

Work Session

Troup County Board of Commissioners

November 2, 2012

Troup County Government Center

Troup County Board of Commissioners Vice-Chairman Buck Davis called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Board Members Present:

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

News Media Present:

Matthew Strother, LaGrange Daily News
Trey Wood, West Point News
Thomas Camp, Troup County News
Scott Smith, LaGrange Citizen

Staff Present:

Tod Tentler, County Manager
Jerry Willis, County Attorney
Scott Turk, Finance Officer / County Clerk
James Emery, County Engineer
Brandon Johns, Sr Building Official
Nancy Seegar, County Planner
Sheryl Hicks, Court Administrator
Leann Murphy, Court Coordinator
Airport Director, Dodd Wynn

Others Present:

DeeDee Williams, Candidate for Commission Dist. 3
Jeff Todd, West Point City Attorney
Ed Moon, West Point City Manager
Bill & Ellen Gilmore, Concerned Citizens
Mike O'Brian, Concerned Citizen
Jeff Unis, Concerned Citizen

OPENING:

Vice-Chairman Buck Davis welcomed all in attendance and opened the meeting with an invocation.

AGENDA / MINUTES:

Vice-Chairman Davis read the agenda.

Address the Board Regarding SPLOST and West Point Recreation:

County Manager introduced Mike O'Brian. Mr. O'Brian spoke in depth regarding rules for SPLOST spending in Georgia and alleged that SPLOST funded facilities in West Point were inappropriately converted for private and exclusive use for Point University by the City of West Point Recreation Department, referring to a 'Revision D' agreement. Mr. O'Brian indicated that the gymnasium was unavailable for use for pickup basketball and volleyball games.

Commissioner English asked Mr. O'Brian about County-Wide SPLOST funds. Mr. O'Brian stated that there was a \$4.5 Million bond backed by SPLOST funds to expedite the new facilities for Point University use. Mr. O'Brian went into further detail regarding the facilities and West Point Parks & Recreation.

Commissioner Jones stated he understood that there was no such entity as a City of West Point Parks & Recreation Department, that all parks and recreation functions were county-wide, directing the statement as a question to Jerry Willis. Mr. Willis indicated that these are legal issues that he has not yet had an opportunity to review.

Mr. O'Brian then introduced an economic impact study of Point University, further alleging that 'hundreds of thousands' of dollars of West Point and Troup Parks and Recreation funds were going to operate Point University facilities.

Vice-Chairman Davis advised Mr. O'Brian that if there is a misappropriation of funds that Mr. Tod Tentler and Mr. Don Howell (Troup Parks & Recreation Director) will address it.

Mr. Jeff Todd addressed the issue of 'fraud' stating that it is false to state the facilities were built for Point University.

Discuss Accountability Court Grants:

Ms. Sheryl Hicks explained the genesis of Georgia's accountability courts, acknowledging that Governor Deal was active in developing the courts as a method of diverting individuals from incarceration. This was accomplished in HB 1176. Ms. Hicks stated that \$198,992 was awarded for Felony Drug Court and \$18,318 for DUI/Drug Court. Ms. Hicks introduced Leann Murphy to discuss the courts. Ms. Murphy explained that the courts have 'changed lives'. All but four of the participants are fully employed.

The courts operate a contracted drug screening operated by Siemens housed in the Government Center basement. Ms. Hicks thanked Judge Little for her work and appreciation for Judge Palmer for taking the Felony Drug Court.

Discuss Zoning Ordinance Amendment for Manufactured Home Units (MHU):

County Manager Tentler introduced County Engineer James Emery to discuss the proposed Ordinance change. Mr. Emery stated that the reason for the change was due to both construction standards within the MHU industry, and

to change the approval process for MHU's allowing new units to be approved by the Zoning Administrator, or by the Board of Zoning Appeals/Planning Commission.

Discuss Ordinance Amendment to Traffic Control:

Mr. Emery remained to discuss proposed amendments to the Traffic Control Ordinance. The changes have been reviewed by the County Attorney, Sheriff's and Marshal's offices. The changes would allow the County Engineer to make necessary signage changes within the County. An example is signage changes that needed to happen at the intersection of Pegasus Road and SR219/Whitesville Road during the construction phase of the Pegasus widening.

Discuss DOT Easement Acquisition for the LaGrange-Callaway Airport:

County Manager Tentler discussed the proposed acceptance by the County of a Federal Aviation Administration grant for the runway extension project. The grant is for \$91,514.

Discuss Agreement for Salem Road Bridge Design Consulting Services:

County Engineer James Emery stated that the review committee - comprised of the County Manager, SPLOST Coordinator, James Emery and Deputy County Engineer Kevin Kinnersley - recommend Moreland Altobelli Associates, Inc. Requests for Qualifications were issued to 'twelve plus' firms with \$9,000 difference. The committee accepted the low-bid.

ADJOURNMENT:

Vice-Chairman Davis Adjourned the meeting.

Richard Wolfe, Chairman

Attest: _____
G.S. Turk, Clerk