



**PAULDING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION MINUTES
June 27, 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 June 13, 2023 Work Session Minutes and the June 13, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes were available for review.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Team Paulding: “The Over Crowding Problem at Paulding County Animal Control and How You Can Help” aired for the Commission and audience.

The Board of Commissioners presented the Public Safety Appreciation Award to Deputy Andrew Hoskins with the Sheriff’s Office.

INVITED GUESTS: None

BID AWARDS:

- 2. *Progressive Design/Build Services Pumpkinvine WRF Immediate Needs and Expansion Project (Bid No. 23020-3804) Contract for design and construction services to Ruby Collins, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$3,424,210.00 from ARPA funds.:*
Award the Progressive Design/Build Services Pumpkinvine WRF Immediate Needs and Expansion Project (Bid No. 23020-3804) Contract for design and construction services to Ruby Collins, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$3,424,210.00 from ARPA funds. Located in Post 4. Ray Wooten, Water System Director stated

Commissioner Dunn asked Mr. Wooten to briefly describe the 5 criteria and scoring system.

Mr. Wooten stated that the scores that are listed are the accumulated scores from the 5 criteria. The evaluation team looked at the history of past projects; the organization structure; the team experience; how the team works together; and the approach to scope of work. He further stated that we wanted to make sure the one that was picked had a clear understanding of the project.

Commissioner Galloway stated that the next closest bid was quite a bit more.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES & DEPARTMENTS:

Sheriff Gary Gulledge gave a report on the months from January to May of 2023. He presented the statistics for miles driven, arrests, thefts, traffic stops, complaints, transports, burglaries and juveniles charged.

Chairman Carmichael asked Sheriff Gulledge about Gang activity in Paulding County.

Sheriff Gulledge stated that as the population grows so does gang activity. Every county is fighting gang problems, Paulding is no different.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

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

- 3. *Authorize the Chairman to approve the transfer of 646.90 sf (0.015 ac) of right of way to GDOT for PI# 0013702, for a purchase price of \$500.00.***

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- 4. *Authorize the Chairman to sign the Grant Award document for the Mental Health Court for the grant period of July 1, 2023 - July 30, 2024. The Grant Award will be for \$112,781.00 with a match of \$15,379.00 coming from the DATE Fund:***

Discussed action to authorize the Chairman to sign the Grant Award document for the Mental Health Court for the grant period of July 1, 2023 - July 30, 2024. The Grant Award will be for \$112,781.00 with a match of \$15,379.00 coming from the DATE Fund. Judge Woodall stated the program started in January of 2019, so far there have been 10 graduated from the program. The Mental Health Court deals with high risk/high reward cases with most of them having been charged with a felony. She further stated that in July of 2022 genetic testing became available, this is a process of taking DNA from a participant with mental health issues to tell what type of medication is best for them. We have seen remarkable changes in individuals that have had this done and is on the correct medication. Judge Woodall stated that they will be implementing an opioid addiction program this year and that a RCO will be opening up in Hiram in September. This is a location for help with recovery and programs to help those that have recovered to get support to move forward.

Commissioner asked what would be the delineation between the Drug Court and Mental Health Court.

Judge Woodall stated that the Jailers are the first indicators, when the mental health aspect is more prevalent than the drug use. Often times a person that is arrested for drug use, has a mental health issue and are using the drugs to self-medicate.

Commissioner Stover asked some of the cases are locked up for drugs but what are some of the others. Also, the DNA testing where can you get that done.

Judge Woodall stated the other arrests can be from thief, assault, battery, domestic violence. Most of the time the person is very angry or aggressive. The testing is voluntary unless you are in the program and it is mandatory to take their medication, there is a clinic in New Hope, All Care that can administer the tests.

Commissioner Galloway asked if the reason for only felony cases was a law. Why not misdemeanor cases.

Judge Woodall stated that the program is a two-year program and if you are charged with a misdemeanor it usually carries a 6-month probation, most do not want to go through a 2-year program they just take the 6 months.

- 5. *Authorize the Chairman to sign the grant award documents for the Drug Court for the grant period July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024. The Grant Award will be for \$261,386.00 with a match of \$35,644.00 coming from the DATE Fund:***

Discussed action to authorize the Chairman to sign the grant award documents for the Drug Court for the grant period July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024. The Grant Award will be for \$261,386.00 with a match of \$35,644.00 coming from the DATE Fund. Tabitha Pollard, Finance Director stated Judge Bucci is over this program and there has been 79 graduates with 20 currently in the program and it is an 18 month program. She further stated that the County has an allotted amount with the grant for these programs based on population, whatever is not covered is the match that the county pays.

- 6. *Authorize the Chairman to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Heath & Lineback Engineers, Inc. for continuing supportive engineering services, not to exceed \$65,000.00. Agreement will be funded with General Funds:***

Discuss action to authorize the Chairman to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Heath & Lineback Engineers, Inc. for continuing supportive engineering services, not to exceed \$65,000.00. Agreement will be funded with General Funds. George Jones, Transportation Director stated, the engineering division has 2 vacancies and expects to have a substantial

increase to the work load next year. The department is asking to renew this agreement for the next 4 months while the department continues to try and recruit to fill the positions.

7. *Agreement with Contech Engineering Solutions, LLC in the amount of \$395,348.00 for the purchase of a triple span aluminum arch culvert structure for the Mud Green Road Culvert Replacement Project. This project is in Post 2. Funding for the project will be from General Funds an SPLOST:*

Discussed action to enter into an Agreement with Contech Engineering Solutions, LLC in the amount of \$395,348.00 for the purchase of a triple span aluminum arch culvert structure for the Mud Green Road Culvert Replacement Project. This project is in Post 2. Funding for the project will be from General Funds an SPLOST. George Jones, Transportation Director stated, existing pipes are failing and need to be replaced. Working with design consultants the department felt it was best to go with the triple span aluminum arch culvert structure which has a life span of 75 to 100 years with less maintenance. There will be three arch culverts next to each other used for the project and will be adequate to handle the rainfall in the area.

Commissioner Galloway asked how much track travels down that road.

Mr. Jones stated less than 1000 cars per day.

Chairman Carmichael asked if there are other crossings scheduled for replacement.

Mr. Jones stated we try to get an idea of the structure before they fail, we rate them and then replace as they are needed or fail.

8. *Approve the Chairman's nomination of Jeremiah Fields, to fill the position of Paulding County Property Management Director:*

Discussed action to approve the Chairman's nomination of Jeremiah Fields, to fill the position of Paulding County Property Management Director. Frank Baker, County Manager stated that they had several applicants apply for the position and the team had several interviews, the team was impressed with Mr. Fields. This is a new position that will include the maintenance division and oversee vertical construction.

9. *Development Agreement between Artisan Storage Inc. and Paulding County to extend gravity sanitary sewer service along the Highway 92 business corridor. Funding of a Crossing will be from the Renewal and Extension Fund:*

Discussed action to approve a Development Agreement between Artisan Storage Inc. and Paulding County to extend gravity sanitary sewer service along the Highway 92 business corridor. Funding of a Crossing will be from the Renewal and Extension Fund. The project is located in Post 3. Ray Wooten, Water System Director stated, The County provides sanitary sewer service to the north of Ridge Road. Installing a sanitary sewer crossing from the existing sanitary sewer on the west side of Highway 92 which services the Greystone Power Headquarters to the east side of Highway 92 south of Morning Side Road to a manhole just south of Pine Valley Road which will service the commercial parcels and allow for the growth of the existing businesses.

Commissioner Galloway asked if the funding was coming from the water funds.

Mr. Wooten stated yes, just the crossing will be paid with Renewal and Extension funds, and the developer will pay for the rest.

CONCLUSION OF REGULAR BUSINESS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: None

Commissioner Galloway announced that she has a new granddaughter. She reminded everyone that we are in the Budget process right now and thanked Tabitha Pollard for a wonderful job. She announce that citizens can go online to see the budget and encouraged them to ask questions she further stated that the assessments that were mailed out recently are not your tax bill, and that if you filed a homestead exemption on your property then you will be receiving \$400 off your tax bill from the state.

EXECUTIVE SESSION/ADJOURNMENT: Virginia Galloway made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of Real Estate, seconded by Sandy Kaecher. Voting Yea:

Chairman Carmichael, Post I Keith Dunn, Post II Sandy Kaecher, Post III Virginia Galloway, Post IV Brian Stover. The Chairman announced the meeting will adjourn from Executive Session.