

**Work Session**

**Troup County Board of Commissioners**

**October 12, 2012**

**Troup County Government Center**

Troup County Board of Commissioners Chairman Richard Wolfe called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Board Members Present:**

Richard Wolfe, Chairman  
Buck Davis, Vice-Chairman  
Ken Smith, Commissioner  
Morris Jones, Commissioner  
Richard English, Commissioner

**News Media Present:**

Matthew Strother, LaG Daily News  
Trey Wood, Valley News  
Thomas Camp, Troup County News

**Staff Present:**

Tod Tentler, County Manager  
Jerry Willis, County Attorney  
Scott Turk, Finance Officer / County Clerk  
Dennis Knight, EMA Director

**Others Present:**

Reuben Hairston, Candidate for Sheriff  
DeeDee Williams, Candidate for Commission Dist. 3  
Tom Hall, LaGrange City Manager  
Carl Melear, Georgia DNR  
Michael Lee, Three Rivers Red Cross  
Missy Welborn, Air Evac  
Page Estes, LaGrange-Troup CoC  
Edward Smith, Hutchinson Traylor Insurance  
Donna Barger, We Care TLC

**OPENING:**

Chairman Richard Wolfe welcomed all in attendance and opened the meeting with an invocation.

**AGENDA / MINUTES:**

Chairman Wolfe read the agenda. County Manager Tod Tentler noted the first speaker, Michael Lee, was late so we would move to item 2. on the agenda.

**Discuss community wildfire protection plan:**

EMA Director Dennis Knight introduced Carl Melear from Georgia Department of Natural Resources to speak. Mr. Melear gave a brief background on the program. Mr. Melear stated that the opportunity for wildfires is increased with Troup County's recent economic boon. Indicated Troup had 25 reported fires and credited the Fire Department with containing fires with rapid response. Troup County will be asked Tuesday to approve a partnership with DNR for the wildfire protection program. Chairman Wolfe asked the County Manager to consider including any necessary language in the Zoning Ordinance to comply with best practices for wildfire protection management.

**Discuss American Red Cross Update:**

Tod Tentler introduced Michael Lee who apologized for being tardy. Mr. Lee expressed gratitude to the Commissioners and the community for hosting the Three Rivers Red Cross in the County's 'Annex' building. Mr. Lee further congratulated the Parks & Recreation Department for successfully hosting Georgia's only shelter for Hurricane Issac evacuees. While the 38 'overnight stays', 238 meals served over five days was relatively light, it was good practice for future disasters. Finally, Mr. Lee indicated that storage is a minor issue at the Dallis Street location.

**Presentation from Air Evac regarding its LifeTeam Program:**

Missy Welborn introduced Air Evac. A service for evacuating trauma victims to regional trauma centers by airplane. The evacuation cost is typically around \$20,000 with 0-50% covered by insurance. Ms. Welborn indicated she personally knew of county employees who were struggling to pay for the service post-trauma. Ms. Welborn then introduced a 'membership' program

for individuals or as part of a benefit package that would cover the cost of the air ambulance. She stated the cost is \$60.00 for individuals, but substantially lower as a group benefit. The program covers Troup and Meriwether counties in Georgia and Randolph County, Alabama.

**Consideration of Retail Recruitment:**

County Manager Tentler introduced LaGrange-Troup County Chamber of Commerce director Page Estes to discuss efforts to recruit retail business to Troup County. Ms. Estes stated the Chamber had selected a consultant to provide recruitment services. She estimates there's a roughly \$350,000 per year loss in revenue. The three municipalities, the West Point and LaGrange downtown development authorities and Chamber of Commerce have all agreed to the partnership. The County's share is \$12,500 and is available in that 1.5% portion of Hotel/Motel tax already distributed from the County to the Chamber's tourism division for designated projects so there's no additional cost to the County. Matter will be discussed at Tuesday's Regular Session.

**Presentation from We Care TLC regarding County medical costs:**

County Manager Tentler introduced Edward Smith from Hutchinson Traylor and Donna Barger from We Care TLC to give the Commissioners an update on the employee clinic and overall healthcare costs. Mr. Smith indicated that the first year of the clinic's operation and the county's above normal medical claims costs were an unrelated anomaly. Ms. Donna Barger further explained that the clinic has identified many cases of hypertension, type-2 diabetes and other conditions that can eventually be catastrophic if left untreated. Ms. Barger went over a hand-out presentation outlining the

County's employee census and health challenges. Commission Chair Wolfe requested the chart be updated quarterly.

**Consideration of Hiring Freeze:**

County Manager Tod Tentler reminded the Commissioners that the hiring freeze which was adopted along with the FY13 budget in June had expired at the end of September. Mr. Tentler stated that county finances were stable but that cash flow was nonetheless tight and he would recommend extending the freeze through December 31, 2012 at Tuesday's regular meeting.

**Consideration of Georgia Fund One Resolution:**

County Clerk/CFO Scott Turk explained that the resolution was required to update signatures on the County's Georgia Fund One account with the Georgia Department of Treasury. Mr. Turk will request approval at Tuesday's regular session

**Consideration of Manufacturer's Energy Excise Tax:**

Mr. Turk also explained that the 2011-2012 Georgia Assembly passed legislation providing an exemption from sales tax to manufacturers on the use of various kinds of energy. Chairman Wolfe questioned the fiscal impact, to which Mr. Turk stated the FY13 budget included \$225,000 for 6-months of the tax which begins January 1, 2013. LaGrange City Manager Tom Hall interjected that the full estimated impact for all jurisdictions was \$600,000 per year. Mr. Turk further explained that as the recipient and distributor for the tax, the County will receive a 1% administration fee. The issue will be on the agenda for the Tuesday's regular session for a vote.

**Discussion of ACCG District Meeting:**

County Manager Tentler advised the commissioners that there will be an ACCG District 4 meeting at the Roosevelt Institute at Warm Springs, Georgia Wednesday, October 31, 2012.

**Consideration of the October 16, 2012 Regular Session Agenda:**

Commissioner Chair Richard Wolfe read the agenda items and explained that a public hearing will be opened for two issues.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Wolfe called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Morris Jones motioned to adjourn, Commissioner Smith seconded. Unanimous.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Wolfe, Chairman

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
G.S. Turk, Clerk