

Baldwin County Commissioners
Work Session
February 3, 2015
5:15 p.m.

A Work Session of the Baldwin County Commissioners was held Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at 5:15 p.m., Baldwin County Courthouse, Suite 319, 121 North Wilkinson Street, Milledgeville, Georgia with Chair Sammy Hall presiding.

Members Present: Emily C. Davis
Sammy Hall
Henry Craig
Johnny Westmoreland

Members Absent: Tommy French

Also Present: David McRee
Ralph McMullen
Dawn Hudson
Cindy Cunningham

Call to Order

Chair Sammy Hall called the Work Session to order at 5:15 p.m.

Update on Veteran's Sidewalk

County Manager Ralph McMullen reported several meetings have been held with City officials and other interested parties regarding the veteran's sidewalk project on Vinson Highway. He stated plans and price estimates have been developed and will now be discussed by County Engineer Brian Wood.

Mr. Wood reported plans for the project were sent out to contractors for price quotes for approximately 800' of 4' wide sidewalk. One written response in the amount of \$101,000 was received, and one text message quote in the amount of \$145,000 was also received. He reported the project was designed so power poles would not have to be removed.

Commissioner Henry Craig asked if plans address the slopes at the Allen and Boone Buildings and McDade's Grocery. Mr. Wood responded affirmatively that these issues were addressed.

County Manager McMullen reported the County has funded the survey and engineering costs for the entire project. He stated he talked to Mr. Todd Long with GDOT about funding for the project. Mr. Long feels that the DOT could assist with a portion of funding by recommending one-third funding each from the County, City and DOT. Representative Rusty Kidd has suggested funding could be taken from the County LMIG funds.

Mr. Wood stated no acquisition for right-of-way / easements will be required. He stated all will be temporary construction easements except for one permanent easement.

County Manager McMullen and Engineer Wood requested direction from the Board regarding how to proceed with project. Mr. McMullen stated plans/specs and cost information will be sent to Mr. Jimmy Smith and Mr. Todd Long with DOT.

Chair Hall reported he has spoken to Representative Bubba Epps who serves on the Veteran Affairs Committee about funding assistance for the project. Mr. Hall stated he has reservations about using County LMIG money for the sidewalk project. He recommended also getting the City to participate in funding.

Commissioner Craig agreed the County should send all information to DOT for funding assistance excluding LMIG funds. He also recommended contacting Representative

Epps and Representative Yates, as well as our local legislative delegation, to identify partners, i.e. City, DOT, and Veterans Affairs for this project.

Transportation Funding Bill

Finance Director Dawn Hudson presented information on HB 170, the proposed transportation bill. She discussed concerns about the potential loss of revenue to counties by the proposed loss of sales tax dollars on gasoline. HB 170 would authorize SPLOST and LOST collections to continue until the time of their respective expiration dates at which time the tax will no longer be collected on motor fuel. She stated that the proposed bill would authorize counties to levy up to a 6 cent per gallon excise tax by ordinance that is dedicated for transportation purposes. This excise tax would be to offset the loss of revenue from the collection of sales tax dollars to counties. All counties must share the excise tax with cities using the LMIG formula in effect on January 1, 2015 (2/3 centerline miles and 1/3 population).

Ms. Hudson reported that counties can adopt the ordinance at any time after the effective date of the bill and such ordinance shall become applicable as the current local sales taxes expire or are phased out (you will be able to adopt both levies with one ordinance and one vote even though they may go in effect on different dates). She stated cities will be required to adopt their own ordinance stating the transportation purposes for which their share of the excise tax will be used. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of their share to the county.

Ms. Hudson stated ACCG is still evaluating the bill, and counties are being asked to discuss implications of such legislation to their individual county. She reported the loss of SPLOST, LOST and ELOST will have an impact of approximately \$5,000,000 to Baldwin County over a period of time if the excise is not imposed.

Consensus of the Board is to notify our local legislative delegation that Baldwin County is not in favor of the proposed bill as it is currently written.

Old Business

There was no old business to come before the Board.

New Business

Commissioner Craig asked for the Commissioners and Management Staff to begin exploring ways to recognize County employees by establishing an Employee Recognition program.

After discussion, Chair Hall asked if Commissioners Criag and Davis would serve on a Committee for this matter and report back to the full Board. Both agreed,

Adjournment

Vice Chair Davis made a motion to adjourn the Work Session at 5:45 p.m. Commissioner Henry Craig seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sammy Hall
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk

