

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 27, 2020

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on January 27, 2020. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided. Commissioners present were Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, Russell Gray, Lamar Hudgins, Clinton Johnson, and Anthony Jones. Also present were County Administrator Michael McCoy, Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison, County Attorney Spencer Lee, County Clerk Jawahn Ware, other staff and representatives of the media.

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, the Chairman called for approval of the January 6th Regular Meeting minutes.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the minutes were unanimously approved.

The Chairman recognized J. Scott Steiner, President & CEO of Phoebe Putney Health System present to discuss a community investment and provide an update on the 2020 initiatives. Mr. Steiner provided an update on services provided in 2019. The economic impact for Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital is \$1.1 billion, 6,947 full time jobs and a community benefit of \$312 million. The VPILOT (Voluntary Payment in Lieu of Taxes) is \$573,085. Phoebe has committed to pay taxes on those properties owned and services are not being rendered. The population to primary care physician is 1,140:1 as compared to the state of 1,520:1. Additionally, the healthcare costs in Dougherty County based on the 2018 County Health Ranking is \$8,725 compared to Georgia's cost of \$9,582. He shared similar statistics throughout Georgia and informed the Commission on the shortage of nurses. He mentioned that they are seeking Level II Trauma Designation, a helipad construction, building simulation labs, a community garden, and a lighthouse amongst other initiatives to include a \$250 million investment. Over a 5 year timeframe, the focus will be on creating all private rooms, a new emergency and trauma center, new NICU with enhancements for women and children services, expanded ambulatory care and updated operating rooms. A lengthy discussion ensued answering the Commission questions. Mr. Steiner stated that he will provide customer satisfaction information to Commissioner Gaines.

The Chairman recognized Meredith Lipson, CPA, Mauldin and Jenkins Certified Public Accountants, present to provide the FY 2018-19 Audit ending June 30, 2019. Finance Director Martha Hendley was present. Financial Advisor Edmund Wall also presented. Ms. Lipson provided an overview of the "clean" audit received. The total fund balance of the General Fund at June 30, 2019 was a positive \$13,021,071. She noted that the fund balance showed an increase but should be noted in 2019 there were revenues received from disaster recovery but expenditures were made in previous fiscal years. The only finding that had been consistent for years that the County was cited on was segregation of duties. She did state that that Finance does a good job but the hiring staff does not provide a return on investment and [this citing] is found in 80% of the

governments. She asked the Commission to see the documents on recommendation for improvements. Commissioner Jones shared his concern regarding all bank reconciliations not performed and Chairman Cohilas directed Mr. McCoy to provide information to constitutional officers with written directions [pertaining to bank reconciliations]. Attorney Lee volunteered to work with Mr. McCoy to review the funds and possibly sending them to the state. Mr. Wall clarified that our major funds were being reconciled monthly. The concern was with constitutional officers and believed that if the Commission proposed corrective action, this would help. Mr. Wall reviewed the changes in the fund balance and the positive impact of the Commission increasing property taxes had. Considering that the County does not have any long-term debt, the County does not have a credit rating so financial institutions look at our reserves. The County has 3.2 months of reserves before having to consider a Tax Anticipation Notice (TAN); which is excellent. An update on the 5 year fund balance projections were provided. Upon request by the Commission, Mr. Wall will review the increase shown by the sales tax increase. He shared that this was a true number shown, but rationale would be explored. Commissioner Jones requested that employee compensation be considered in our realized savings, even if in nontraditional ways.

The Chairman recognized County Administrator Michael McCoy who provided a verbal introduction of the new CDBG-DR Program Manager, Georgia Collier-Bolling to the Commission. Ms. Collier- Bolling was not able to attend the meeting.

The Chairman recognized Financial Recovery Specialist Andy Burns with Tetra Tech to provide a FEMA Public Assistance/Grant Recovery update for the four declared major natural disasters from January 2, 2017 to present. Jason Vickery, P.E., Program Manager was present. Mr. Burns discussed the two severe storms and tornadoes in 2017 (#4294 and #4297), Hurricane Irma (#4338) and Hurricane Michael (#4400). Storm #4297 was the most significant from a cost perspective. The Chairman and Mr. Burns confirmed that Dougherty County had been able to cash flow the costs of the storms without having to borrow money. To date, the FEMA net cost is \$13,968,338.80; with obligated funds of \$10,099,653.58, paid to date \$8,709,589.08 and a local share amount of \$1,456,140.83. Mr. Burns said that additional funds were expected for each project and we should expect more costs for Hurricane Michael. Mr. McCoy gave kudos for the excellent work done by Mr. Burns.

The Chairman recognized Judy Bowles, KADB Executive Director, present to provide an update on a Community Visual Enhancement in the County and on the tree planting initiatives. She informed the Commission of the loss of many trees during the storms. She shared that an anonymous donation of \$20,000 was received and she provided plans for usage of the funds at the Putney Community Park and invited the Commission to the Arbor Day celebration on February 22, 2020.

The Chairman called for consideration of a resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of the contract to complete the Northwest Library Parking Lot from the lowest, most responsive and responsible vendor, HTS Construction (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$351,103 subject to the execution of the contract by the County Administrator. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VI and VII. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Library Director Pauline Abidde, Project Engineer Jeremy Brown and City of Albany Buyer Joshua Williams were present.

Commissioner Gray moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson the motion passed unanimously. Resolution 20-002 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE AND
EXECUTION OF A PROCUREMENT RECOMMENDATION DATED
JANUARY 10, 2020 WITH HTS CONSTRUCTION, ALBANY,
GEORGIA PROVIDING FOR THE ASPHALT PAVING OF THE
NORTHWEST LIBRARY PARKING LOT LOCATED AT 2507
DAWSON ROAD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$351,103.00; REPEALING
RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT
HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the purchase of ten Motorola API 6000 Portable Radios for the EMS Department from single source vendor Motorola Solutions (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$38,974.20. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. EMS Director Sam Allen was present.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gray, the motion passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration of the purchase of two Zoll Cardiac Monitors for the EMS Department from single source vendor Zoll Medical Corporation (Chelmsford, Mass) in the amount of \$62,614.36. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. EMS Director Sam Allen was present.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the motion passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration of a resolution establishing the Qualifying Fees for the public offices in Dougherty County for the 2020 Election.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Jones, the motion passed unanimously. Resolution 20-003 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE QUALIFYING
FEES FOR PUBLIC OFFICES IN DOUGHERTY
COUNTY, GEORGIA, FOR THE 2020 ELECTION;
REPEALING PRIOR RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of a resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of the Railroad Crossing Cost Reimbursement Agreement between Dougherty County, GA and

Hilton and Albany Railroad, Inc. in the estimated amount of \$71,737.25 providing for the rehabilitation of the rail road crossing at 8-Mile Road. Funding is available in SPLOST VII.

Commissioner Hudgins moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Jones, the motion passed unanimously. Resolution 20-004 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE APPROVAL AND
EXECUTION OF A CROSSING COST REIMBURSEMENT
AGREEMENT BETWEEN DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA AND
HILTON AND ALBANY RAILROAD, INC. IN THE ESTIMATED COST
OF \$71,737.25 FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE RAIL ROAD
CROSSING AT 8-MILE ROAD; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR
PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of a resolution providing for approval and execution of the Fourth Amendment to the certain Health Services Agreement between Dougherty County, Georgia and Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, Inc. to be effective January 27, 2020. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed.

Commissioner Hudgins moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Jones, the motion passed unanimously. Resolution 20-005 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE APPROVAL AND
EXECUTION OF A FOURTH AMENDMENT TO THAT
CERTAIN HEALTH SERVICES AGREEMENT (JAIL) BETWEEN
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA AND PHOEBE PUTNEY
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, INC.; REPEALING PRIOR
RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of a resolution providing for an Intergovernmental Transfer from Dougherty County to the City of Albany of certain real property in Dougherty County for the purpose of relocating Lowe Road. County Attorney Spencer Lee and Project Engineer Jeremy Brown addressed.

Commissioner Gray moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Jones, the motion passed unanimously. Resolution 20-006 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR APPROVING AND EXECUTING A
QUIT CLAIM DEED FROM DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA TO

THE CITY OF ALBANY FOR THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL
TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY PROVIDING FOR THE
RELOCATION OF LOWE ROAD; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR
PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of a resolution providing for approval and execution of an Underground Easement from Dougherty County to Georgia Power Company for the purpose of providing new electrical service to the Radium Springs Gardens/Casino area. County Attorney Spencer Lee and Project Engineer Jeremy Brown addressed.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Edwards, the motion passed unanimously. Resolution 20-007 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE APPROVAL AND
EXECUTION OF AN UNDERGROUND EASEMENT FROM
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA TO GEORGIA POWER
COMPANY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING NEW
ELECTRICAL SERVICE TO THE RADIUM SPRINGS
GARDENS/CASINO AREA; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR
PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

Mr. McCoy reminded the Commission that there would be a Recreation Committee meeting held immediately following the Commission meeting in the Administrative Conference Room. There will be a discussion of blighted and unauthorized mechanic to be added to the next Work Session per the request of Commissioner Jones.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK