

**JEFF DAVIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**WORKSHOP**

**SEPTEMBER 25, 2019**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Vice-Chairman Hank Hobbs, Commissioners James Benjamin, Brad Crews and Vann Wooten, Attorney Carla Powell, Administrator Keith Carter and Clerk Sherri Lytle.

Vice-Chairman Hank Hobbs called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and Commissioner Brad Crews gave the invocation. Commissioner Vann Wooten led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**J.D.A. DIRECTOR ANDREA TAYLOR – DISCUSS WATER LINE PROJECT**

Director Andrea Taylor presented a cost summary for the City of Hazlehurst Water System Project going to Beasley Forest Products to help with their expansion and fire protection. The city held a meeting a few weeks ago and voted to move forward with this project contingent on the One Georgia Grant of \$500,000 and getting some help from the county. The project has a construction cost from J. Heirs Company for \$621,925.72. Ms. Taylor said “the funding summary shows that the One Georgia Grant of \$500,000 which we’ll know Monday if we will be awarded. I’ve been told that we’ve got the grant but the governor has to officially sign off on it. Beasley Forest Products because they were going to have to install their own tank and pump they’ve decided to contribute \$200,000 to the project. The remaining balance for the project is \$58,810.86 and the city voted to move forward with this project contingent upon receiving the \$500,000 grant and seeking some help from the county to help with the \$58,810.86 balance. I’ve heard from one of the commissioners concern about the contingency of this project because it seems a bit inflated, the \$46,644.43 amount”. She stated also she’s received a question about if the city would receive any revenue from this project because it is running a water line out. She was told by Carl Leggett who runs the city water department that this is not a revenue generated project because it is just for fire protection. This is not something the city would make money off of. Darrell Beasley and Kurt Davis was present and she asked the Board if they had any questions for them. Because this industry is not in the city and is in the county we asking if y’all could help in some way. As you know, the city has some financial problems and their asking for some help from the county.

Commissioner Vann Wooten stated he’s for helping them. He was at that meeting and said that money they are asking is higher than \$58,000 it was \$61,000. He said “I’m for helping them because it is the largest employer in our county and we need to do whatever we need to do to make it work and I understand that the city is in some financial problems”.

Vice-Chairman asked “do they know what contingency means” and Commissioner Brad Crews agreed. You don’t put \$46,000 in the kitty for oops. You do your homework up front. When someone is awarded the contract they do it for that amount of money not a penny more nor less. If they forgot something then it’s on them. That just seems like the majority of the money coming from us is for contingency. She said “I don’t know how y’all would want to help if it’s a flat amount or percentage of the contingency”.

Commissioner Brad Crews said “let me give you an update because I’ve been involved in this earlier on. Earlier the figure was \$61,000 and we caught that if the county paid half of the \$61,000 and the city paid

half of the \$61,000 it would be fair. I'm still in favor of doing that. Maybe there is that much contingency. I would be shocked how you know you have \$46,644.43 in contingency. If so, then it should have been budgeted. But I would agree to pay half of the \$61,000".

Ms. Taylor also stated the city is seeking a loan for \$58,810.86 from GEFA that would help improve the city water overall. The Board needs to determine how they want to help because Monday is the day for the grant.

**Motion:** To do whatever it is going to take to make this deal work.

**Proposed:** Commissioner Vann Wooten

**Motion failed**

Commissioner Brad Crews and Attorney Carla Powell told Commissioner Wooten he couldn't make a motion like that. You've got to have a dollar amount.

**Motion:** Out of the \$58,810.86 that we pay \$38,810.86 leaves a balance of \$20,000 with proof they need the money and with the city providing receipts that they spent that much money.

**Proposed:** Commissioner Brad Crews

**Motion failed**

Commissioner Wooten said "I want to vote on whatever will make this project work" and Commissioner Crews agreed. But Commissioner Wooten said "what if they come up \$20,000 short". Attorney Powell said "they can come back and vote again". But, Commissioner Crews said "as far as me and my district I will not vote for a contingency money. I'm not putting my taxpayers writing a check for money that I don't know what the money is going to be spent on". The board explained to Commissioner Benjamin how the contingency works.

**Motion:** To pay the whole \$58,810.86.

**Proposed:** Commissioner James Benjamin

**Second:** Vann Wooten

**Motion Carried 2 – 1** (Vice-Chairman Hank Hobbs didn't vote and Commissioner Brad Crews opposed)

Commissioner Benjamin stated he's fine paying the whole \$58,810.86.

#### **TAX COMMISSIONER SUSIE KERSEY – DISCUSS TAXES ON A MOBILE HOME**

Tax Commissioner Susie Kersey stated she was here on behalf of a taxpayer Ira Hariton that had asked her to come. He's purchased the old McDaniel Mobile Home Park. There are two mobile homes he's inquiring about. One of the mobile homes has been in a tax sale and was a no sale. The other mobile home hasn't been brought before tax sale as of yet because it hasn't acquired enough tax revenue yet to take to a tax sale. For next year, the values won't be having any more tax because of the value is at \$400. It won't generate any more tax bills. Mr. Hariton is requesting to release taxes of \$228.14 (without penalties and interest) on the Bobby Holtzclaw mobile home. He's got a person to rebuild the two mobile homes that will cost between \$6,000 - \$7,000 to get them back in presentable shape and to get the taxes back on the digest. The other mobile home he's requesting to release taxes of \$122.17. This includes the county and school taxes. Vice-Chairman stated to tell him that you presented it to us and we'll consider it.

**APPROVE RESOLUTION GIVING AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE AGREEMENT GOVERNING EXPENDITURES FOR STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT COSTS FOR REIMBURSEMENT**

Administrator Keith Carter explained that on our landfill testing there's a Federal Government Fund that will reimburse for certain things. Now that we've changed our environmentalist, we can get reimbursed for the money we spend on testing. For years, it wasn't done and he's trying to recoup the monies that we should have got back. So far, they've approved \$30,550.

**Motion:** To give Administrator Carter authorization to execute resolution giving authorization to execute agreement governing expenditures for state & local government costs for reimbursement.

**Proposed:** Commissioner Vann Wooten

**Second:** Commissioner Brad Crews

**Motion Carried**

Resolution reads as follow:

**RESOLUTION**

**Authorization to Execute Agreement Governing Expenditures for State & Local Government Costs**

WHEREAS, Jeff Davis County, Georgia has submitted an application to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division ("EPD" in order to receive funds from the Hazardous Waste Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, EPD has submitted an Agreement Governing Expenditures for State & Local Government Costs to Jeff Davis County for execution;

NOW, THEREFORE. BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners that the proposed Agreement is hereby approved and the County Commissioner is hereby authorized to execute, on behalf of Jeff Davis County, the referenced Agreement and any other related documents necessary to obtain the funding as provided therein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Commissioner is hereby authorized to take any and all other action, without further approval or action of this Board, which may be necessary or appropriate in order to fully consummate and carry out the intent of the Agreement.

This 25<sup>th</sup> Day of September, 2019

ATTEST:

Sherril Lytle  
(Seal)

FEDERAL ID# 58-6011374

Brad Crews  
Chairman

Vann Wooten  
Commissioner

Keith Carter  
Commissioner

Keith Carter  
Commissioner

## CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Resolution duly adopted by the Jeff Davis County Board of Commissioners on the date so stated in said Resolution.

I further certify that I am the Clerk and that said Resolution has been duly entered in the  
Title

Official records of the Jeff Davis County Board of Commissioners and remains in full force and effect this  
the

25<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2019.

  
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Signature

### **ADOPT TAX DIGEST**

Tax Commissioner Susie Kersey stated that it's the millage rate you're actually adopting and it's the same as last year county 15.38 mills and school 14.00 mills with no tax increase.

**Motion:** To adopt the county's millage rate at 15.38.

**Proposed:** Commissioner Brad Crews

**Second:** Commissioner Vann Wooten

**Motion Carried**

**Motion:** To adopt the school's millage rate at 14.00.

**Proposed:** Commissioner Vann Wooten

**Second:** Commissioner James Benjamin

**Motion Carried**

### **DISCUSS LMIG AND TSPLOST**

Chad Hofstadter with Hofstadter & Associates was present to discuss the 2019 LMIG and T-Splost (T.I.A.). He said "in the last 5 years the county has had 60 miles of roadway improvements done". He requested the Board to submit roads they want to improve to go on the 2019 LMIG and the upcoming T-Splost (T.I.A.) and have them ready to approve before the next regular meeting. LMIG will be 1.2 – 1.5 miles of resurfacing that we can do per district. He said "there's something the Board needs to consider when picking roads for the T.I.A. and that is safety, heavily traveled and connectivity (connecting state routes) like on Post Road". T.I.A. is over a 10 year span and is divided in bands 1, 2 & 3. He'll put the cost estimates together for each project. In addition, he said "there's CDBG grant that can be used in areas that are low to moderate income. Recreation is another factor to consider such as Hinson Landing Road". Also, he mentioned that we received \$250,000 of GDOT grant money for striping last year which is unheard of. Normally, it's \$100,000 that is received from GDOT. They discussed several roads throughout the county.

Vice-Chairman Hobbs stated we need to go back and address something. He stated every Board he's served on the chairman normally don't vote unless there's a tie. He said "so I've not consciously voted all night. He asked Clerk Sherri Lytle if he's voted. She stated by raising your hand she recorded it as a

vote. Vice-Chairman Hobbs said "what I think I was doing was saying raise your right hand unconsciously showing what to do". Clerk Sherri Lytle explained when you raised your right hand I assumed you were voting. Vice-Chairman Hobbs said there's only one item that was a split vote what he thought was a 2 – 1 vote and the other items is fine.

Attorney Powell ask Vice-Chairman Hobbs if he intended to vote and he responded no, 100 percent no. He said "I did not intend vote at all". Attorney Powell ask "what's your conflict"? He said "I thought I was the chairman and couldn't vote". He said "it's my fault because I thought the chairman didn't vote. All the Board I've served on the chairman didn't vote. We haven't had no chairman training her and has never payed attention if our chairman voted". I wouldn't have voted to give them that \$58,000. The vote would have been 2 – 2. The motion read to pay the whole \$58,810.86.

**Motion:** To pay the whole \$58,810.86.

**Proposed:** Commissioner James Benjamin

**Second:** Commissioner Vann Wooten

**Motion Failed 2 – 2** (Commissioner Crews and Vice-Chairman Hobbs opposed)

**Motion:** To pay up to \$58,810.86 with proof of that spending with receipts for this project that's not listed here.

**Proposed:** Commissioner Brad Crews

**Second:** Commissioner Vann Wooten

**Motion Carried**

**Motion:** To approve resolution giving authorization to execute agreement governing expenditures for state & local government costs for reimbursement.

**Proposed:** Commissioner Brad Crews

**Second:** Commissioner Vann Wooten

**Motion Carried**

**Motion:** To adopt the county millage rate at 15.38.

**Proposed:** Commissioner Vann Wooten

**Second:** Commissioner James Benjamin

**Motion Carried**

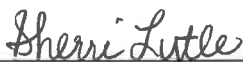
**Motion:** To adopt the school's millage rate at 14.00.

**Proposed:** Commissioner Vann Wooten

**Second:** Commissioner Brad Wooten

**Motion Carried**

**Adjourn 5:29 p.m.**



Sherri Lytle, Clerk



Vice-Chairman Hank Hobbs