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FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORK SESSION MINUTES

May 26, 2020

6:00 P.M.

BOC: Commission Chairman Thomas Bridges
District 1 Commissioner Robert Franklin
District 2 Commissioner Dr. Jason Macomson
District 3 Commissioner Ryan Swails
District 4 Commissioner Eddie Wester

Media: Shane Scoggins, Franklin County Citizen Leader
MJ Kneiser, WLHR

Staff: County Manager Beth Thomas
Interim County Clerk Gina Kesler
County Attorney Bubba Samuels

- 1. Call meeting to order** – Chairman Bridges called the ZOOM meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone.
- 2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance** – Chairman Bridges led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.
- 3. Items for Discussion**

A. Public Works

- 1. Water System Improvement project (GEFA) line extension**

County Manager, Beth Thomas updated the Board on bids for the Water System Improvement project line extension. The project was for water mains on Shackelford, Arlin Williams Road, Keller Road, and Williams Bridge Road. There were five different bids submitted, with the lowest one being submitted by Arrowood General Contracting, Inc., in the amount of \$571, 493.30. It is the staff recommendation that the Board approve this low bid at the Regular Board meeting scheduled for June 1, 2020.

Commissioner Franklin asked what the start date would be. Mrs. Thomas wasn't exactly sure of the start date, but would get the company's timeline once the Board had approved the bid. She stated that there will need to be pre-construction meetings held because this of the GEFA money being used for the project.



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2. Lime Slurry injection for sewer

County Manager, Beth Thomas updated the Board on the bids for the Lime Slurry injection for the Wastewater Treatment Facility. She stated that the sewer plant operation both the treatment process and its contents has needed continual adjustments due to learning the treatment process. The system has continually had a pH imbalance. The county has sought guidance from EPD, along with other water systems that use the same treatment process and so far, the most productive method is the use of lime slurry. This method has shown positive results during testing. Burnett Lime Company is the only company that specializes in this service. They submitted a bid in the amount of \$147,600.00 to install the system. The funding for this project will come from SPLOST V funds. The County Manager will recommend that the Board approve this bid at the Regular Board meeting on Monday night.

Chairman Bridges asked did the specialist think this would improve the service? Mrs. Thomas stated yes and that it was successfully tested several times with positive results of maintaining the pH level.

Commissioner Wester asked what the operational costs would be after the initial installation. Mrs. Thomas stated it would just be for the lime content.

B. Insurance Renewals

1. Supplemental insurance proposal (STD, LTD, Life, AD&D)

The county provides medical, dental and vision to employee. There are supplemental coverages that are voluntary for the employees to choose from at the employees' cost. These include STD (Short term disability), LTD (long term disability), Voluntary Life Insurance, and AD&D (accidental death and dismemberment). She stated the last three years, the county had use Lincoln for these services because of being locked in to a 3-year rate guarantee. Due to a significant increase in coverage and new quotes from multiple companies, staff is asking to change the supplemental insurance provider to Standard and locking in a 3-year rate guarantee.

Chairman Bridges asked was this change going to affect county employees as far as out of pocket money. Mrs. Thomas stated that would be dependent on the employee and the coverage they elected to choose.

Commissioner Swails asked if they were offering some type of discount or incentives. Mrs. Thomas stated that the supplemental insurance was not tied into the medical insurance plan.

Commissioner Macomson asked if county employees could pick and choose. Mrs. Thomas stated yes, employees had the option to choose what they wanted.



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Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to change the supplemental insurance provider. Commissioner Macomson made the motion to change the supplemental insurance provider to Standard. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The motion passed by five (5) **YES** votes to zero (0) **NO** votes. The **YES** votes were Chairman Bridges, Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Macomson, Commissioner Franklin and Commissioner Swails.

2. Medical Insurance Renewal - update

The County Manager gave an update on the medical/vision/dental insurance plans. She stated these plans are still being finalized and will plan on making a recommendation at the Regular Board meeting on Monday night. Several carriers/providers submitted quotes with Cigna providing the best quote. Cigna also offers a Local Plus option which changes the network providers with specific hospitals and doctors. With this plan cost would be around a 7.3% increase. She stated staff is still reviewing the final plan.

Commissioner Swails asked was this shrinking the provider option essentially? Mrs. Thomas stated yes.

Commissioner Macomson asked if St. Mary's was included as a provider. Mrs. Thomas stated St. Mary's was not included.

Commissioner Macomson asked how much the individual was penalized for going out of network and was it a big increase. Mrs. Thomas stated they would be an out of network provider and the individual would get a negotiated rate and would get balance billing.

Commissioner Swails thanked Mrs. Thomas for all of the long hours that went into all of the effort for our county employees.

C. FY 2021 Budget Proposal

The County Manager gave an update on the FY 2021 Budget. She stated that she had not received the latest Sales Tax Distribution information which would provide information about the impact of COVID-19 on reduced sales tax revenue. She said that insurance would have one of the largest impacts on the budget. She told the Board she would like to keep the employees' COLA increase in the budget. The Health Department has requested no increase in funding. The Animal Shelter is asking for an increase, and would be asking Dr. Stone to come and meet with the Board about their request. She asked for the Board to be ready to consider and vote on the Public Defender's contract on Monday, it reflects an annual increase of \$521. June 18 is tentatively planned as the public hearing on the budget and will hopefully be held at the Justice Center.



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D. FY 2020 Budget Modifications

The County Manager provided the Board with the Budget Modification for 2020. She stated that a budget resolution would need to be passed and noted that legal services expenditures had increased this year.

E. Manager's Report

1. Technology: Mrs. Thomas completed a technology survey across all departments for ideas for vendors and needed improvements. She stated network security is becoming an increasing risk, and will be asking the Board to consider funding an IT person through contract services. The cost would be around \$2000 per month which will cover 8 departments. She is looking at price quotes to update the county website and Municode has given a price estimate of \$10,000 capital investment with a \$2200 annual maintenance. The county's website was last update 5 years ago.
2. The C&D landfill agreement has been signed and executed by the county and Metro Green, LLC. The county has received the \$94,000 for unpaid tipping fees. The check is being held in escrow by the attorneys for Metro Green.
3. Planning Director Scott DeLozier spoke about the implementation of a building inspections and code enforcement program for the county. The Planning Commissioner will be voting on the proposed ordinance on June 11, 2020 and then the Board will be presented the information. He stated that there would need to be two readings of the ordinance before it can be approved and wanted to know how the Board wanted to handle that.

Commissioner Macomson stated that the program that Planning and Zoning had come up with last year was good and addressed all of the Board's concerns. He would like to see a resolution passed approving the actual program under the overall ordinance.

Commissioner Swails stated the need to be very clear with the scope of the ordinance and how the ordinance translates into practice.

4. The County Manager provided an analysis on the Gateway Industrial Park to the Board. There is an agreement with the Joint Development Authority in how the ad valorem taxes on properties inside the industrial park is handled. The agreement is silent as to how it is distributed among the counties. The county received funds in 2015 and 2018 which have been placed in escrow. She will ask the Board to approve a recommendation at the Regular Board meeting on Monday that the funds be divided among the Board of Commissioners, Board of Education, and the IBA based on each year's tax mileage rate, and in the future collected and disbursed by the Tax Commissioner. She would like for funds to be disbursed by the end of next if the Board approves the recommendation.



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5. Board Appointments: The County Manager updated the Board on the Board Appointments for the coming year. She stated that several applications had been received for their review and would be getting those applications out to the Board.
 - 1) Joint Development Authority (JDA) – one open position as of March 2020
 - 2) Library Board – one position open in June 2020 and one position open in November 2020
 - 3) Department of Family and Children’s Services (DFACS) – one position open in June 2020
 - 4) Airport Authority – two positions open June 30, 2020
 - 5) Recreation Commission – two positions open December 2020

4. Announcements

There were no further announcements.

5. Adjourn

Chairman Bridges asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Macomson made the motion to adjourn. Chairman Bridges asked for a second. Commissioner Wester seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Chairman Bridges asked for a show of hands. The motion passed by five (5) **YES** votes to zero (0) **NO** votes. The **YES** votes were Chairman Bridges, Commissioner Wester, Commissioner Macomson, Commissioner Franklin and Commissioner Swails.

The Work Session was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.



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Signed on the _____ day of _____, 2020

Chairman J. Thomas Bridges

Robert L. Franklin, District 1 Commissioner

Dr. Jason Macomson, District 2 Commissioner

Ryan Swails, District 3 Commissioner

Eddie Wester, District 4 Commissioner

Gina L. Kesler, Interim County Clerk

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