



**PAULDING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION MINUTES
August 10, 2021**

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

CALL TO ORDER: David L. Carmichael, Chairman

INVOCATION & PLEDGE: Robbie Finley, Area director of Fellowship of Christian Athletes

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

MINUTES:

1. *The July 27, 2021 Work Session Minutes and the July 27, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes were available for review.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Positively Paulding: The August 2021 Employee of the Month Daniel Perrin with our E-911 Communications Department video aired for the Commissioners and citizens.

INVITED GUESTS: None

BID AWARDS:

2. *Award the Seven Hills Boulevard Widening Project, Project Number: PR-IMP-(1846)-(1), to the lowest responsive bidder, C.W. Matthews Contracting Company, in the amount of \$4,412,516.82. This project will be funded through SPLOST:*

Award of the Seven Hills Boulevard Widening Project, Project Number: PR-IMP-(1846)-(1), to the lowest responsive bidder, C.W. Matthews Contracting Company, in the amount of \$4,412,516.82. This project will be funded through SPLOST. George Jones, Transportation Director stated that this will extend from the east edge of the bridge over Little Pumpkinvine Creek to Cedarcrest Road, approximately 0.78 miles. The two lane will become a four lane with a raised median, dual lane roundabout at the intersection of Seven Hills Blvd., Bent Leaf Drive and Blackberry Run Drive as well as dual left turn lanes approaching Cedarcrest Road. Mr. Jones stated that C.W. Matthews bid came in 15% below our Engineers estimate. There will be a contribution of \$751,122.00 applied to this project per the terms of a Development Agreement with Forestar, the successor of Tempco, the original developer of Seven Hills. SPLOST funds will be used for the remainder of the construction funding totaling \$3,661,394.82. There will be a 24-month timetable to complete this project.

Commissioner Stover asked about the impact to the CVS intersection.

Mr. Jones stated that as of right now CVS has full access. With the completion of this project that access will be a right-in and a right-out.

Commissioner Stover asked what the timeframe will be from start to finish.

Mr. Jones stated there will be a pre-construction meeting with C.W. Matthews if approved to discuss the work plan.

Commissioner Stover asked if from the time this project was bided out, if there is a delay would that effect the cost of the project.

Mr. Jones stated that if a delay occurred due to no fault of the contractor the cost would increase, unless the delay is due to a recession.

Chairman Carmichael asked if the bridge will be widened in the future.

Mr. Jones stated that widening the bridge is in the next phase of this project.

Commissioner Stover asked if this plan was in the original design from Forestar.

Mr. Jones stated that it was in the original design.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES & DEPARTMENTS:

Ann Lippmann, Community Development Director, RE: Six-Month Update on Permits and Business Licenses.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON AGENDA ITEMS:

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

3. *Accept the following streets for perpetual maintenance by the County:*
Whitley Place (Post 2)
Whitley Court
4. *Authorize the Chairman to enter into an Agreement with MetroAtlanta Ambulance Service, Inc. by signing a Memorandum of Understanding for delivery of emergency medical services.*
5. *Approval of the name Gerber Drive for the unnamed street that was taken over by the County as a public street as a part of the Costco Infrastructure Projects.*

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

6. *Public Hearing for Citizens to review the JAG Grant application:*
Public Hearing for Citizens to review the JAG Grant application. Chairman Carmichael opened the Public Hearing for the review of the JAG Grant application. Tabitha Pollard, Finance Director stated that this grant is an annual Grant that purchases equipment for the Sheriff's office. This Grant is for a total of \$23,619.00 and will be used to purchase three Night Vision Units and a Cellsence Ultra.

Hearing no comments from the Citizens, Chairman Carmichael closed the Hearing.

7. *Resolution 21-18 adopting the County M & O Millage rate at 5.21 mills:*
Discussed action to adopt Resolution 21-18 adopting the County M & O Millage rate at 5.21 mills. Tabitha Pollard, Finance Director stated this is an annual process. The digest is completed on June 1st, then a budget is issued for review to the public. There was a Public Hearing to review the budget at the July 27, 2021 meeting.
8. *Resolution 21-19 adopting the County Fire Tax Millage rate at 3.10 mills:*
Discussed action to adopt Resolution 21-19 adopting the County Fire Tax Millage rate at 3.10 mills. Tabitha Pollard, Finance Director stated that several years ago the County put a ballot question out to have a special district created to fund the Fire Tax which funds the Fire Department.
9. *Resolution 21-20 adopting the County Debt Services rate at 2.00 mills:*
Discussed action to adopt Resolution 21-20 adopting the County Debt Services rate at 2.00 mills. Tabitha Pollard, Finance Director stated that the County has several debt issuances from the past few years. These Debt Services are primarily for the Watson Government Complex and the Detention Center. The debt increase in the digest value is rolling back from 2.2 to 2.0 and still able to fund the Debt Services.
10. *Resolution 21-21 adopting the County School Tax Millage rate at 18.75 mills:*
Discussed action to adopt Resolution 21-21 adopting the County School Tax Millage rate at 18.75 mills. Tabitha Pollard, Finance Director stated the School Board held a Public Hearing and is asking to keep the millage rate the same as the previous year at 18.75 mills.

Chairman Carmichael asked if Ms. Pollard would comment on the percentage of the overall County School Tax Millage Rate represents

Ms. Pollard stated that around 60% of the taxes go to the School Board.

11. Resolution 21-22 authorizing the Tax Commissioner to retain a 2.5% fee for the collection of School Tax:

Discussed action to adopt Resolution 21-22 authorizing the Tax Commissioner to retain a 2.5% fee for the collection of School Tax. Tabitha Pollard, Finance Director stated that every year rather than having two digests the School Board utilizes the digest created by the Tax Assessors and the Tax Commissioner collects those taxes. By law up to 2.5% is allowed to be collected to off-set the cost.

12. Adopt the FY 2022 Budget:

Discussed action to adopt the FY 2022 Budget. Tabitha Pollard, Finance Director stated a Public Hearing was held at the July 27, 2021 Work Session Meeting. This will adopt the budget for General Funds, Fire Department Funds and Debt Services Funds. This budget has been out for review since June 1st.

Chairman Carmichael stated that since the year 1990 there hasn't been a millage rate as low as 5.21 mills.

13. Adopt the FY 2021 Budget Amendments:

Discussed action to adopt the FY 2021 Budget Amendments. Tabitha Pollard, Finance Director stated that every year a new budget is adopted but throughout the year changes are made by Commissioners. Then at the end of the year a consolidated Budget Amendment is made. This increases the expenditure amount to 91 million dollars. We only spent around 80 million this year. Ms. Pollard stated that auditing will begin within the next several weeks.

14. Contract amendment for Inspection Services to Atkins North America for Capital Improvement Project Inspections for one-year in the amount of \$225,990.00:

Discussed action to award a contract amendment for Inspection Services to Atkins North America for Capital Improvement Project Inspections for one-year in the amount of \$225,990.00. Laurie Ashmore, Water System Director stated that with all of our Capital Projects we have utilized Atkins for project inspection and construction management over the last few years. A position has been approved to bring a in-house Project Inspection Service but has yet to be filled. Ms. Ashmore stated this is a unit price Contract that allows up to one year of continued service.

Commissioner Stover asked if we will only utilize them when needed.

Ms. Ashmore stated yes, we will only be utilizing the services when needed.

CONCLUSION OF REGULAR BUSINESS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: None

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

Frank Baker, County Administrator spoke on the upcoming 4th annual Rides for Wishes benefiting the Make-a-Wish Foundation. This event will be held Saturday, October 9th at Veterans Memorial Park at 8am.

Commissioner Stover congratulated North Paulding High School's Robotics Club on going to the World Championship.

Commissioner Dunn thanked Robbie Finley for doing the invocation.

Commissioner Kaecher Congratulated Employee of the Month, Daniel Perrin for his dedication to the E-911 Department.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

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