

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
WARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2023
5:00 p.m.**

The Ware County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting, Monday, March 13 2023, at 5:19 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 Leonard Burse Commissioner Timmy Lucas Commissioner Jerry Pope
COMMISSIONERS ABSENT	Commissioner Steve Barnard
STAFF PRESENT	County Manager Scott Moye; Assistant County Attorney Jennifer Herzog
PRESS	Danny Bartlett, WJH
INVOCATION	The invocation was waived from the Work Session
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	The Pledge of Allegiance was waived from the Work Session

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Commissioner Burse to approve the agenda as presented, with Commissioner Lucas seconding the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

GUEST SPEAKER: None

CONSENT ITEMS:

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Work Session	February 13, 2023
Public Hearing	February 13, 2023
Regular Meeting	February 13, 2023

Motion was made by Commissioner Burse to approve the meeting minutes as presented, with Commissioner Pope seconding the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Steve Barnard-ABSENT, Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

AGENDA ITEMS

A. Atlas Engineering – Proposal on Avenue Overpass Designs Survey

Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion then asked if there had been presentations by two engineers. CM Moye advised there had been a previous presentation and the one held on this date was the second presentation. The Chairman then asked if there was motion to accept one of the engineers. Commissioner Lucas made a motion to accept Atlas and what they had proposed. He felt it was a well thought-out plan and like the fact that most of the engineers had previously worked with GDOT whose regulations must be with this project.

The Chairman then asked for a second. Commissioner Burse said he would second the motion for discussion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion.

Commissioner Pope stated he was not aware that a decision was being made at this meeting. There is another proposal. The amounts are not equal, and neither of the proposals have been discussed. He said that Atlas Engineering is a great company, but he felt that the Commission needs to go over the details and discuss the two. He also that he was in favor of tabling the item, going over all of the information, and then making a decision at the next meeting. Chairman Thrift stated they had the proposals which is why he asked which one they wanted. He said they had heard the first presentation and just heard the second one. He asked if the Commission was in order. Asst. County Attorney Herzog stated that if the Commission desired to make a decision at that time that they were in order to do so because there is a motion and a second on the floor. She also said if the desire of the Commission is to withdraw the motion and table it to allow for further study; that would also be in order.

Commissioner said it had been a while since the presentation was made by Practical Design Partners (PDP). He said that Atlas made a great presentation, but due to the passage of time between the two presentations, he felt the Commissioners need to meet again for a discussion before making a decision. He stated they need to compare the pros and cons of each plan. Even one plan is much lower than the other one, but would not be the deciding factor for him. He said, if the Chairman would agree for this to be tabled until the next meeting, they would have time to discuss it. He reiterated that he liked the presentation made by Atlas. Commissioner Lucas said he definitely like Atlas.

Chairman Thrift stated that he is in favor of moving on it because he thought the Commission had looked at Atlas and the other one. He told Commissioner Lucas that he would have to withdraw his motion. He then asked the Asst. County Attorney if that would be correct. She stated if the Commission desires to table the item, the motion would need to be withdrawn. The Chairman said there would need to be a motion to table it. Commissioner Lucas stated he would like to keep his motion on the floor. The Chairman said there was a second and asked if there was any discussion. Commissioner Burse stated he hoped that the Commission would have at least two weeks until the next meeting to do a comparison. He also mentioned that hopefully by that time Commissioner

Barnard would be in the loop at that time. It's a big decision to make, but he didn't feel that two weeks would hurt anything. Commissioner Lucas asked how long it had been since the presentation by PDP. County Manager Moye said it had been about three months. Commissioner Lucas then asked if the decision was made to table, would that affect the schedule they had given in their presentation. He stated his biggest fear is that another project may have been added to PDP's schedule ahead of this one, and he knows Atlas is ready to start now. Chairman Thrift stated he was looking at the time and felt that Atlas had given a shorter time frame for completion. He said that PDP needed three years to complete, and Atlas only needed two. Commissioner Burse said he thought PCP had changed and given a two-year window. CM Moye said the original timeline was three years but changed it to 30 months (2-1/2 years). Commissioner Pope said he felt this was important enough that Commissioner Barnard needed to be present to weigh in on the decision. He said that all Commissioners, including Commissioner Barnard, should have a say in it. Commissioner Lucas said he agreed that Commissioner Barnard should be present. He stated that under those circumstances he would recall his motion and agreed that two weeks wouldn't make a big difference. He said he still likes who he likes but he feels that Commissioner Barnard should be involved. Commissioner Burse withdrew his seconding of the motion.

Commissioner Lucas then made a motion to table this item until all Commissioners are present. Commissioner Pope added that with the unstated agreement that a decision would be made at the next meeting. Commissioner Burse then seconded Commissioner Lucas's motion to table the item. and stated, even if all Commissioners were not present at the next meeting, he felt they would have the opinions of the majority of the Commission. His hope is that the vote will be unanimous.

Roll Call Vote:

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

B. Resolution 2023-03: Pledging Support for the Albany Avenue Overpass

Chairman Thrift asked if this item could be addressed. CM Moye advised that if something happens the resolution would be available. If not, it would be filed. Commissioner Lucas asked to verify that this resolution is for federal money. CM Moye said it was put together for that reason, but with the issue of having to meet more requirements with federal money it probably won't be used. He stated he would like to have this resolution just in case something comes up. Commissioner Pope asked if the City would adopt the same resolution at their next meeting. CM Moye said yes. He explained that once it passes in the county it would be sent to the City to be adopted and signed. He would issue a copy to both government bodies. Asst. County Attorney Herzog spoke to advise that the City Council has already read and approved this resolution.

Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

Commissioner Pope made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-03 pledging support for the Albany Avenue Overpass. Commissioner Burse seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

C. Resolution 2023-04: Adoption of the Ware County Hazardous Mitigation Plan

A motion was made by Commissioner Lucas adopt Resolution 2023-04 for the Ware County Hazardous Mitigation Plan as set forth. Commissioner Pope seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

D. Resolution 2023-05: Selection of 2023 CDBG Engineer

Chairman Thrift advised the Commissioners that they had the papers and had heard the discussion on them earlier. He then asked if there was a motion on this item. Commissioner Lucas said he did a little in depth research on a couple of the engineers using Google search. Hofstadter is the engineering firm that stood out to him because of jobs performed in counties that are in close proximity to Ware County. He noted that Hofstadter and TR Lon has satellite locations in Baxley. The Chairman asked if he was going to make a motion. Commissioner Lucas made a motion to name Hofstadter and Associates as the CDBG Engineer. The Chairman asked if there was a second. After no response, Asst. County Attorney Herzog said the motion has failed for lack of a second, so the floor has opened back up.

Commissioner Pope moved that Statewide Engineering be named as the CBDG Engineer as recommended by the County Manager and Engineering Department. He stated this was no reflection on the other engineering firms as they are all top of the line. Based on the needs of the County, the Manager has recommended Statewide Engineering due to their score. Commissioner Burse seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion.

Commissioner Burse said he would like to ditto what Commissioner Pope said. He said he didn't know any of these individuals personally, but Statewide reportedly does good work and received the highest rating from the staff. He mentioned that TR Long was very close behind, but said the main thing is to get what is best for the citizens of Ware County. He asked for the County Engineer to come up and give a little more information on this selection. Mr. Wallace said that Statewide Engineering has an office in Douglas and has worked on several CDBG projects in the past in Ware County, including the Palmetto Estates area. The last one was finished around 2017. He explained that TR Long is the design engineer of the most recent CDBG project which is in Emerson Park. He said that all of the engineering firms did a great job on their proposals and the scoring was pretty tight. At this point the Chairman interrupted Mr. Wallace: *"Well y'all come up with that scoring. Who does the scoring?"* When Mr. Wallace tried to respond, the Chairman kept talking. *"Cause it looks like it's an inside deal with you and Brandon and Scott"*. (Again the Engineer tried to explain the scoring process, but the Chairman continued his tirade. *"I mean it's an inside deal I already know it."*) (Once again Mr Wallace attempted to explain, but was interrupted by Chairman Thrift. *"Yeah I'm tired of it."* The Chairman cleared his throat loudly while Mr. Wallace is continuing his explanation then said, *"Yeah I know. Thank you."*

Commissioner Burse asked Mr. Wallace if Statewide had done other CDBG projects. The Chairman responded that all of the engineering firms had done some. Commissioner Burse named some of the engineering firms and asked if they all had done CDBGs. Mr. Wallace responded: "Yes sir.". Commissioner Burse asked if there had been any problems with Statewide. The Chairman interjected that "Statewide is a good engineer.". Mr. Wallace advised that all of the engineering firms were well qualified to do CDBG projects.

Commissioner Lucas mentioned that there were probably more applicants, but these were the top six. CM Moye and Mr. Wallace advised that there were only 6 applicants.

The Chairman asked if there was any more discussion.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Pope-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-no; Commissioner Steve Barnard-ABSENT; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-no.

The Chairman declared a tie. Asst. County Attorney stated she would double check Ware County's local ordinances (because it's been a while since there was a tie) to see what it has regarding a tie. Commissioner Pope asked how long that would be. She said there was no time at this meeting, but she would check to see if there needs to be another vote at the next meeting.

E. Ordinance 2023-02: Establish a Maximum Speed Limit on Johnny Minchew Road

Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lucas to accept Ordinance 2023-02 to establish a maximum speed limit of 45 miles per hour on Johnny Minchew Road with Commissioner Burse seconding the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

F. Alcohol License Application Request

Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lucas to accept the alcohol license application from Mr. Patel. He stated it has been mentioned that this is not for the sale of distilled spirits, but for beer and wine only. He further stated that the name on the license is changing from Mr. Rouse to Mr. Patel. Commissioner Burse seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

APPOINTMENTS

A. Appointment to the Waycross – Ware County Land Bank Board

Commissioner Pope made a motion to appoint Commissioner Timmy Lucas to the Waycross-Ware County Land Bank Board. Commissioner Burse seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion. There was no discussion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

B. Appointment to the Ware County Board of Assessors

Chairman Thrift said that Mrs. Tiner resigned from this board because she currently has a lot going on. He stated Cathy Mixon said she is willing to fill that position. He asked if there was a motion on this item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Burse to appoint Cathy Mixon to the Board of Assessors with Commissioner Lucas seconding the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion. There was no discussion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT:

CM Moye reminded the Commission that the Regional TSPLOST meeting would be held Wednesday, March 15 @ 1:30 p.m. in Nashville. The TPCC meeting would be held Thursday, March 16 @ 10 a.m.

Commissioner Burse asked in reference to the Regional TSPLOST meeting if the meeting would be online. He then asked if this is the meeting where the Chairman and Mayor have to be present., CM Moye stated he has received a response as to whether the meeting would be online, but he did say the Mayor and Chairman are to be in attendance.

Chairman Thrift asked if Roscoe Mixon Road was approved to get the right of way since Mr. Tommy Rouse has passed on. CM Moye stated there was an email from the County Attorney stating they would have to incur the cost to have that done, but he hasn't heard any more. Asst. County Attorney Herzog stated the guy had called her about a road that had previously been done. She said he was sent the plan of action used on the previous road. She has spoken with his counsel who is working on the deeds and plats. She believes it has stalled in the meantime, but the ball is currently in their court. The County stands ready to get it done whenever they decide they want to do that. Everyone is on the same page as far as the steps that need to be taken. The Chairman said

he thought the deed had been transferred. Asst. County Attorney said they had a Quitclaim Deed, but any property given to the County would need to have a Warranty Deed for the purpose of a future road. She said, if it is the direction of the Commission, she will follow up with the counsel to see what is needed from the County to move forward.

Commissioner Burse asked the Asst. County Attorney about the tie vote. She said she was looking through the ordinances to see if there was any specific language regarding this issue. She didn't find anything during her quick research on her phone and would like time to do more thorough research before giving her legal opinion.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Chairman Thrift said he wanted to know if the Commission is able to have a discussion regarding how engineers are rated because he is a little upset over it. CM Moye stated that typically a committee of three reviews and ranks the engineers based on criteria set by the State. He said the committee of three could be any people such as two Commissioners and one staff or two Commissioners and one other independent person. The Chairman then asked the ACA if the Commission would not need to know about that process until it was finished. He then interrupted the County Manager's attempt to answer to say he didn't know why he was there if he didn't have any say so. He continued interrupting CM Moye's attempts to answer by further stating "*If y'all are going to do it all, and just here let's go by him. I mean I don't understand this. If this is law, then I'm wrong.*" ACA Herzog was finally able to address the Chairman and advise him that in Ware County the Commission has given the authority to staff to meet with vendors, review their credentials, rank them, and then make a recommendation to the board. The board can proceed on that recommendation or not. She further stated that if it is the desire of the Commission, they can change that process as the County Manager had just explained. CM Moye spoke up to reiterate that the Commissioners could form a committee, but typically staff has always done it. He offered to have the Commission scratch the current ranking and choose a different committee to review and rank because no action has been taken on the current recommendation except for the tie vote.

Commissioner Burse spoke up to say when he got the engineer packet he called the County Engineer to inquire about the process. He said that Mr. Wallace explained the process the same way that the County Manager did. He also said something the Commission needed to bear in mind is that at the time of review, there should have been some kind of interaction. He recognized that the Chairman has some manner of expertise in road building He said that he was excluding others from this process, but he felt the County Engineer, his assistant, and the County Manager were in a better position to do it because they work with the engineering firms. He reiterated that he wondered if these firms were randomly picked, so he called to Mr. Wallace to find out how the process works. Once he heard the explanation, he understood the results and that the ranking committee needs to be someone who has experience with the applicants instead of random people. Commissioner Burse said if the committee was changed, the Chairman has expertise in this area and would be better suited to be on that committee because he has never built roads, only houses. Chairman Thrift spoke up and said he has done work for every one of the engineers on this list.

Commissioner Pope spoke up to say that he had no problem with the Chairman, the Manager, and the Engineer being on the judging committee.

The Chairman said "*They need to be I don't see why every time we judge somebody though it's just a certain group judging them. And we go by what they say.*"

Commissioner Pope told the Chairman to be on the committee with the Manager and the engineer.

He would vote for that. Commissioner Burse agreed and said another thing to remember about this ranking is that it is a recommendation, but the Commission makes the ultimate decision. CM Moye said that because he and the Engineer were on the first committee, he recommended that a new committee should have three totally different people. Then the results from the two committees could be compared to each other. Speaking while the County Manager was trying the talk, the Chairman said he thought it was the place Commission to be picking because the County sent them up there to do a job. CM Moye then said there could be two Commissioners on it. He said if notice was given for a meeting of three Commissioners for anyone who wants to come listen, there could be three Commissioners doing the ranking. The Chairman then said he wasn't disagreeing with anyone, but he didn't like the way that was done. Commissioner Burse reiterated that was why he called the Engineer to find out how it was done. He said he didn't have a problem with the Chairman being on the committee and felt he would do a great job, if the Commission decided to redo the ranking process. Commissioner Pope concurred. The Chairman stated again that he would just like to change the way that is done and wanted someone else on that committee. He was again talking while the County Manager was trying explain. CM Moye said if two people from the first committee are used on the second committee and if they change the way they rank the others, the results will not be credible. He said that is why he suggested using a different committee altogether. Commissioner Burse concurred.

Asst. County Attorney Herzog spoke up and recommended that this Commission set up a plan of action that they are comfortable with for choosing future CDBG engineers. Previous Commissions set up the current procedure that was described in this meeting using criteria that the State gives. She further stated, if the entire board is involved, there would have to be an advertised notice of meeting. She explained three or more Commissioners constitute a quorum which is why the Manager was only suggesting putting two Commissioners on the committee. She also advised that they would have to use the same criteria because it was set by the State. However, the Commission has the power to change who is involved in reviewing and ranking.

Chairman Thrift stated *"Well see just like before we ever talked to Atlas, we would have went with that other engineer. Just because they picked him. That was the way it was a going until I fussed about it. Then here we got Atlas. I didn't know them."* (At this point, Commissioner Burse tried to say he didn't think when the Commission went with Practical Design Partners the same way, but the Chairman kept talking.) *"You know we was gonna approve him."* Commissioner Burse said he didn't think PDP was done the same way. CM Moye said that PDP created the preliminary design. Commissioners Burse and Pope said then PDP was asked to submit a design proposal, so it wasn't done the same way. ACA Herzog said that was comparing two different things. CM Moye spoke up and said if the County advertised for RFQ proposals for the overpass, the criteria would've been set by the County, then the ranking would have been done the same way. Commissioner Pope said the County had not advertised for an RFP. CM Moye said that would be a decision of the Commission to advertise. The Chairman conceded that the County had not advertised.

Commissioner Burse asked if there had been something about submitting a design out for bid. Asst. County Attorney asked if he was referencing the state laws that have certain professionals that aren't required to go out to bid. She said engineers are on that list that aren't required, but the Commission may put it out to bid if so they so desire. Commissioner Pope said that is the reason why the County always asks for proposals instead of bids.

Commissioner Lucas asked County Engineer Wallace how any of the six engineers that submitted for the CDBG Project had worked for Ware County previously. Mr. Wallace stated he had direct

knowledge of Statewide working with Ware County. He asked for the other names on the list. CM Moyer read out the names. After each one, the Chairman said he had worked for that firm. Mr. Wallace said he had heard good things about Roberts Engineering, but he had not personally worked with them. When CM Moyer mentioned TR Long, Commissioner Burse asked if that was the firm currently working on the Winn Clay Project. CM Moyer said yes. Chairman Thrift said that he had worked for each the firms and that all of them are good. He went on to say *"I just can't understand why you just pick certain ones picked. I ain't going against none of 'em. But the way it was picked ... just you and Scott and who else was it?"* {CM Moyer answered him that Gene was the other person.) *"Gene. Why did y'all get to pick 'em, and we don't know nothing about it?"* Asst. County Attorney spoke to answer the question one more time. She said it was just the process that the Commission had delegated to staff in the past. She then reiterated if the Commission wanted to change the process they have the power to do that, but the staff did it because they were directed to do so. The Chairman then asked, *"Who, who, who, who did that? Is it on record that they did that here? Not since I been here."* ACA Herzog said that CDBGs have been chosen that way in the past. She told him again that the Commission could change that process. CM Moyer said that before the new rule with CDBG, if local money was used to pay the engineer the ranking process wasn't required. A county could just pick the engineer. Now, regardless if local money is used, the ranking process must be done. (When CM Moyer said regardless if local money is used, a voice can be heard saying, *"still have to bid it out"*.) County Engineer Wallace explained the process saying that it isn't bid out. Chairman Thrift interjected, *"No you just choose him."* Mr. Wallace continued that the County has to advertise for proposals. All of the proposals that were received looked good, and all of the firms were qualified. These submitted proposals were scored, and a scoring system is used to determine the best proposal. Commissioner Lucas noting that Mr. Wallace is out there on a daily basis with engineers asking and answering questions, so he asked if he picked Statewide (using his professional opinion). Mr. Wallace stated that his review had a tie between TR Long and Statewide. Hofstadter was third on his list. He said he had personally worked with both of those firms in Ware County and knew they had done design projects here. Commissioner Lucas stated that TR Long is working on a project in Emerson Park. He has ridden over there and feels they are doing a good job. He said that is a face lift that has been needed for years. He also said that TR Long is doing the job as promised. CM Moyer said due to the tie vote, the Commission could decide to scrap the recommendation and an altogether new committee could be created. Chairman Thrift said, *I think somebody else ort to be on that committee. You know I think a Commissioner or somebody ort to be on there."* Commissioner Burse said he felt that would be a good spot for the Chairman. Commissioner Pope said he'd appoint the Chairman to be on that Committee. Commissioner Lucas told the Chairman that he is the one with all the knowledge and experience. The Chairman responded, *"I have worked for all of those engineers, and I ain't got nothing against 'em. But we just keep picking the same one."* Commissioner Burse pointed out that TR Long is the engineer working in Emerson Park on the current CDBG project, and Statewide was the engineer chosen for the next project which isn't the same one being picked. The Chairman asked ACA Herzog if the change would have to be made in a meeting. She recommended studying the different options then have the Commission give the directives to the staff who would be happy to take care of it. Commissioner Burse asked if that would only be for CDBG. CM Moyer said a policy could be set for any of them. ACA Herzog said it could be set for CDBG only, or it could have general wording for all projects that require the hiring of an engineer. CM Moyer said if the Commission decided to advertise for RFQs for the overpass, instead of just choosing one at random, they could be reviewed and ranked.

Asst. County Attorney Herzog clarified that it is her belief if there is no language in the ordinance stating otherwise that a tie vote (2-2) is considered a no action because the Chairman does vote,

At the next meeting, a new motion could be made if all Commissioners are present, and a new vote taken. She reiterated that she would review the Ordinance to determine if there is any language stating that anything other than a majority vote can be accepted. A quorum is three Commissioners. When that is all that is present, a majority vote would be 3-0 or 2-1. If only four people are present, what constitutes a majority is changed. Commissioner Pope asked if that would be ready by the next meeting, she said she would have her findings to the County Manager before then. He asked then if a decision could be made on the review board for the CDBG. Commissioner Burse asked how long before another CDBG could be applied for after this one is selected. CM Moye responded it is every two years. He clarified that if an application is submitted one year but doesn't get awarded, the County can reapply the next year.

Chairman Thrift said, *"Okay y'all stopped that a while ago now another thing I want to ask cause I'm not satisfied with that. You saying that Atlas and this other engineer and we have not advertised for no engineer so we need to advertise for engineers on that bridge then, Are you sending out for advertisement? Is that correct?"* ACA Herzog responded that could happen if the Commission wants it. CM Moye spoke to explain that the County doesn't have to advertise that was just a suggestion. The Chairman responded, *"So we can just do it any way we want to, huh?"* CM Moye said it is a professional service, and a county doesn't have to advertise for professional services. Commissioner Lucas tried to address the Chairman, but he kept talking, *"If we're not, we're messing with the public and we should be putting it out for bid."* (Commissioner Lucas again attempted to speak but was cut off by the Chairman.) *"That's what I was ... I mean I was always told that's the way you gotta do it."* (Again Commissioner Lucas tried to speak, but the Chairman continued. *"And you telling me now we ain't gotta do it that way. So who is right and who's wrong?"* CM Moye explained *"In this case, you wouldn't ask for a bid from an engineer. You'd ask for a Request for Qualifications. Usually an RFP is coming back with some dollar amount, but an RFQ is basically what these companies did for the CDBG. They just said here we are, here's what we've done, here's our experience, here's our staff. You just go through them and just kinda rank them and figure out which one the one you would want to go with. You could do it that way, but you don't necessarily have to do it when it comes to engineering services. If you know somebody you've worked with before, you can call them up and say hey send us a proposal. Tell me how much you would charge to do this. If you like it then you go with them. The Chairman responded, *"I don't know if you get a couple that don't though you don't go that way. See that's what you getting right now. That's what we got. That's what I'm saying. We got that same thang you just discussed. It ain't right."* ACA Herzog addressed the Chairman to answer his question. She told him if it was the desire of the Commission to do a Request for Qualification for the Albany Avenue Project, it was within the Commission's right to do so. Commissioner Lucas said he felt the Commission would be kicking the can down the road if they did that now and putting the people off a little further. He further stated this was written in the SPLOST for the people of the County. It was promised that the bridges would be built if they voted in the SPLOST. Changes now would push the completion farther down the road. The Chairman responded, *"Scott just put it on the agenda then for next time. We gonna vote somehow or another to agree whoever's gonna be the three committee. Alright?"**

CM Moye said he would. Commissioner Burse said that would be for the CDBG. The Chairman replied that it would be for any engineering that the county does. Commissioner Burse verified that it was a tie on the CDBG engineer. CM Moye told him it was.

ADJOURN

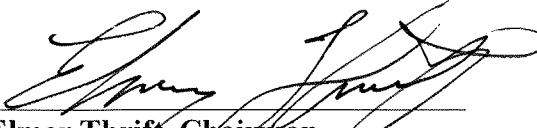
A motion was made by Commissioner Pope to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 5:55 p.m.
Commissioner Burse seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Date proposed to be approved: April 24, 2023.


ATTEST:



Melinda L. Brooks



Elmer Thrift, Chairman



Date

[SEAL]