

**MINUTES
WORK SESSION
WARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2023
3:30 p.m.**

The Ware County Board of Commissioners held a Work Session, Monday, April 10, 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 Leonard Burse, Commissioner Jerry Pope, and Commissioner Timmy Lucas
COMMISSIONERS ABSENT	None
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):	None

AGENDA ITEMS:

- A. Resolution 2023-09: Award Bid for Airport Perimeter Fence Project**
Passero Associates office manager, Brad Wentz, and project manager, Stan Price, explained to the Commission what is included in the fence project as well as the funding aspects. Mr. Price told the Commission that the project was bid in two parts (base bid - 15,000 ft. and alternate one - 14,850 ft.) because the funding levels were unknown and because it was a security fence for humans as well as wildlife. Peed Brothers Construction Company of Butler, GA was the low bidder. Funding sources included: CARES, ARPA, Non-Primary Entitlement Money (FAA), 2 years of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law money, and the local share. He explained that project was value engineered down to just under \$1.2 million. The breakdown of funding would be \$1,040,000 - federal funds; 124,032.29 - state funds; 86,311.34 - local funds. He then asked the Commission for questions. Commissioner Burse asked if this project was in the airport budget. County Manager Moye said it is not, but there is enough money in the airport fund to cover it. He also mentioned that local ARPA could be used. Commissioner Burse then asked about the removal of the three motorized gates due to the bid being value engineered. Mr. Price responded that GDOT does not fund the motorized

sliding gates, so either manual rolling or swing gates would be provided depending upon the County's preference. Commissioner Burse asked Airport Director Jesse Jordan if the gates would need to be motorized. Mr. Jordan stated that motorized gates would be easier for entering and exiting after hours. Cantilever gates would be slid parallel to the fence on rollers. He added that an electric motor could be retrofitted at a later date.

Chairman Thrift asked for a completion date. Mr. Price stated it would be four-and-a-half months from the start date. Commissioner Burse asked about the grass seed in the bid. Mr. Price explained that the property is grassed to stop erosion. The Chairman voiced concerns about the weed killing chemicals that will erode the fence. Mr. Price stated research could help find the best possible option.

Added to Regular Meeting Agenda

B. Resolution 2023-10: Approve Contract with Practical Design Partners

County Manager Moye told the Commission this contract is for the engineer selected to design the Albany Avenue overpass. The County Attorney made some revisions to the original agreement, and this contract included those changes.

Chairman Thrift asked CM Moye if the letter of agreement had been received from the City as requested. CM Moye stated it had not. He said once this contract was approved, the Commission and the City will sit and talk about the design with Practical Design Partners to ensure that all aspects of the design are ironed out before the agreement is signed. This would prevent so many changes to the document, including price changes.

Added to Regular Meeting Agenda

C. Personnel Policy Amendment – Travel and Transportation

CM Moye explained that the per diem rates have changed since the personnel manual was last updated. To prevent having to change the handbook every time the rates change, CM asked the policy reference the current US General Services Administration Register. When traveling, the employees can reference their destination by zip code to get current reimbursement rates.

Added to Regular Meeting Agenda

D. Storage Facility Lease Agreement Modification – 378 Ossie Davis Parkway

CM Moye explained that the current company has asked that the lease be changed to month-to-month terms because they are planning to begin moving the files from the building over the next few months. They will be moved to the home office in Louisiana. He said once the building is empty, the Commission can decide whether to lease the property again or put it up for sale.

Added to Regular Meeting Agenda

E. Discuss & Possible Action Concerning Atlas Transportation Plan Proposal

Theresa Scott of Atlas presented a brief overview of the transportation plan proposal to the Commission. It has been broken down into several tasks, the first being a meeting to find out the vision, objective, and ideas that the County has. The next step would be to

inventory the roads, bridges, bicycle/pedestrian facilities, employment, retail service centers, county and municipal transportation funding, and intelligent transportation systems (ITS). Following the collection of data, the analysis would begin. The assessment would include the current level of service. Future needs would be determined based on current facilities and services to meet forecast demands. Improvements would be suggested, and every effort would be made to protect natural and cultural resources. A report listing recommendations would be provided listing what was found and what might work for the County. A list of projects will be provided as well as recommendations for making a fantastic transportation system and funding sources for the projects listed. Will provide a 5-year financially constrained plan (what can be built in five years with available money). Will provide a financially unconstrained list that will include projects for later dates, reasonable and doable. Bypass feasibility study can be done. Detailed traffic analysis. High level environmental screenings to determine if there are fatal flaws in plans. Cost estimates for right of way and construction. Look at utilities and constructability issues.

CM Moyer asked her to explain the benefits of having a transportation plan in place and how it could benefit the county. She said having a detailed and organized plan lets GDOT know that the County is serious about plans. Need list of priorities and what is needed to be achieved. It helps when asking for funding due to having a plan.

Commissioner Burse asked how long the process would be. She said considering the size of Ware County and the task of taking inventory of everything, she said one year is a reasonable time frame. She added that there would be a lot of public outreach. She mentioned a list of stakeholders (civic organizations, churches, citizens involved in transportation) would be necessary.

Commissioner Pope asked CM Moyer if the City had been contacted as this would be a joint study. Mr. Moyer stated that if the County is interested in a study and wants to hire Atlas, then he would contact the City with the information. Commissioner Pope then asked if he wanted to go to the City with a proposal after the County has made a decision. Mr. Moyer said he wanted to see if the County was interested before approaching the City. Commissioner Pope asked if proposals had been received from any other engineering firms. CM Moyer confirmed that only one other proposal had been received. Commissioner Burse encouraged including the City Manager in a discussion. Commissioner Pope stated he felt like this study is necessary because the last one was in 2000 and feels like the County has probably lost out on funding because of it. He is fine with using Atlas if the County and City will meet and negotiate exactly what is wanted. Ms. Scott offered to send comprehensive samples of other communities' plans.

Chairman Thrift asked about studying the effect of train traffic in Ware County. He mentioned that there are five major lines running through town. She responded that would be an integral part of the study because trains have such an impact on Ware County.

Added to Regular Meeting Agenda

COMMISSIONER ITEMS: None

COUNTY MANAGER ITEMS:

CM Moye stated he had received prices for repairing the tennis courts in the Bickley community. They range from \$18,000 - \$25,000. He said preliminary numbers for building the walking track range between \$40,000 and \$50,000. The surface material impacts the price. Based on County policy, the job would have to go out to bid. He contacted the company that worked on the courts for the school system. The price he was given (\$18,000 to \$25,000) was to renovate the courts as they should be, not just spot repairs.

Commissioner Barnard asked about the width of the walking track, and Chairman Thrift asked about land being donated for the track. Mr. Moye explained that the land had been donated, and the County has a deed. It also has already been cleared. He also stated the track at Trembling Earth Complex is 8 feet wide but suggested making this track only 6 feet wide, if possible. The Chairman asked if the pricing on the track was for asphalt or concrete. Mr. Moye said it was for asphalt. Then the Chairman wanted to know if lighting was included. Mr. Moye said that lights would have to be added, but he knows that some were donated.

Commissioner Pope asked if the total price would be around \$90,000 - \$100,000. Mr. Moye said it could be, but once it is bid out, the price would be known. The Chairman asked if we have the money for this project. Mr. Moye said it was not included in the budget, but he had thought it could be budgeted into the SPLOST that just passed. Commissioner Barnard asked if ARPA funds could be used, and Mr. Moye said yes. Commissioner Pope said he would not vote to use ARPA money unless the sales tax money is used to reimburse the ARPA funds. Commissioner Burse asked what work had been done up to this point. Mr. Moye said some lights had been changed, and the land had been cleared. Commissioner Burse asked to verify that this project falls under the recreation department even though it's out in the County. Mr. Moye assured him that it does.


ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Commissioner Barnard to adjourn the Work Session, with Commissioner Lucas seconding the motion at 4:11 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Date proposed to be approved: May 8, 2023


Elmer Thrift, Chairman


Melinda L. Brooks, County Clerk


Date