

**Work Session**

**Troup County Board of Commissioners**

**March 29, 2013**

**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  
Claude F. Foster III, Commissioner  
Morris Jones, Commissioner  
Richard English, Commissioner

**News Media Present:**

Matthew Strother, LaGrange Daily News  
Trey Wood, West Point Times-News  
Tommy Camp, Troup County News

**Staff Present:**

Tod Tentler, County Manager  
Mark DeGennaro, County Attorney  
Scott Turk, Finance Officer / County Clerk  
Cheryl May, Accounting/ Deputy Clerk  
Suzy Noles, E-911 Director  
Jerry Presnal, E-911  
James Emery, County Engineer  
Diana Evans, Purchasing Director  
Dexter Wells, Divisions Manager  
Nancy Seegar, County Planner  
Brandon Johns, Sr. Deputy Bldg Official  
Valerie West, Executive Assistant

**OPENING:**

Chairman Richard Wolfe welcomed all in attendance.

**AGENDA / MINUTES:**

**West Georgia Broadband Authority:**

Ms. Sheila Dalmat presented to the commissioners a proposal for the West Georgia Broadband Project. The purpose of the West Georgia Broadband Project (WGBP) is to study the need for expanded internet service and improved speeds to rural areas within the four member counties. The four counties include Troup, Meriwether, Upson and Heard. The West Georgia Broadband Authority Board will consist of five members, one representing each county and one at-large member. The initial at-large member will be the current Meriwether County Commission Chair. Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) funds would include \$800,000 with \$150,000 loan and \$50,000 local match, giving the authority \$1 million for an initial build out on infrastructure of fiber optic and wireless networks. The company chosen to build out the network then would likely apply for U.S.

Department of Agriculture funding for the necessary infrastructure, estimated to cost up to \$13 million. The company would also pay back the authority for \$200k as part of the DCA loan over 10 years. Mr. Key Bridges, the committee consultant commented the county was asked to create the authority along with a commitment of \$12,500 that each county is asked to pay for the \$50k cash match of the DCA funds. The money would be reimbursed to the county through the fees after the service provider began offering services. LaGrange City Manager Tom Hall had reservations over the proposal. He expressed doubt that the USDA would give out such a large amount to a newly formed group like the proposed four county authority that has no assets or income without some sort of backing and assurance from the county government. Chairman Wolfe stated he wanted to meet with the group to talk more specifically about the plans.

**Court Software for Sheriff, Jail, Marshal, CI, E-911 and Work Release:**

County Manager Tod Tentler and Jason Cadenhead from the City of LaGrange IT presented an intergovernmental agreement that would provide PTS public safety software to the county public safety programs for court technology integration: E-911, Sheriff's Office, Jail, Correctional Institute, Marshal's Office and Work Release. The City of Lagrange is currently using the PTS software which will allow the county to share a as an additional user to save money on the new public safety software. The total cost of PTS software with setup & installation with three-year maintenance agreement is \$580,848.

**E-911 Hiring Freeze Request:**

E-911 Director Suzy Noles requested the hiring freeze be lifted to replace full-time call taker position. This is a replacement position, replacing employee that resigned. Without this employee, the amount of overtime is increased to fill this position. The position is budgeted.

**Roads & Engineering Hiring Freeze Request:**

County Engineer James Emery requested the hiring freeze be lifted for a Heavy Equipment Operator. This position is budgeted.

**Salem Road Bridge Public Hearing Update:**

County Engineer James Emery announced there was a public hearing meeting held Monday night at Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church at Salem Road

for the re-construction of the Salem Road Bridge. There were 32 people that attended the meeting. There was an option A and Option B for the people to choose how they would like the re-construction of the bridge. Option B was chosen unanimously by the 32 people.

**Changes to Sign Ordinance:**

Sr Deputy Building Official Brandon Johns discussed the deficiencies in the current sign ordinance. A few topics that were discussed was (1)spacing that needs to be increased, (2) A "cap and replace" meaning signs would have to come down in order for new signs to be erected (3) Multiple message boards- If we allow multiple message boards, we can encourage demolition of older billboards. Commissioner Wolfe asked for an accounting of billboard signs on county roads (not state roads).

**Purchasing Policy for Georgia State Patrol Post:**

County Manager Tod Tentler requested the purchasing policy for the State Patrol Post continue under the procurement policy of the State of Georgia for this project only. By using the county purchasing policy guidelines this is creating a delay in the construction. Chairman Wolfe and Purchasing Director Diana Evans both agreed that the purchasing policy need to be reviewed and updated. A review will be presented in 60-days.

**Bid Award for Georgia State Patrol Post:**

Purchasing Director Diana Evans announced there were seven bid packages out for bid on Georgia State Patrol Post. The architects are reviewing them now for the HVAC, fire sprinkler system and trusses to make sure the specs are correct. The trusses low bidder was Robert's Components in the amount of \$23,700. The fire sprinkler systems low bidder was Columbus Automatic in the amount of \$36,340. While interest had been expressed, there were no local bidders. HVAC low bidder was Air Force Heating & Air of LaGrange in the amount of \$106,575. Both bids were under budget.

**Declaration of Surplus Property:**

Purchasing Director Diana Evans presented a list of property to be declared surplus that are planned to be sold in conjunction with the Board of Education's auction, Saturday, April 13, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. across from Gardner Newman School.

**Consideration of April 2, 2013 agenda items:**

Chairman Wolfe discussed the agenda items for April 2, 2013 regular meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Wolfe made a motion to adjourn.

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Richard Wolfe, Chairman

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