

Work Session

Troup County Board of Commissioners

April 12, 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
Richard English, Vice-Chairman
Claude F. Foster III, Commissioner
Morris Jones, Commissioner
Ken Smith, Commissioner

News Media Present:

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

Staff/Officials Present:

Jerry Willis, County Attorney
Scott Turk, Finance Officer / County Clerk
James Emery, County Engineer
Cheryl May, Accounting / Deputy Clerk
Brandon Johns, Sr. Deputy Building Official
James Woodruff, Sheriff
Dexter Wells, Divisions Manager
Valerie West, Executive Assistant
Andy Harper, GIS Technician
Don Howell, Parks & Recreation Director

OPENING:

Chairman Richard Wolfe welcomed all in attendance.

AGENDA / MINUTES:

Keep Troup Beautiful Proclamation:(2013-02)

Chairman Wolfe presented a proclamation to Ms. Doris Jefferson and Ms. Carolyn Burke for their dedication to Keep Troup Beautiful, an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to helping individuals improve their community improvement. Keep Troup Beautiful is celebrating its 20th anniversary during 2013, and is confirming the Great American Cleanup as its signature effort for involving Troup County in environmental stewardship. The Troup County Board of Commissioners proclaims Saturday, April 13, 2013 to be designated as the "Great American Cleanup".

District Attorney Pete Skandalakis to Address the Board:

District Attorney Pete Skandalakis addressed the Board to request the increasing the county's contribution to the Coweta District Attorney's office \$242,000 for next fiscal year. Mr. Skandalakis pointed out the Coweta Judicial Circuit has the fifth highest caseload in the state with

about 300 cases per assistant DA. It also had one of the lowest starting salaries for assistant DA's at \$43,281 and none have received a raise in five years. Commissioner Foster questioned how many assistant DA's had a salary at or above \$100k. Mr. Skandalakis responded there were five who had more than 20 years experience. He compared the Coweta circuit to four others for context. The Augusta has about 6,000 more residents, 24 assistant DA's to Coweta's 17 and starting salary is \$52,000 and circuit has about 200 fewer cases per year with 192 per assistant DA. Mr. Skandalakis has requested the needs for three attorneys, three investigators and three support staff employees and merit increases for employees who have been working for the DA's office for years without a raise. The new funding would mean Troup, Carroll and Coweta would each provide 30 percent of the local funding while Heard and Meriwether each would fund 5 percent. Commissioner English questioned where the money is coming from to pay for the requested increase. Mr. Skandalakis responded he knew the commissioners had tough decisions to make and that he was telling them these are his needs and not what he wants.

Solicitor General Markette Baker to Address the Board:

Solicitor General Markette Baker addressed the board to request for one part time attorney position to become a full time attorney position (estimated impact is \$58,619 that includes salary and benefits). Ms. Baker is also requesting funding for two other positions- increase of \$6,739.73 for chief assistant solicitor and increase for one legal secretary from \$11.53 per hour to \$13 per hour.

Consideration of Resolution Supporting West Georgia Broadband Authority:

(2013-29)

Finance Officer Scott Turk presented a resolution supporting the West Georgia Broadband Authority. Also a letter of commitment was presented for the West Georgia Broadband Authority to Troup County in support of the project. Commissioner English made a motion to approve the resolution and letter of commitment. Commissioner Davis seconded. Unanimous.

Discuss Parks & Recreation Hiring Freeze Request:

Parks & Recreation Director Don Howell has requested lifting hiring freeze to hire a kitchen aide for the Active Life Center (Senior Center).

Discuss Marshal's Office Hiring Freeze Request:

Chief Lonza Edmondson has requested lifting hiring freeze to replace the deputy who has transferred from the Marshal's Office to the Sheriff's Department.

Discuss Felony Drug Court Hiring Freeze Request:

Drug Court Coordinator Leann Murphy has requested lifting hiring freeze to fill the position of Case Manager/Assistant to the Drug Court Coordinator. This position is fully reimbursable by a grant funded through the State of Georgia Accountability Court Funding Committee and runs through June 30, 2013.

Discuss Sheriff's Department Hiring Freeze Request:

Sheriff James Woodruff has requested lifting hiring freeze to replace an administrative clerk's position at the Sheriff's Department because the current administrative clerk is being promoted.

Discuss Sheriff's Reserve Deputy Program Proposal:

Sheriff James Woodruff discussed the possibility of starting a Reserve Deputy Program that would allow deputies that have other careers but would like to keep their certification and their hours up so these deputies would be working at no charge to the county.

Discuss Mental Health Court Budget Amendment:

County Finance Officer Scott Turk presented a resolution for Mental Health Court that is to add the City of West Point as a participant. The cities of LaGrange and Hogansville are already participating. The Court Services department will manage the contract with Pathways and submit invoices to Accounts Payable. This budget amendment brings the total funding to the Mental Health Court effort to \$74,000. Troup County's share was funded by a grant approved November 20, 2012.

Discuss Support of Tax Exempt Municipal Bonds:

County Finance Officer Scott Turk presented a resolution supporting efforts to maintain status of Municipal Bonds. Without tax-exempt financing much-needed infrastructure improvements would be delayed and tax exempt bonds are a critical tool for Georgia counties to facilitate budgeting and financing of long-term investments in the infrastructure and facilities necessary to meet public demand for government services. The loss of tax exempt status would raise the cost of capital projects for local governments.

Consideration of April 16, 2013 agenda items:

Chairman Wolfe discussed the agenda items for April 16, 2013 regular meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Richard Wolfe, Chairman

Attest: _____
G.S. Turk, Clerk