

**MINUTES
WORK SESSION
WARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, January 9, 2023
3:30 p.m.**

The Ware County Board of Commissioners held a Work Session, Monday, January 9, 2023 at 3:30 p.m. in the Ware County Commission Chambers, 305 Oak Street, Suite 201 Waycross, Georgia 31501 with Chairman Elmer Thrift presiding.

CALL TO ORDER	Chairman Elmer Thrift
COMMISSIONERS PRESENT	Commissioner Steve Barnard, Commissioner Jerry Pope, and Commissioner Timmy Lucas
COMMISSIONERS ABSENT	Commissioner Leonard Burse
STAFF PRESENT	County Manager Scott Moye; Assistant County Attorney Jennifer Herzog
PRESS	Danny Bartlett
INVOCATION	The Invocation was given by Danny Bartlett
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Elmer Thrift

GUEST SPEAKER(S):

Lewis Anthony Foster, 1020 Columbus Street, Waycross

Mr. Foster did not appear at the meeting.

Discussion

None

AGENDA ITEMS:

A. Appointment to Okefenokee Regional Library Board of Trustees

Chairman Thrift stated there are four (4) positions to be considered. He asked if there was any discussion. Commissioner Lucas asked how many resumes had been received.

County Manager Moye stated he believed he had fourteen (14) applicants who submitted paperwork.

Added to Regular Meeting Agenda

B. Trembling Earth Ballfield Spraying

Chairman Thrift read from the agenda item that the Commission voted in the March 28, 2022 Called Meeting to award the bid for Trembling Earth Ballfield spraying to Coastal Sports Turf, LLC in the amount of \$31,150. This item is to seek direction from the

Commission to either bid this service for calendar year 2023 or renew the current agreement for an additional one year. He stated that he believed there was conflict last time, so he thought the item should go out to be rebid. He then asked the Commissioners what they thought.

Commissioner Pope asked the County Manager if he and the Rec Dept. personnel are satisfied with the service and the results of the contract. He mentioned that the whole purpose of the contract was because the fields hadn't been fertilized or watered in years. The whole idea had been to turn it back around and get it growing. Mr. Moye responded based on the reports he had received, everything was going well. Commissioner Pope further stated that when the Commission accepted the bid, it was with the understanding that they would continue for a year because it would take that long to get the fields back in playing condition. He also said he was of the opinion to extend the contract as provided in the contract based on the Manager's comments (of satisfaction).

Commissioner Barnard said he thought that Jamie Storey had requested to address the Commission about it and asked if he could be allowed to step forward.

Chairman Thrift reminded Commissioner Pope that there had been a conflict before surrounding the bid. Commissioner Pope responded that it was bid out, and the Commission voted to accept the bid of the most qualified person. Chairman Thrift interrupted him midsentence to say the highest bid was accepted, not the lowest bid.

Mr. Storey was called to the podium. He stated that he had bid on this item and was the low bidder. He came back, but was advised by the County Attorney that he couldn't do anything because the bid had already been awarded even though Mr. Storey's bid was much lower. He also stated he had a problem with Commissioner Pope because he believed him to be personal friends with the guy doing the spraying and has done work for him as well. He further stated that he believed Commissioner Pope should recuse himself from the process. Commissioner Pope asked him to repeat the comment. Mr. Storey replied, "You said you are personal friends with this gentleman that does the work, and you've done work for him this year or 2022 calendar year."

Commissioner Pope responded that he had put in a pool liner for the guy and knows him and his family. He doesn't work for this guy, nor does this guy work for him. Mr. Storey stated he understood that, but he was qualified to do the same kind of work. He feels that he should be able to bid on the work, and if his bid is lower, he should be awarded the bid. He stated he had been going to the County Manager's office since November to see when the bid package would be ready.

Commissioner Pope said it is up to the Commission to do whatever needs to be done. Mr. Storey responded, "What needs to be done is what is right." He said there was nothing in the bid package that said it would be an ongoing contract for three (3) years.

Commissioner Lucas replied that the wording was the contract was for up to three (3) years. It wasn't awarded as a three (3) year contract, but he could get it up to three years. Commissioners Pope and Barnard and Chairman Thrift spoke in unison explaining it's an extended contract awarded every year at the same cost.

Chairman said he felt like the item should be rebid. Mr. Storey stated he felt it should have been rebid because there was a problem in the beginning, and there is still a problem with it.

Commissioner Barnard asked if he (the Chairman) recommended rebidding it. Chairman answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Storey asked County Manager Moyer if the County still has a five percent (5%) bid preference. Mr. Moyer stated that he wasn't sure, but he thought the bid preference was still in place. Commissioner Barnard asked Mr. Storey about his question. Mr. Storey explained that in past years, if a person living in the county had a bid that was 5% over, they were awarded the bid.

Chairman Thrift recommended that they ask for bids and carry it over to the Regular Meeting.

Added to Regular Meeting Agenda

C. 2023 GDOT LMIG List

County Manager Moyer told the commission that this item is on the agenda for request for approval. It is a list of projects; dirt street paving and resurfacing. It is a consolidation of some of the roads in all of the districts and ones that were recommended at the last meeting.

Chairman Thrift said we have a list of them totaling \$1,635,920. He then asked the County Manager if that amount was available in the budget. CM Moyer replied that the Regional TSPLOST Discretionary Account could be used for this project. The County gets a little over one million in the LMIG from GDOT. Those two (2) funds could be pooled together to do this and possibly more if the Commission so chooses. The total for dirt road paving is \$1.6 million. The resurfacing totals \$298,000. The Chairman stated that the total is almost \$2 million. CM Moyer responded it is \$1.9 million.

Chairman Thrift asked if there was any discussion.

Commissioner Lucas said he wanted to bring up Tori Circle. CM Moyer stated that it was on the LMIG list that was approved in 2022 and is being bid out. Commissioner Lucas then asked County Engineer Brandon Wallace where things stand with Emerson Park. He knew there was to be a face lift for the community with new signs and other things. Mr. Wallace stated that he had been speaking with property owners earlier in the day about the new paving project that is about to be started there. It is a 2020 CDBG project. The clearing of the right of way has started. The project will be ongoing probably for the next year or so. The signage should be installed after the construction is complete. Some striping has been done on the worse roads in the area along with Needham Road, Eight Mile Post Road, and Gibbs Street.

Commissioner Barnard asked County Engineer Wallace about Gibbs Lane being on LMIG list with cost of \$396,000. He thought Littlefield Construction had given the County a price of less than \$100,000. Mr. Wallace responded that price was for just

paving the road as it exists. This proposal is to install side drains and replace all of the drive way pipes, so this is a little more extensive project than originally discussed.

Commissioner Barnard then asked if paving on Rowell Rd would start where it had previously stopped and go back around to Wadley Road or just pave the one little road right there. Commissioner Lucas responded that Banks Lane/Road would be paved from Rowell Road to where it joins Elmer Thrift Road. Chairman Thrift interrupted to comment that these roads are newer roads so why would they be paved ahead of older roads like Slash Pine which has been around for years. He has some questions about the roads on this list. Commissioner Lucas responded that on the road in question, Rowell Road was being attached to Banks and Banks to Elmer Thrift Rd with paving. Then later Elmer Thrift Road could be paved all the way around to Wadley Road as was the plan. Commissioner Barnard stated that Slash Pine Road is not on the list. He wanted to know how Rowell Road would be tied in to Smith Road. Again Chairman Thrift interrupted to comment that he didn't know who made up the list because he had nothing to do with it.

As Commissioners Lucas and Barnard were trying to determine where the pavement would begin and end, County Engineer Wallace explained that they are trying to include roads from all districts with input from the Commissioners. Commissioner Lucas stated his only concern about the area in question is the school bus because there are times when the buses cannot get down these roads. Commissioner Barnard said there are 470 miles out in the County (in Bickley, Dixie Union, Telmore, Manor) that are in worse shape than the previous mentioned roads. Commissioner Lucas countered with there are more people in the living in the area he mentioned. Chairman Thrift added that there are more people traveling on Wadley Road than the others, so it needs paving ahead of them. He then thanked Mr. Wallace for his input.

Commissioner Pope asked where was the funding coming from for Banks Lane and Gibbs Lane. CM Moyer explained that the funding could come from Regional TSPLOST. He further explained that some of the roads on the LMIG list were a part of the 2014 SPLOST. Dusty Lane, Katie Lane, and Dora Street were part of the Single County TSPLOST. Chairman Thrift asked if these three roads were dead end roads. Mr. Moyer said yes. They were on the list to be done with the Single County TSPLOST, but they didn't make because there were more roads than funds. These three roads could be knocked out this time.

Chairman Thrift stated this would be carried over to the Regular Meeting, but then asked about the resurfacing. Commissioner Barnard stated he thought that Albany Avenue wouldn't be resurfaced until the overpass was completed. Chairman Thrift agreed and said he didn't know how Albany Avenue made the list. CM Moyer replied that it come during discussion, but it can be removed from the list which is a tentative list anyway. Commissioner Barnard stated that \$156,000 budgeted for that section of Albany Avenue could be used from Industrial Blvd to Waresboro.

Commissioner Pope asked if there would be a list available to vote on this date as the Commissioners have been working on this for two or three months. Commissioner Lucas stated he had his roads on the list. Commissioner Pope said his roads were already on there as well. Chairman Thrift asked if the dead end roads, Dusty Lane and Katie Lane, were very long. Commissioner Barnard answered that they were not even a

quarter of a mile long. Chairman Thrift then mentioned that they had previously talked about going around Kettle Creek Church, but he doesn't see it on the list. CM Moye stated that is Bennett Lane to which the Chairman is referring. It is an L shaped road that goes all the way around the church. Chairman Thrift stated that a grader is constantly being called to that road. Commissioner Lucas stated that McKinley Road hasn't been resurfaced since it was paved in 1971. Commissioner Barnard agreed that it definitely needs resurfacing.

Chairman Thrift said there seemed to a lot of conflict on this list. He wanted it moved over to the Regular Meeting with hopes that something could be settled during the recess between meetings.

Added to Regular Meeting Agenda

D. Purchase Request – WCSO Patrol Vehicles

County Manager Moye told the Commission that this item is a request from Sheriff James to purchase three (3) deputy vehicles from the 2014 SPLOST fund. This is a purchase off of State Contract from Brannen Ford Motor Company. The total amount is \$131,700. The Sheriff is trying to keep equipment costs to less than \$10,000 per vehicle. He plans to move over some equipment from the older vehicles. He is trying to lock in the vehicles as they are difficult to get.

Commissioner Barnard asked if out of the last SPLOST where there still three (3) vehicles to be purchased. CM Moye stated there five (5) vehicles to be purchases out of the 2014 SPLOST (before Sheriff James was elected). However, they were not needed at the time, so they were forfeited. The Sheriff is just asking for three (3) right now. Commissioner Barnard asked how long before the 2014 SPLOST must be closed out. CM Moye responded within the next three (3) to four (4) years at the latest. Commissioner Barnard then asked if the sheriff would still be owed two (2) more vehicles. CM Moye stated yes based on the way the SPLOST was programmed.

Commissioner Lucas questioned why couldn't all five (5) vehicles be purchased now if the money needs to be used. CM Moye answered that he can't get them but is hoping to get these three.

Chairman Thrift asked if the County has to have Tahoes. He stated he could get him a Volkswagen as it would be about as good and a lot cheaper.

Commissioner Lucas spoke up adding that while the Commission was discussing first responders, he felt they needed to address the Fire Department. He stated the newest vehicle in the fleet is a 2008 model with over 400,000 miles. Commissioner Barnard asked what kind of fire truck had that many miles. Commissioner Lucas stated that it was on its third engine. Commissioner Barnard asked Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor Barry Cox what he knew about that truck. Commissioner Lucas asked if all miles from all three (3) engines were added together, that there would be about that many miles total.

Mr. Cox responded that he doesn't think there is a fire truck with more than 125,000 miles on it. He said the only truck with engine problems had the engine replaced, and it's running every day. He acknowledged that they are old trucks and some are getting

hard to find parts for when they do tear up. Commissioner Lucas asked Mr. Cox in his opinion does the fire department need a new fire truck? He responded that it wouldn't hurt to have a new fire truck. Commissioner Lucas said it's a 2008, and the year is now 2023.

Chairman Thrift said that the years do not make a difference because they do not do anything. The trucks don't wear out because they sit under the shelter most of the time. You just want to waste money. He said nary a one have 125,000 miles on them.

Added to Regular Meeting Agenda

E. Discussion & Possible Action Concerning Walnut Lane Extension

County Manager Moye told the Commission this item has been put on the agenda for direction from the Commission on constructing an extension of Walnut Lane from the cul de sac to Cherokee Avenue. If the Commission does desire to do this, a Public Hearing would be required.

Commissioner Lucas stated he had been called about 10 times by the residents who live on Walnut Lane. Other than Dorothy Street, we need another outlet closer to ABC Avenue and US 1. Commissioner Barnard said that they have looked into this before, but the way the houses are set up on Wacona Drive, there is no way to connect Cherokee Avenue. Commissioner Lucas said he thought there had been two (2) possible connections. They had looked at going from Walnut to Cherokee, and there was a road coming off of Cherokee towards Wacona that had been looked at. However, he couldn't remember the name of the road. Commissioner Barnard asked if it was Darden. Commissioner Lucas said it was coming from Cherokee and thought it was closer to US 1 and ABC Avenue. Commissioner Barnard responded that there is not another road between Walnut Lane and ABC Avenue.

Commissioner Pope spoke up to say that he hasn't been convinced to open up Walnut and questioned where it would go. Commissioner Lucas responded that it would make a rectangle. He said it was a moot point to open it when Dorothy is already available.

Commissioner Barnard stated that when Tanner Lane and Winn Clay Drive are opened up, the traffic can use that road which will keep traffic from backing up on Dorothy Street and ABC Avenue. Traffic could hit Walnut, come out on Cherokee, straight across on Monroe to Blackshear Avenue and then filter out to other streets that go back in to town.

Chairman Thrift said he thought it should be left alone because a bridge is being built across the creek which will get the traffic across the railroad track. If the County keeps spending money, they will have a four lane road out there. He further stated that this has been looked at several times and currently the County has spent \$3 million on the bridge to move traffic across the creek.

Commissioner Pope asked Commissioner Barnard his thoughts on this because he and Commissioner Lucas had been the ones interested in it. Commissioner Barnard responded that he felt it would be a good idea to keep so much traffic from getting backed up on

Dorothy Street. Chairman Thrift said that it isn't known that the traffic will get backed up. Let the bridge get completed and see what happens. Commissioner Lucas stated that ABC Avenue gets backed up when there is a train on that track. Chairman Thrift replied that traffic gets backed up on Needham Road and people have to drive five miles around dirt roads to get across.

Added to Regular Meeting Agenda

F. Appointment – Ware County Board of Health

County Manager Moyer told the Commission that this is a request letter from the Health Department to reappoint Mrs. Ola Smith to the Board of Health. Her term expired December 31, 2022. She is willing to serve again.

Commissioner Pope added that she is the manager of the McKinney Medical Center. Both Chairman Thrift and Commissioner Lucas stated she is an asset to the board.

Added to Regular Meeting Agenda

G. Appointment – Waycross-Ware County Development Authority

Chairman Thrift read the item agenda which is a request letter to from the Waycross-Ware County Development Authority concerning a replacement for James Willis' term expiration and term limits being reached. The nomination consideration is for the appointment of Dan Good to be the Ware County representative. His term will be January 1, 2023 and shall end December 31, 2025.

Commissioner Barnard asked if there were other names to be considered. CM Moyer responded that was the only name he had heard. He advised that Mr. Rubenbauer (WWDA Director) was in the audience if the Commissioners had questions. Mr. Rubenbauer stepped forward and advised there were no other names submitted. He has just taken over and rushed to get this name provided.

Commissioner Barnard asked about the length of terms. Mr. Rubenbauer explained an individual can only serve two (2) full four (4) year terms. Chairman Thrift inquired whether a member can sit out a year in between terms. Mr. Rubenbauer stated he would double check the 2016 legislation, but he was pretty sure that a person can sit out one (1) year in between terms.

Added to Regular Meeting Agenda

COMMISSIONER ITEMS:

Commissioner Lucas stated there was a gentleman in the audience who had raised his hand when the Chairman asked if anyone needed to address the Commission, but he had been overlooked.

Lamar Deal, 4530 Oakview Road, Waycross, GA

Mr. Deal addressed the Commission to be asked to be considered as an appointee to the Library Board of Trustees. He has a passion and belief for the library that began at the age of six years old.

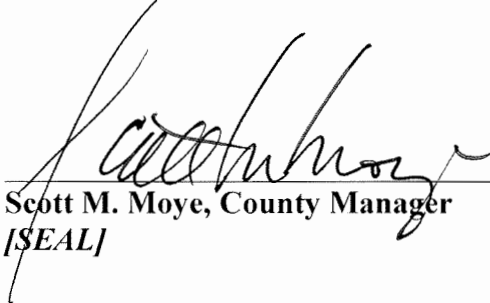
COUNTY MANAGER ITEMS: None

ADJOURN:


A motion was made by Commissioner Lucas to adjourn the Work Session, with Commissioner Pope seconding the motion at 4:06 p.m.

Commissioner Steve Barnard-aye; Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; Commissioner Jerry Pope-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

Date proposed to be approved: February 13, 2023.



Scott M. Moye, County Manager
[SEAL]



Elmer Thrift, Chairman
02-15-2023

Date

2023 LMIG - Proposed Projects

Dirt Street Paving

Rank	Road	From	To	Miles	Cost Estimate	Comment	District
9	Palmetto Drive	Marion St	Lake Dr	0.150	\$ 132,000.00	2014 SPLOST	2 <i>10/2</i>
15	Dasher Street	Crystal St	Dead End	0.150	\$ 132,000.00	2014 SPLOST	2
39	Lake Drive	Palmetto Dr	Crystal St	0.060	\$ 52,800.00	2014 SPLOST	2
42	Crystal Street	Dasher St	Lake Dr	0.070	\$ 61,600.00	2014 SPLOST	2
25	Banks Lane	Elmer Thrift Rd	Rowell Rd	0.531	\$ 467,280.00		3 <i>10/2</i>
44	Gibbs Lane	Gibbs St	Gilmore St	0.450	\$ 396,000.00		2
1	Dusty Lane	Jamestown Rd	Dead End	0.130	\$ 114,400.00	Single TSPLOST	4
5	Katie Lane	Jamestown Rd	Dead End	0.130	\$ 114,400.00	Single TSPLOST	4
6	Dora Street	Devandrene Ave	Dead End	0.188	\$ 165,440.00	Single TSPLOST	4

Total \$ 1,635,920.00

Resurfacing

Priority	Road	From	To	Miles	Cost Estimate	Comment	District
1	Riverside Ave	Blackshear Av	Waring St	0.356	\$ 71,200.00		1
2	Darling Ave	Blackshear Av	Waring St	0.356	\$ 71,200.00		1
3	Albany Ave	Augusta Av	Waller St	0.780	\$ 156,000.00		3

Total \$ 298,400.00

Grand

Total \$ 1,934,320.00

Coastal Sports Turf

SCOPE

These specifications cover athletic field maintenance including herbicide, insecticide, and fertilization applications for 17.5 acres of athletic fields and approximately 7 acres of common area inside the fenced portions of the quadplex. Selected vendor will provide materials, equipment, and labor necessary for servicing athletic fields as needed by Ware County Board of Commissioners. Services consist of the following but are not limited to:

- Fertilization Program
- Weed Control
- Insect Control

Provide at least 5 annual Pesticide Applications & 2 Fertilization Applications to the 17.5 Acres of Athletic Fields

February	Pre/Post Emergent Herbicide & Insecticide	\$ 3500.00
May	Fertilizer - 24-3-16 or similar	\$ 3675.00
June	Pre/Post Emergent Herbicide	\$ 3500.00
July	Post Emergent Herbicide & Insecticide	\$ 2500.00
August	Fertilizer 24-3-16 or similar & Post Emergent Herbicide	\$ 7175.00
September - October	Pre/Post Emergent Herbicide & Insecticide	\$ 3500.00

Sub Total \$ 24,850.00

Provide at least 3 annual Pesticide Applications & 1 Fertilization Applications to the Approximate 7 Acres of Common Area

February	Winter Post & Spring Pre-Emergent Herbicide	\$ 1575.00
May	Fertilizer Application	\$ 1575.00
June	Post Emergent & Insecticide	\$ 1575.00
October	Post & Pre-Emergent	\$ 1575.00

Sub Total \$ 6,300.00

Grand Total \$ 31,150.00

Total Annually