

CHEROKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Pre-Meeting Work Session

April 6, 2010
3:00 p.m.
Cherokee Hall

MINUTES

Chairman Ahrens began the Work Session at 3:10 with a reading from the Jack Welch book. All members were present by the time he completed the reading. The Chairman said that about 10 days ago, he had the opportunity to meet with Gary Martin who wanted to present an idea about bio-diesel fuel; basically using waste vegetable oil. He had made other contacts with the school system, Cobb County and Geoff Morton essentially looking for an indication of interest in his product. Chairman Ahrens then asked Mr. Martin, who was present; to come up and give a shortened version of what had been discussed at their meeting.

1. Draft outline of greenspace plan – Chairman

The Chairman handed out copies of documents that pertained to a discussion that had begun at the BOC retreat regarding parks and greenspace saying that the documents contained some of his own thought process on greenspace; and this is only an outline, not a plan. He just wanted to get it in front of the other board members and maybe walk through it to get some of their feedback from it. And obviously, the subject will take more discussion and understanding of the surrounding facts in all instances than time that is available today. The Chairman said that it would be good if the board had a visual of the various parcels that are already designated as greenspace. Commissioner Bosch said that she would like to be able to determine where Corps property and the waterways were; and in order to show connectivity, it is necessary to know exactly where the greenspace candidates are located and how they fit into the overall greenspace plan. Joe Woycke from GIS said that his department could do something similar to another project they had done recently, updated to show all that had been discussed.

2. Discuss 'biodiesel fuel' opportunity – Chairman

Mr. Martin stated that he lives in Bradshaw Farms and about 6 months ago, he got involved with a company called DSI Fabrications in St. Augustine, Florida; this company makes a smaller prototype bio-diesel plant that takes raw vegetable oil from restaurants and produces an ASTM rated (Federally required quality) B-100 bio-diesel oil. Mr. Martin said that when he met with the Chairman, he had been looking for counties who were interested in putting their fleets on bio-diesel oil, by encouraging a joint venture between the County and the private sector;

using the County's good graces to assist in securing the used vegetable oil from the restaurants and lowering the cost of fuel to the County. After answering questions from some of the board members, Mr. Martin said that he would be happy to put together a written proposal and the Chairman said that he would give the board members a copy of the literature that he had gotten when he met with Mr. Martin.

3. Discussion of Regular Agenda items

Chairman Ahrens said that he had an announcement to make regarding a message he had received from Mayor Henriques and the GDOT awarded bid for the Rope Mill Interchange and he would give the full text of the message to the board members during Executive Session. The Chairman went on to the Zoning cases. Vice Chair/Commissioner Johnston said that on the first zoning case, he felt it would be very hard to sustain a denial (as the Planning Commission had recommended) in court on this one, so he was inclined to approve the R-80 requested. On the second case, he said that the requested NC zoning seems fine; however he is not disposed to granting the variances requested.

Next the Chairman brought up the appeal from the ZBA and Commissioner Hubbard said that he had went to the site, listened to the neighbors and based on information the Chairman had shown him, it appeared that the building the applicant was possibly going to occupy who was asking for the variance that about 95 feet of the variance was for the building itself. Because of this he was seriously looking at denying the appeal.

Chairman Ahrens spoke briefly about the items under his portion of the agenda and then asked Mr. Cooper to go over the Consent Agenda items. After doing so, Mr. Cooper began the overview of items under his portion of the agenda. Some discussion took place regarding #5 by the board members who needed clarification of the changes. And again on #6, questions were asked by the board members who were still unclear of the effect on the years of service issue. Mr. Cooper mentioned that there were still a couple of outstanding issues relating to the enhancement of the plan, but it was still being worked on putting the numbers together so that the board could determine the impact on the budget.

Discussion took place on item #7 by which the Security State Bank building on Towne Lake Parkway (bank had been taken over by FDIC) could be purchased using SPLOST funds and would cost less to purchase and operate than the current location in the old Etowah Bank building on Hwy. 92, which is leased. The upper floor of the Security State building could also be leased out and probably pay the operations cost according to Mr. Cooper. The last item regarding the Union Hill Community Center, Mr. Cooper had received the report from JKH Architects, the condition was such that there would be considerable tear out and replacement of the flooring, fixtures, etc.; it was Mr. Cooper's opinion that even keeping the look of the old fashioned building would not cost as much in today's economy.

After asking for any other business, Chairman Ahrens asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hubbard made the motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 4:42 p.m. to discuss personnel, pending litigation and property acquisition. Commissioner Bosch seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.