bid came in 14.5% lower than the County Engineers estimate.

Chairman Carmichael asked where Citizens could find if their street is included in the Contract.

Ms. Parish stated if the Contract is awarded it will be posted on the website (www.paulding.gov).

Commissioner Dunn asked Ms. Parish to explain the criteria for which roads are picked.

Ms. Parish stated between the Transportation Department, the Comprehensive Transportation Plan and daily inspections, roads are looked at and rated based on the last time it was resurfaced, current condition, cracking, etc. She further stated the roads rated worst are top priority.

4. Contract to Bam Bam Hauling Solutions, LLC for the Standby Paving & Concrete Work Contract providing services including paving, concrete work and landscaping services over the next 12 months at a unit cost not to exceed \$357,430.00:

Award the Contract to Bam Bam Hauling Solutions, LLC for the Standby Paving & Concrete Work Contract providing services including paving, concrete work and landscaping services over the next 12 months at a unit cost not to exceed \$357,430.00. Ray Wooten, Water Sewer Systems Director stated the Water Department last awarded this Contract to DAF Concrete. This Contract combines all work for one (1) contractor instead of multiple. The Finance Department went to bid March 3, 2023, receiving three (3) bids.

Chairman Carmichael asked Mr. Wooten why the bids received ranged so far in price from \$300,000.00 to three (3) million.

Mr. Wooten stated in the Contract there were different project forms (small, medium & large), the three (3) million dollar Contract focused more on large projects.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES & DEPARTMENTS: None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

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

5. Reappoint Lisa Lewis to the Northwest Georgia Region 1 Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council with a term of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

6. Resolution 23-08 the Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update for 2021-2050:

Discussed action to adopt Resolution 23-08 the Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update for 2021-2050. Erica Parish, Transportation Deputy Director presented a slideshow explaining the Comprehensive Transportation Plan. The planning study looks at all modes of transportation in the County, helps identify the desires, needs, and gives recommendations and strategies. This update includes financially constrained action plans for short term (2024-2028), mid-range (2029-2040) and long term (2041-2050). This helps identify projects that the State and Federal Project Delivery Program helps to get funding.

7. Resolution 23-09 to amend Association County Commissioners of Georgia Defined Benefit Plan for Paulding County Employees:

Discussed action to adopt Resolution 23-09 to amend Association County Commissioners of Georgia Defined Benefit Plan for Paulding County Employees. Tara Palmer, Human Resources Director stated the Board recently approved to transfer from Valic to ACCG. This will allow Human Resources to use this as a recruitment tool for all future employees. It will transfer years of service from other Counties that also use ACCG. She further stated this is an enhancement to our current retirement plan.

Commissioner Kaecher thanked Ms. Palmer for all of her hard work she has put into this and stated it will be a great program if approved.

8. Contract with TCP for the implementation of software for a time care system for Paulding County Employees in the amount of \$107,011.13. Funding will come from the General Fund:

Discussed action to approve the Contract with TCP for the implementation of software for a time care system for Paulding County Employees in the amount of \$107,011.13. Tara Palmer, Human Resources Director stated County Manager, Frank Baker put a group together to look into vendors in December of 2022. There were three (3) vendors interviewed and TCP was the best fit for Paulding County. Ms. Palmer stated the last payroll employee count was 1,298 employees in 52 departments. This system will help cut down on errors, be more efficient, consistent and makes employees more responsible and accountable for their time.

Commissioner Stover stated he was surprised we didn't currently have a time clock system in place.

Ms. Palmer stated Paulding County is one of the fastest growing Counties in Georgia and with more Citizens comes more employees. She also stated the goal is to have the system up and running by December 1st but would like to see it running September 1st.

Chairman Carmichael asked if this system was only for the employees in the Administration Building.

Ms. Palmer answered no. This system will be for all County employees that are under the Board of Commissioners. There will be multiple different ways to clock-in via phone, tablet, computer and manual time clocks.

Commissioner Galloway asked if the entire cost should be added to this Agenda Item.

Ms. Palmer stated it can be changed if needed.

Jayson Phillips, County Attorney asked what component of the system is covered under the \$107,011.13.

Ms. Palmer stated the \$107,011.13 is the startup fee.

Mr. Phillips stated there is a recurring fee.

Ms. Palmer confirmed. The system has 24/7 customer support and maintenance is also included.

Commissioner Kaecher asked if there was a license or certificate that had to be purchased yearly.

Ms. Palmer stated yes. A license for each employee has to be purchased.

County Manger, Frank Baker stated it is typical for any system to have a recurring fee for yearly software updates.

Commissioner Dunn stated the \$107,011.13 also includes the first year of usage.

Commissioner Galloway stated with nine (9) years of a recurring \$42,000.00 fee will equal nearly half a million dollars.

Ms. Palmer stated currently employees time is kept on paper spreadsheets. This will make it easier on our Finance Payroll Department and will be better organized.

9. *Approve the refresh and upgrade of the SolaCom Guardian 911 Telephone System from AT&T, in the amount of \$487,898.00 to be paid from 911 fees:*

Discussed action to approve the refresh and upgrade of the SolaCom Guardian 911 Telephone System from AT&T, in the amount of \$487,898.00. David Mumford, E-911 Director stated this is a refresh and update to the E-911 telephone system. This has to be done every five (5) to seven (7) years. It replaces all servers, VCS, and anything that wears out in the system. He further stated this is done regularly to prevent the system failing. This will add auto call distribution, which is a better way to process all calls as they come in and also give more accurate reports and stats.

10. *Development Agreement with FORSTAR (USA) REAL ESTATE GROUP, INC., for intersection improvements to accommodate the development by the developer realigning Dooley Road through the Thompson Ridge Subdivision and accessing Gulledege Road. Located in Post 4:*

Discussed action to authorize the Chairman to enter into a Development Agreement with FORSTAR (USA) REAL ESTATE GROUP, INC., for intersection improvements to accommodate the development by the developer realigning Dooley Road through the Thompson Ridge Subdivision and accessing Gulledege Road. Erica Parish, Transportation Deputy Director stated Thompson Ridge Subdivision is adjacent to Dooley Road and Gulledege Road. Originally the entrance was too closely spaced to the existing Dooley Road and Gulledege Road entrance to allow proper access management. The Dooley Road intersection currently is substandard to geometrics. It was decided to eliminate the Dooley Road entrance and realign Dooley Road to access Gulledege Road through Thompson Ridge Subdivision. As a part of a zoning stipulation, the Owner/Developer was to enter into a Development Agreement with Paulding County for intersection improvements to accommodate the subdivisions entrance.

Chairman Carmichael asked what the cost will be for this project.

Ms. Parish stated the Owner/Developer is responsible for the cost.

11. Project funding allotment increase in the amount of \$75,000.00 for the completion of the SR 120 at SR 120 Connector Intersection Improvement Project to Bartow Paving Company. Allotment increase will be funded by SPLOST, project is located in Post 2:

Discussed action to approve a project funding allotment increase in the amount of \$75,000.00 for the completion of the SR 120 at SR 120 Connector Intersection Improvement Project to Bartow Paving Company. Erica Parish, Transportation Deputy Director stated Bartow Paving Inc. was originally awarded the SR 120 Connector Intersection Improvement Project on April 26, 2022 for right and left turn lanes. Georgia Department of Transportation committed \$200,000.00 through the quick response program. Through the course of the project bad soil was found that needed to be removed adding additional cost as well as additional construction overturn costs. Ms. Parish further stated \$75,000.00 is needed to complete the project, ending the project with an 18.7% overturn.

12. Approve a funding commitment with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) in the amount not to exceed \$900,000.00 for a single lane roundabout project located at the intersection of SR 6 Business, (Merchants Drive), Macland Road, and Butler Industrial Drive. Funding will be from SPLOST, located in Post 1:

Discussed action to approve a funding commitment with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) in the amount not to exceed \$900,000.00 for a single lane roundabout project located at the intersection of SR 6 Business, (Merchants Drive), Macland Road, and Butler Industrial Drive. Erica Parish, Transportation Deputy Director stated the intersection of SR 6 Business is currently operated by a traffic signal that suffers from delays and back-ups due to the large amount of traffic and some geometrics. \$650,000.00 was allocated through SPLOST for this project, however the current project is for a traffic signal. During discussion with Georgia Department of Transportation and reviewing the traffic numbers a roundabout was deemed a better fit for this location. Due to the cost of a roundabout without County funds, the project does not rank high enough on the benefit cost to move forward. GDOT is requesting Paulding County to consider putting \$900,000.00 of funding towards the project to raise the ranking so the project can move forward.

Commissioner Galloway stated this is a very busy intersection and asked if a single lane roundabout is enough for current traffic and if it can be extended in the future if needed.

Ms. Parish stated it is suitable for the current amount of traffic and it is projected to be suitable for at least the next 10-15 years.

Commissioner Dunn asked if the Engineering Reimbursement includes the right-of-way acquisition.

Ms. Parish confirmed that it did.

13. Ordinance 23-06 adopting amendments to Chapter 14 of the Code of Ordinances regarding procedures before the Animal Control Hearing Board and Requirement for Classified Dogs:

Discussed action to adopt Ordinance 23-06 adopting amendments to Chapter 14 of the Code of Ordinances regarding procedures before the Animal Control Hearing Board and Requirement for Classified Dogs. Jayson Phillips, County Attorney stated when there is a dog bite incident, Animal Control has the authority to investigate the facts to then classify the dog as either a dangerous or vicious dog. Restrictions are then placed on the dog based on classification. If the owner disagrees, they can file an appeal to the Animal Control Hearing Board. After reviewing the case, they can then sustain, modify or reverse the classification/restrictions. These Amendments will require owners of dogs considered “dangerous” to be placed on a 6ft leash and be muzzled (the same restrictions that “vicious” dogs currently have). It will also require the owner of a “dangerous” or “vicious” dog when donating, selling or transferring to notify the receiving party. Tenants will also be required to notify their landlord. If your dog is deemed “dangerous” or “vicious” you will receive notification by Statutory Overnight mail. If an owner files an appeal, they are required to be present at the Animal Control Hearing Board Meeting to plead their case.

Commissioner Galloway asked if there was an Ordinance referring to people that let “dangerous” or “vicious” go.

Mr. Phillips stated general abandonment of an animal is prohibited and is a violation to State Law.

Commissioner Galloway asked if “dangerous” or “vicious” dogs are required to be chipped.

Mr. Phillips stated “vicious” dogs are required to be chipped, “dangerous” dogs are not. Mr. Phillips clarified that “dangerous” dogs may bite or attack without causing serious injury or kill another animal. “Vicious” dogs bite or attack causing serious injury including lacerations, disfigurement or death.

Chairman Carmichael asked if County Attorney Phillips attended the Animal Control Hearing Board Meetings.

Mr. Phillips stated the County Attorney serves as a hearing officer to keep the meetings moving but does not vote.

Chairman Carmichael asked why dogs that are considered “vicious” or “dangerous” are not euthanized.

Mr. Phillips stated there are avenues to euthanize, however the Board does not have the authority to euthanize before two incidents of serious biting. Animal Control however can go to Superior Court to get an order from a Judge to euthanize.

Commissioner Dunn expressed his appreciation for the pro-activeness on this matter.

CONCLUSION OF REGULAR BUSINESS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: None

Chairman Carmichael asked the Commissioners if they had any announcements or comments.

Chairman Carmichael shared that he and Commissioner Galloway attended a Wild Game Banquet at Hiram First Baptist to present Mr. Tom Payne, Celebrate Recovery Director with a Proclamation on behalf of the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Galloway stated multiple Churches in the area have Celebrate Recovery Programs and encouraged anyone that needs help to attend a meeting.

Commissioner Kaecher reminded everyone of the Post II Town Hall Meeting at the Northwest Atlanta Airport on May 18, 2023 at 6PM.

Commissioner Galloway thanked everyone that attended the Post III Town Hall Meeting. Topics discussed; Hwy 92, Economic Development, Water and Sewer and the Taylor Farm Park upcoming “facelift.”

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

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