

MINUTES

Troup County Board of Commissioners

Work Session

May 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
Richard English, Vice-Chairman
Claude F. Foster III, Commissioner
Morris Jones, Commissioner
Buck Davis, Commissioner

News Media Present:

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

Staff/Officials Present:

Tod Tentler, County Manager
Mark DeGennaro, County Attorney
Scott Turk, Finance Officer / County Clerk
James Emery, County Engineer
Cheryl May, Accounting / Deputy Clerk
Dexter Wells, Divisions Manager
Valerie Heard, Human Resources Director
Sonya Conroy, Accounting

OPENING:

Chairman Richard Wolfe welcomed all in attendance.

AGENDA / MINUTES:

SPLOST III Update:

Divisions Manger Dexter Wells presented update of SPLOST III projects. The SPLOST III was authorized September 2006 by Voter Referendum. Collections began January 2007 and ended December 2012. First SPLOST collections used to pay for County Health Department (\$2 Million). Original projections to be collected was \$70 million and the actual collected was \$65,220,000 creating a 7% shortfall. Miscellaneous fire equipment, 4 freightliners, one tradition rescue pumper on M2 Freightliner Cab and Chassis, 2 Kenworth T370 Tankers with a Wynn 500 WS Series Tanker body \$1,354,001 million. A Radio system was purchased at a cost of \$1,825,151 with an \$835,360 grant. Paving equipment at a cost of \$969,955, county-wide construction projects at a cost of \$13,751,629, bridge replacements and intersection upgrades that included Bartley Road @ Shoemaker Road and Webb-Bartley Road, Hammett Road @ Tin Bridge Road, Salem Road Bridge over Flat Shoals Creek at a

total of \$374,367. A total of 187.05 miles was paved by county crew since start of SPLOST (245 miles total) at a total of \$10,675,134.

Court Revenues:

Court Administrator Sheryl Hicks presented a grant that was awarded to Troup County State Court DUI/ Drug Court in the amount of \$72,257 from the State of Georgia Accountability Court Funding Committee for fiscal year. The grant requires no match in funds from the county and is a fully reimbursable grant. Provides salary and benefits for the addition of a new position of Program Coordinator to be hired effective July 1, 2013 along with funding for testing supplies, new computer and printer.

Accountability Court:

Ms. Leann Murphy of the Felony Drug Court presented the current number of clients participating in the program. The first graduation will be this summer and she encouraged the commissioners to attend. This program is making a difference and is producing citizens of Troup County who are working and obeying the law verses sitting in our jail and costing money. Charter Bank Foundation recently awarded the non-profit group that supports the courts, Accountability Troup, a \$10k award.

Work Force Development:

Ms. Carrie Brkich offered a presentation for Workforce Development Committee of Strategic Planning. The mission is to create programs that assure the maximum number of job placements for Troup County residents. Troup County Works has free job seeker and Employer Registration, exclusive to Troup County job seekers, currently has 4377 registered job seekers, 192 registered employers, 191 jobs available. There are partnership programs such as Career Connect. Career Connect is an educational and networking event on the 4th Thursday of every month at New Community Church. Another partnership program is H.Y.P.E. Helping Young Professionals Engage. H.Y.P.E is a young professionals' organization aimed at attracting and retaining younger talent. Career Focus is a career exploration program for high school students. High School Senior Seminar has a one-day career development workshop: 30 high school students attended. It is also available to GED students.

Circles:

Ms. Sherry Brown presented ways to address poverty in Troup County after discussing the rising poverty rate at its June, 2011 retreat. This study has resulted in supporting a Circles® of Troup initiation to address poverty in an intentional way through education, relationship building and community education. The initiative is part of a national campaign under Move the Mountain Leadership Center.

Career Academy:

Troup County Center for Strategic Planning, through its Workforce Development Committee, began a study 2 years ago to discover ways to better connect Troup County youth to career in Troup County, to better engage the business community to secondary education and to be sure all Troup County youth are inspired to stay in school and graduate. The Center's board called a town hall meeting in February 2013 and interest has grown with this development process. Ms. Page Estes provided a status of the community's work.

West Point Lake Update:

County Engineer James Emery presented graphs on West Point Lake of the current draft update and conditions of water level. From January 2013 to current we had regular elevations. We have seen an extreme drought twice within 5 years, unusual events possibly attributable to climate change. All factors indicated not to stay higher than Zones 1-4, which means Zone 4 barely meets the needs of the three dams. This year we are above all. As long as it keeps raining, the lake should be fine. The Bass Masters Elite was May 2-5, 2013 and was a great success and expecting to host another in October.

Budget Status FY13:

Finance Officer Scott Turk presented a FY13 budget update.

FY 14 Budget Work Session:

County Manager Tod Tentler presented an overview of budget concerns for upcoming fiscal year. The expenses are down mainly from positions that were vacated and left open. Finance Officer Scott Turk stated revenues are doing well. The county's property tax value is expected to be down from last year by one-half to 2 percent - a \$500k to \$2 million decrease. The county had budgeted \$38,974,551 in revenues and collected \$34,601,268 as of April 30 and expenses were budgeted at \$37,901,363

with \$28,875,514 spent as of April. The County is considering requests to increase funding for the District Attorney's office and State Solicitor General's offices by \$242k and \$50k respectively. Mr. Tentler stated the county is currently looking at joining a proposal to split the Coweta judicial circuit, which covers Carroll, Heard, Coweta, Troup and Meriwether counties, so that Carroll and Heard Counties would be a separate circuit. The move would require legislation from the counties and state. This would decrease the caseload overall and possibly free up finances. Another increase for upcoming year is for 911 operations, which is proposed for a \$250k increase in its subsidy. Fees collected from phones to cover 911 operations are dropping as more people drop 'landlines'. There is a proposal from Tax Commissioner and Sheriff to move delinquent tax collections back to Tax Commissioner's office, this would require additional staff in the Tax Commissioner's office. Mr. Turk is proposing a 2 percent pay for performance increase this year for employees who meet certain standards. The expected cost is just under \$200k. Mr. Tentler commented the county is experiencing a lot of turnover, possibly because employees who are not getting pay increases are leaving to surrounding counties or cities that can offer raises.

Consideration of June 4, 2013 Agenda Items:

Chairman Wolfe discussed the agenda items for June 4, 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