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CHEROKEE COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Work Session

September 18, 2012 3:00 p.m.

Cherokee Hall

MINUTES

The Chairman began at 3:08 p.m. with all members of the Board present. Commissioner Hubbard announced the Electronic Recycling Day that will be held at the Bluffs on October 13th and that any volunteers to assist would be appreciated.

1. Review of HOST Resolution.

Chairman Ahrens led a discussion regarding the HOST Resolution. He stated he has reached out to the cities and asked to present this information to the city councils in their next scheduled meetings and will contact the Board of Education to be added to their October meeting agenda if possible.

Commissioner Johnston added that he feels there are more people in favor than not but there are some concerns expressed about how much will be collected and how much time would pass before it shows up on their tax bills. He suggested a brand name to the Resolution and call it "100% from Day One" to stress that 100% of the money collected will be used for property tax relief from the first day. In spite of state law allowing for a two and a half year lag time, the County would begin using 100% of the funds in hand as soon as possible right up until 30 days prior to setting the millage rate. State law would allow us to use only 80% and defer the remaining 20% to capital projects, but since we have SPLOST, we can defer that and use the entire 100% as long there is a SPLOST in place. The first credit would be small due to timing; the second year would be much closer to the full 12 months and would be allocated across all property categories. The third year the Homestead properties would take first priority in

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receiving the credit. Overall, we want to get the 100% credited at the earliest possible point.

The Chairman included that the credits would come from the previous year's collections, and that once in full swing, timing would include calendar year, not fiscal year. He referred to Angie Davis for advice on the resolution. Ms. Davis stated that everything was covered regarding our intent and includes allowance for any unknowns that may occur. This would be added as a tag line prior to signatures.

The Chairman asked Ms. Davis if adding the ballot questions would encumber the resolution. He stated that the more people who see the questions the better, whether for or against the resolution, at least they would know what it was about. Ms. Davis agreed adding the questions would be an opportunity to put it out to the public for consumption. After discussion as to where to add the questions, it was decided to not make the questions an actual part of the resolution but to include them by reference in order to make the public aware of these questions.

The Chairman asked the Board if anything could jeopardize the April 1st start date. A discussion concluded that once the Board of Elections certifies the results, the Board could call a meeting in December to solidify a start date.

2. Consideration of resolution in response to Grand Jury Recommendations.

The Chairman stated the response to the recommendations made by the Grand Jury would be discussed in a meeting on September 24th. He asked Angie Davis to go over the four Exhibits to be presented to the Grand Jury. Ms. Davis began with Exhibit 'A' which covers a bankruptcy filing and stated she would ask for a motion for discovery. Exhibit 'B' is part of the bankruptcy discovery request which designates documents that are to be produced. No word if it was received. There are approximately 10,000 pages of records provided in response to Exhibit 'B' which contains seven categories that the County and RRDA have requested for additional review of the case with potential claims as to the operations.

Exhibits 'C' and 'D' are in reference to the last recommendation concerning Ball Ground Recycling complaints submitted. These were mentioned in two newspaper articles written by Carolyn Mathews with the Ledger two years ago. The first articles introduced the concept of Steve Marcinko filing a complaint with the Sheriff's Office and the D.A. regarding the Blalock Corps of Engineer property. The second was about the Sheriff's Office dismissing the complaint. These Exhibits will be used to address the history of complaints since we are not privy to the Sheriff's Office records associated with the investigation. So, the news reports were the best we had to put forward to demonstrate what happened two years ago and was dismissed by the Sheriff's Office.

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Ms. Davis proceeded to go over responses to items 1-12 of the recommendations from the Grand Jury while allowing brief periods for comments from the Board. She suggested that along with the newspaper articles, we should include the EPD letter as Exhibit 'E'. Response #4 concerning the make-up of the RRDA Board was discussed after all others were reviewed. Ms. Davis stated that should any changes to dynamics of the Board be made, the Board of Commissioners would need to re-write a resolution to reflect those changes. Discussion continued on whether or not to move on the recommended changes as well as a time frame for it to be done.

Mr. Cooper went over the **Consent Agenda**:

- Consider approval to set a public hearing for October 16, 2012 to consider a revision to Article 7, Section 7-15c related to zoning requirements of private and parochial schools.

Mr. Cooper then went over the items under the **County Manager's** portion:

- Consider approval to purchase a hydraulic thumb attachment for the Komatsu PC220 Track-hoe from Tractor & Equipment Company for the Roads & Bridges Department in the amount of \$11,594.12.
- Consider adoption of a resolution to establish the Animal Service Fee Schedule for the Cherokee County Animal Shelter in order to off-set the cost of animal care.

Commissioner Bosch commented that she had some concerns that the increased rates could hurt adoptions. Commissioner Johnston commented that he had concerns with the owner surrender fee. Mr. Cooper said that these increases would be monitored and adjusted if any negative impact was noted. He commented that the purpose of the new fee schedule was to put more responsibility on pet owners and less of a burden on tax payers for animal care.

- Consider approval to award the construction contract to the lowest responsible bidder, CABLIK Enterprises, LLC, for Fire/ES Training Center for a total amount of \$3,084,812.00 which includes the base bid proposal sum plus acceptance of ADD alternatives. A separate contingency amount of \$150,000.00 is requested, bringing the total to \$3,234,812.00. Also, requesting approval of change order for design/engineering services to POND & Company for a lump sum of \$40,000.00.

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- Consider approval of an addendum to extend the partnership agreement with Cherokee County Saddle Club for construction and maintenance of Horse & Hiking Trails at Garland Mountain for an additional five (5) years which will expire on September 30, 2017.
- Consider approval of a new Professional Services Agreement with Sparkling Clean of Georgia for janitorial services to include the addition of two facilities and the extra square footage of the Renovated Senior Center for a total amount of \$532,992.00.

Commissioner Bosch asked if the new agreement added the Aquatic Center services. Mr. Cooper replied that a walk-through would be scheduled at a later date to determine the details of adding the Aquatic Center.

Consider approval to purchase fourteen (14) new patrol vehicles for the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office from Brannen Motor Company and Hardy Chevrolet in the total amount \$395,193.00.

Mr. Cooper commented that the Sheriff's Office had not purchased new vehicles since 2010.

The Chairman asked if there was anything else. Hearing none, Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 5:07 p.m. Commissioner Nelms seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session Followed