

GREENE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MARCH 2, 2023 CALLED MEETING

Call to Order: Chairman Usry led the invocation and called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Roll Call: Commissioners Deering, Smith, Lindsey, Filice, and Chairman Usry were present. Also present was County Manager Byron Lombard.

Consideration of the February Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes: The Chairman inquired with the Commissioners to determine if any corrections were necessary for the minutes under consideration for approval. Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the Minutes from the February 2023 Regular Monthly Meeting. Commissioner Deering seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of an Addition to the Wrecker Rotation: The Board received background information that Chancey's Wrecker Service has requested to be added to the wrecker rotation list for small and heavy wrecker services. All of the required documentation has been submitted to the County. Commissioner Deering motioned to authorize the addition of Chancey's Wrecker Service to the wrecker service rotation list for both small and heavy emergency wrecker services in Greene County. Commissioner Lindsey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of a Budget Adjustment – Fire Department: The Board received background information regarding budget adjustments prepared for the fire department to purchase a fire extractor for cleaning turnout gear and to get a skid unit for brush fires. Commissioner Lindsey motioned to approve the budget adjustments for fire department equipment as presented totaling \$11,171.00. Commissioner Filice seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of a Resolution Supporting Local Legislation – CID: The Board received background information regarding an effort to pass local legislation to allow the creation of Community Improvement Districts. A resolution supporting such legislation was drafted for consideration, with discussion noting that the actual creation of said Districts would come later. Commissioner Smith motioned to approve Resolution Number 2023.3.2 Expressing Support for the submission of Local Legislation Creating a Community Improvement District. Commissioner Lindsey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of an Agreement for Information Technology Products & Services, Amendment 2 – Probate Court: The Board received background information regarding the Probate Judge's desire to have the County execute an amendment to an existing contract for services rendered to the Probate Court. Commissioner Deering motioned to approve Amendment 2 to the Agreement for Information Technology Products and Services between Avenue Enterprise Solution, LLC and Greene County, Georgia. Commissioner Filice seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of a Grant Submission for ARP Funding – Judge Trammell's Request: The Board received background information that Judge Brenda Trammell desires to upgrade the video/audio system for the courtroom using American Rescue Plan funding. Commissioner Lindsey motioned to approve the Greene County Courtroom Audio/Video upgrades through the American Rescue Plan Judicial Allotment Grant funding, and to approve the necessary budget adjustments to fund the upgrades and subsequent reimbursement. Commissioner Deering seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion on County Facilities, Projects, and Right-of-Way

Jail - The Board received background information regarding the need to renovate the Jail built in 1998. There was general consensus that renovating the jail would be much

cheaper than building an entirely new jail. It was further noted that the project had been discussed with the Sheriff and how the County would rely on neighboring Counties to house inmates during construction phases of the renovation. Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the Jail Renovation Project along with the necessary budget adjustments throughout the Project to utilize Prior Years' Fund Balance of the General Fund to fund the Project, and to authorize the execution of architectural and construction contracts necessary for the Project. Commissioner Deering seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Recreation – The Board received background information that there are possibilities for expansion at the existing Recreation park site. Additional discussion touched upon moving the Recreation campus to another site versus staying at the current site, but there was a general consensus that the facility should stay where it is and for the County to actively pursue acquiring acreage directly east of the facility for expansion purposes. Commissioner Lindsey motioned to approve the use of the County Attorney to pursue the acquisition of the 52.32-acre tract and the 2-acre tract contained therein that are adjacent to the current Recreation Complex. Commissioner Deering seconded. Motioned carried unanimously.

Judicial Complex – The Board received background information that the latest discussions concerning future needs of the Judicial functions in the Courthouse centered around converting the Arena to a Judicial Center. There was general discussion regarding the future of the Courthouse and ensuring the public that the County wouldn't desert the building after the judicial offices move over to the new facility. Commissioner Filice motioned to approve the fee proposal for architectural services for the Judicial Center Project utilizing Prior Years' Fund Balance of the General Fund. Commissioner Smith seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Arena – The Board received background information that the Judicial Center project would require replacing the Arena elsewhere. There was general discussion to move the Arena to some place on an expanded Recreation park complex, as well what all facilities and use types would be part of a relocated Arena. Commissioner Lindsey motioned to authorize the use of consultant design services to master plan the 52.32-acre tract that is adjacent to the current Recreation Complex using SPLOST VII Recreation funding. Commissioner Smith seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

There was additional discussion regarding financing of the Judicial Center project. The possibility of SPLOST collection overages was one possibility, as well utilizing bonds through a Public Facilities Authority or executing a lease purchase with some other entity.

Water Service to Richland Connector Emergency Services Facility – The Board received background information on a project that could be undertaken to extend water lines along the Richland Connector to interconnect water systems and replace the well serving the Emergency Services Facility. Commissioner Deering motioned to authorize negotiations necessary to develop a project to install a water main along Richland Connector that will connect the Walker Church Water System to the Reynolds Water System with the County's commitment capped at \$1.5 million. Commissioner Filice seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Richland Connector Right-of-Way – The Board received background information that utilities desire to install their lines and infrastructure along the northern edge of the right-of-way of Richland Connector. Knowing that any project to four-lane the road would be in the distant future, there was general consensus to allow utilities to continue installation of their lines and other equipment provided other regulations are followed.

Discussion on Employee Benefits

Health Insurance - The Board received background information that the loss ratio for the insured employee pool was 121.87%. Staff will be working with partners to look at the

market to investigate better rates, as well as exploring plan design changes to mitigate the rises in costs as expressed in the high loss ratio.

Defined benefit plan – The Board received background information that neighboring Morgan County is re-instituting its defined benefit plan, which will include a 1.25 multiplier. Staff is working with ACCG Retirement Services to evaluate changes to Greene’s defined benefit plan design to match that multiplier to remain competitive for recruitment and retention of workforce. Ensuing discussion centered around the projected costs to make that change and how various options would apply to existing hires versus new hires.

Discussion on Solid Waste Contract: The Board received background information that staff is still working with Waste Management on preparing a contract for solid waste services, including curbside collection. Tentative negotiations show the fee rising considerably but otherwise in line with comparable solid waste contracts in the region.

Consideration of TSPLOST Consultant Services: The Board received background information that the road rating project previously undertaken had been accomplished and that staff is working with various partners to get scopes of work to move forward on some TSPLOST projects and the consultant services to accomplish said projects.

Adjournment: Chairman Usry adjourned the meeting at 10:36 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sylvia V. Hill, County Clerk

The above minutes were adopted and approved this day 11th day of April, 2023.

Gary Usry, Chairman

Jeffery L. Smith, Vice-Chairman

Angela Walker Deering, Commissioner

Dee Lindsey, Commissioner

Ernie Filice, Commissioner