

**GREENE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**SEPTEMBER 24, 2021 CALLED MEETING**

**Call to Order:** Chairman Usry called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.

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

**Consideration of Acquiring Mobile Data Terminals for Public Safety:** The Commissioners received background information concerning the effort to get mobile data terminals for the various public safety disciplines that fully integrate with the new CAD system. The software licensing, data conversion, and training components total \$248,290.99, and the related hardware with mounts are estimated to cost \$150,000. Commissioner Lindsey motioned to approve the use of prior year fund balance of the General Fund to purchase software licenses and hardware for the deployment of mobile data terminals for County public safety agencies. Commissioner Deering seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Acquiring Replacement Fleet Cameras, Body Cameras & Tasers for the Sheriff's Office:** The Commissioners received background information concerning the need to replace fleet cameras in use by the Sheriff's Office, as well as how the County could leverage better pricing by acquiring the necessary equipment in a one-time purchase as opposed to over a five-year period. The project scope involves replacement and upgrade of the fleet cameras, body cameras, and tasers. Commissioner Lindsey motioned to approve the use of prior year fund balance of the General Fund to purchase fleet cameras, body cameras, and tasers for the Sheriff's Office totaling \$686,908.13. Commissioner Filice seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of a Backup Generator Replacement, Upgrade, Relocation, and Acquisition Project – Jail, E911, Elections, Sheriff's Administration:** The Commissioners received background information regarding the need to upgrade the 25-year-old generator at the Jail, as well other generator needs at the Public Service Campus. Specifically, other projects identified as part of the scope involve adding circuits to the existing 911 generator, installing a new generator for the Sheriff's administrative space, and relocating the old Jail generator to the new Elections space. Commissioner Filice motioned to approve the use of prior year fund balance of the General Fund to perform a backup Generator Project to Replace the generator at the Jail, Upgrade the generator switching at the 911 Center, Relocate the generator from the Jail to Elections, and acquire a new Generator for the Sheriff's Administration space. Commissioner Smith seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of a Resolution Declaring Ladder 9 as Surplus Property – Tax District 91, and Sheriff's Vehicles:** The Board received information that certain vehicles and other items had been determined to have no serviceable value to the County, including some Sheriff's vehicles, old VHF radio equipment, and a 2001 model Ladder truck acquired by the County upon absorption of Old Salem Fire Rescue. The Ladder truck requires various expensive repairs such that continued investment in it was not advisable. Commissioner Filice motioned to approve Resolution Number 2021.9.24 declaring items as surplus property, and to waive the reading of the Resolution. Commissioner Deering seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Rescinding Declaration to Surplus Rescue 9:** The Board received background information that the Rescue 9 2001 truck previously declared surplus in October 2020 never received a minimum bid. Accordingly, it's advisable to keep the truck and re-purpose it for Hazardous Materials response purposes. Commissioner Lindsey motioned to rescind Resolution Number 2020.10.13(a) regarding the declaration of surplus property. Commissioner Filice seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Acquiring a Replacement for Engine 10 – Tax District 91:** The Board received background information it was recommended to replace the 2004 model

fire truck in use at Station 10 in Reynolds Lake Oconee with the same Sutphen apparatus recently put in use at Station 9, with acquisition recommended now given the rising cost of vehicles. The cost of the truck would be paid for through Tax District 91 proceeds. Commissioner Filice motioned to approve the purchase of a Sutphen Custom Engine using Tax District 91 proceeds as a Fiscal Year 2023 expense. Commissioner Lindsey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Replacing “End of Service Life” Portable Radios – Sheriff’s Office, EMS, EMA, County Fire:** The Board received background information that the public safety portable radios purchased in 2011 are no longer serviceable and considered “end-of-life” by Motorola. The County has a \$138,000 credit with Motorola, so the actual expenditure for replacing the recommended number of radios would total around \$315,000. Commissioner Deering motioned to approve the purchase of replacement portable radios for County public safety agencies using the credit from Motorola along with prior year fund balance of the General Fund. Commissioner Lindsey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of a Broadband Project – ARP Funding:** The Board received background information that broadband connectivity projects with two of the largest Internet Service Providers operating in Greene County are actively being considered and prepared for the Board’s consideration. Said projects would involve a funding commitment from Greene County of \$2 million (one million per provider), \$3 million from AT&T, \$3.3 million from Windstream, and an application to the State of Georgia for \$16.9 million in Fiscal Recovery Fund dollars from the American Rescue Plan (\$11 million to AT&T, \$5.9 million to Windstream). Commissioner Lindsey motioned to tentatively commit \$2 million in American Rescue Plan Funding towards a project that partners with AT&T and Windstream to expand broadband throughout Greene County, all contingent upon approval of formal contracts and scopes that will be presented at a future meeting of the Board, and successful application to the Georgia Fiscal Recovery Fund for additional funding. Commissioner Deering seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of a Project to Connect Water Systems – ARP Funding:** The Board received background information that a possible project has been identified that involves extending water mains up to and across the Richland Connection and over to Piedmont Water Company’s Walker Church. The project scope tentatively involves the County committing \$1 million of its American Rescue Plan funding. Commissioner Deering motioned to tentatively commit \$1 million in American Rescue Plan Funding towards a project to extend water mains up to and across the Richland Connector, then down to tie into the Walker Church Water System, all contingent upon approval of a formal contract and scope that will be presented at a future meeting of the Board. Commissioner Smith seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of an Outsourced Shoulder Building Project:** The Board received background information that the County road department continues to be understaffed and is struggling to maintain roads and lacks the manpower to undertake some projects right now, including the building up of shoulders along the County’s paved roads. Accordingly, a scope of work to accomplish shoulder building using an outside vendor was prepared for the Board’s consideration. Commissioner Lindsey motioned to approve the use of prior year fund balance of the General Fund to perform a road shoulder building project estimated at \$370,662.00. Commissioner Deering seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Facilities’ Needs:** The Board received background information regarding the Courthouse space needs, recent requests to repurpose various offices in the Courthouse, and the desire to evaluate long-term and short-term solutions that satisfy all Courthouse offices and Court-related functions. Commissioner Lindsey motioned to form a stakeholder’s group to discuss current and future options that will ensure efficient, appropriate, and adequate operations, along with growth potential, for the offices of the Clerk of Superior Court, Court Services Division of the Sheriff’s Office, Probate & Magistrate Office, District Attorney’s Office, Public Defender’s Office, and the Superior

Court Judges, with said stakeholder's group consisting of a representative from each listed office and a facilitator representing the County Commission. Commissioner Filice seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Other Discussion:** The Board had general discussion that included potential Zoning items that may appear on future agendas, as well as Census results. There was further discussion of how the recent Census results are affecting redistricting efforts, as well as how they will have a bearing on Local Options Sales Tax negotiations that will begin soon between the County and five cities. No official action was taken.

**Adjournment:** Chairman Usry adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Sylvia V. Hill, County Clerk

The above minutes were adopted and approved this day 12<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021.

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Gary Usry, Chairman

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Jeffery L. Smith, Vice-Chairman

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Angela Walker Deering, Commissioner

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Dee Lindsey, Commissioner

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Ernie Filice, Commissioner