

THE EFFINGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WATER AND SEWER RATES WORKSHOP

The Board of Commissioners of Effingham County, Georgia, Mr. Wendall Kessler Chairman, Mr. Phil Kieffer, Vice Chairman, Mr. Reginald Loper, Mr. Steve Mason, Mr. Forrest Floyd and Mrs. Vera Jones, met in a workshop at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 15, 2014 in the Commissioners' Meeting Room at the Effingham County Administrative Complex.

PERSONS ATTENDING THE MEETING

Mr. Toss Allen, Interim County Administrator, Mrs. Stephanie Johnson, County Clerk, Mr. Adam Kobek, Community Relations Director, Mrs. Joanna Wright, Finance Director, Mr. Steve Liotta, County Engineer, Mr. Tim Mathews, Mr. Charlie Kea, Mr. Jamaine Brown, Mr. Orlando Jackson, Ms. Claudia Collier, Ms. Gigi Rigsby, Mr. Pat Donahue

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kessler called the meeting to order.

WORKSHOP

DISCUSSION OF THE WATER AND SEWER RATES (01):

Community Relations Director Kobek explained that the Board requested that Staff bring alternative rate options for water and sewer user rates. Staff delivered a presentation on the alternative rate structures based on market based analysis.

Option one passes only the \$0.16 increase on all water tier rates, base rates and sewer rates revert back to the pre May 6, 2014 figures. This option only covers our City of Savannah water rate increases from the previous three years.

Option 2 adds \$0.35 to each water and sewer tier rates, base rates revert back to the pre May 6, 2014 figures. This option would decrease the amount of subsidy to water and sewer operations.

Commissioner Jones made a statement to the citizens present regarding her stance on what the water and sewer rates should be. Commissioner Jones apologized for the lack of understanding based on the information provided in how the change would affect the outcome of the cost to the citizens.

There was a brief discussion regarding billing and notification of the rate increase.

Committee reports from Staff were discussed after the water and sewer rate discussion. Interim County Administrator Allen discussed the following:

1. Sheriff's Office Updates

- Attached is an update to the progress of the Sherriff's Office project.

2. Blue Jay Road and McCall Road Improvements

- Work is being completed on Blue Jay Road.
- Construction should be complete within the next two weeks with driveways and side roads being the last item completed.

3. Ash Road Repairs

- Construction is complete.
- Bids for the next round of repairs are due on July 17, 2014.
- A contract will be presents to the Board for consideration on August 5, 2014.

4. Bunyan Kessler Road Repairs

- The repairs to Bunyan Kessler Road have been completed.

5. Zittrouer Road Repairs

- Road repairs began on July 14, 2014.

6. Disaster Debris Monitoring and Financial Recovery Services

- These services are being rebid now.

7. Disaster Debris Removal Services

- 6 bids were received.
- Bid award will be presented to the Board after bids are received on the Debris Monitoring and Financial Recovery Services bids are received.

8. Gateway Behavioral Health

- The deadline for Gateway's request for appointments to the Gateway BHS governance board has been extended to a future uncertain date.

- One appointment of a person reflective of the cultural and social characteristics, including gender, race, ethnic, and age characteristics, of the community service board area and county population, to serve a two year.
- One elected or appointed official to serve concurrent with his/her term of office in your county.

9. Binary Bus

- The GIS Department is currently working to obtain a replacement vendor for these services.
- They are in contact with GIS, Inc. and the Coastal Regional Commission.

10. Courthouse Road Extension

- A Public Information Open House on the planned improvements to Courthouse Road Extension was held on June 26th. Comments received from that meeting are being incorporated into the plans.

11. Hodgeville Road Wetwell Repairs

- On May 20, 2014 the Board approved a contract with E&D Coatings to re-line the receiving manhole for the Hodgeville Road lift station.
- Upon starting the work it was discovered that the manhole was too far deteriorated to re-line and would need to be replaced.
- E&D has provided a change order in the amount of \$32,640 in addition to the original contract price of \$8,700 for a total price of \$41,340.
- Would the Board like to rebid the project or approve a change order?

12. SR 21 and I-95 Diverging Diamond Interchange

- A public Information Open House will be held on August 12, 2014 from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm at the Georgia Tech Savannah Campus to discuss the proposed improvements to the intersection of SR 21 and I-95.

13. Governor's High Demand Career Initiative

- There are eight remaining meetings scheduled across the state. The dates and times were provided as part of your documentation.

14. 2014 Legislative Session Legislation that Impacts Counties

- ACCG has provided a list of legislation that was passed during the 2014 legislative session that impacts Counties.
- The list was included in your documentation and was also emailed to you.

15. RFP 14-136-001 – Enterprise Content Document Management

- 11 proposals were received ranging from \$110,500 to \$512,700.
- There is \$150,000 included in the short term work program allocated for document/record management which will cover the start up.
- Going forward, several pieces will be needed, such as annual licenses and continued maintenance which will necessitate more funding.
- Before moving forward in the bid process staff would like to know if the Board is willing to commit to the required funding or would they like IT to go in another direction and use the STWP funds to improve on what the County currently has.

16. Georgia Academy for Economic Development

- Each Fall a four day class is offered in Region 12, one day each in four months from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.
- The classes will be held on August 12, September 24, October 29 and December 3.

17. 2014 State of the Port Address

- The 2014 State of the Port Address will be Thursday, September 25, 2014 at the Savannah International Trade and Convention Center.
- There will be a reception from 10:30 am to 11:45 am and a luncheon from 11:45 am to 1:30 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The workshop adjourned at 4:40 p.m.



Wendall Kessler, Chairman



Stephanie Johnson, County Clerk