

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Pre-meeting Work Session

AUGUST 16, 2011
3:00 p.m.
Cherokee Hall

MINUTES

The Chairman opened at 3:07 p.m. with a reading from the Steve Siebold book called "Secrets of the World Class" from the chapter entitled The Great Ones are Learning Machines. All members were present. When he finished that, he asked John Hicks to come up and begin the presentation from LAPA.

1. Think Water First Presentation by the Cherokee members of the Lake Allatoona Preservation Authority

Robert Morrison came up first and asked to thank John Hicks for his service on the LAPA Board all these years. Before John began the video for the initiative, he said in 2007, LAPA began to look at ways to preserve water in the watershed at Lake Allatoona and how land development that will affect it. He then began the professionally made video, which ran about 10 minutes. Afterwards, he asked if anyone had any questions or comments. Commissioner Bosch said she would like to state that as most of Allatoona Lake is in her Post, she would like to let it be known that this board had been vigilant in applying some of the practices that had been talked about in the film. A brief discussion followed regarding the effort of gaining compliance with input from Commissioner Bosch, Chairman Ahrens and Commissioner Johnston.

Then Mr. Morrison came back up and said he would like to read some excerpts from a statement that LAPA made to the National Research Council in Washington, DC a couple of years ago. He began by saying he had attended this conference, when asked, and soon discovered after his arrival that he was the only one who had paid his own way there and he explained that he loved the lake enough to do this. He continued giving a brief explanation of when Lake Allatoona came to be, and for what purposes and then gave a history of LAPA and its establishment by the legislature. Mr. Morrison concluded saying LAPA thanked the board for their cooperation and hoped the board would continue to support them in their next initiative.

2. Review of July, 2011 Financials – Janelle Funk

Janelle began her presentation saying there were fewer words and fewer graphs, but the same information. She also repeated the information given previously regarding the All Cash position saying that if someone looked at the Financials online, it was possible to misinterpret the figure and think that the County had access to more cash than had been thought. She wanted to remind anyone that this was Parks and Rec Bond, Debt Service, etc., not General Fund Cash.

In the General Fund Cash for July, there had been a slight improvement over what was projected. She attributed that to departments being more frugal in their budgets and not making purchases not absolutely necessary. There were other factors as well, but this seemed to be a good trend.

Janelle went through the other slides quickly and there were no questions when she completed the presentation.

The Chairman said before going through the agenda, he wanted to give an update on the Transportation Investment Act, which is a proposed 1 cent sales tax that will be on the ballot either next July or November. Yesterday was the mandated date that the Executive Committee of the Roundtable (10 County Commissioners, 10 selected Mayors and Atlanta Mayor Reed) needed to pass a constrained list to the full Roundtable. They started with \$22-\$23 billion and the constrained list had to be at \$6.1 billion. The Roundtable now has until October 13 to finalize the list and turn it over to the GDOT Planning Director. He said that there are some public information meeting dates coming up, one of which will be held here in Cherokee Hall on September 19, but he would give more details later.

Chairman Ahrens briefly went over the Cherokee portion that was on the constrained list, saying that instead of \$200 million, it was down to \$197 million; and gave a list of some of the projects still included.

There was some discussion from Geoff Morton, who had been present at the meetings, but he didn't come to the podium, so none of it was heard. After this, the Chairman said he was going to amend the agenda, under his portion, so he could also make the public aware of the progress.

3. Discussion of Regular Agenda items

The Chairman quickly went through the first part of the agenda until he came to the request from Margaret Stallings; Margaret came forward and said this was just the annual request to send the update of these items for review.

Under the Chairman's portion, he said that he had two names for the Board of Ethics appointment, that he had not had an opportunity to speak to, so he wanted to delay this until the September 6 meeting. There was some discussion regarding the appointment to LAPA with Commissioner Bosch saying that Bill McDade was the person she would like to name. The Chairman mentioned that Harry McGinnis had also been mentioned as a possible, albeit indirectly.

Next Commissioner Nelms mentioned his Town Hall meeting, and said he would make a formal announcement later.

Mr. Cooper came up to review the Consent Agenda items, there was no discussion on these. Then he went on to his portion with Commissioner Johnston requesting more information on item 8 regarding the process of the RFP for the design/build contract for senior center renovation/expansion and the scoring. Mr. Cooper continued with the amendment to his portion and after this the Chairman asked Commissioner Johnston if he wanted more information on item 8, then Mr. Cooper asked the consultant from JKH Architects who had sat in on the scoring process to come up and explain the process to Commissioner Johnston who was confused as to why the bid was not given to the low bidder on the project, but to the third lowest. The answer given was that the third lowest could and did respond more capably to the required information.

After this, the Chairman asked if there was anything else, hearing none, Vice Chair/Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 4:45 p.m. to discuss personnel issues, pending litigation and property acquisition. Commissioner Bosch seconded and the vote was for unanimous approval.
