

**COFFEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023
11:30 O'CLOCK A.M.
COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM**

Coffee County Board of Commissioners met in a special called meeting on December 19, 2023, at 11:30 o'clock a.m. with the following present: Chairman Ted O'steen, Vice-Chairman Kitchens, Commissioner AJ Dovers, Commissioner Johnny Wayne Jowers and Commissioner Oscar Paulk. Also present were County Administrator Wesley Vickers, and County Clerk Tracie Vickers. Attorney Tony Rowell was absent. Members of the media were also present.

Chairman O'Steen called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Commissioner Dovers asked Commissioner Jowers to give the invocation. Everyone participated in the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Chairman O'steen asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Vice- Chairman Kitchens made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Jowers seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Administrator Vickers stated this is for the bridge replacement on the Bridgetown / Willacoochee Road. The agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation today would be for a contribution of \$50,000.00 for expenses associated with the right of way phase. Chairman O'Steen asked for a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with Georgia Department of Transportation for the Bridge replacement on County Road 705 Bridgetown Road at Satilla River. Commissioner Jowers made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with Georgia Department of Transportation. Commissioner Paulk seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Administrator Vickers stated the City of Douglas had received a grant in FY 2022 for the expansion of the head start building for the addition of some classrooms and a kitchen area. Initially the County agreed to contribute \$100,000.00 and the school board would contribute \$150,000.00. However, the project has come back over budget. It is now \$400,000.00 - \$425,000.00 over budget. The City of Douglas has asked the County to contribute more money to this project. The County has asked the City of Douglas to put \$200,000.00 and the Economic Development Authority to add \$100,000.00 and the Board of Education to add \$50,000.00. Mr. Vickers asked the Commission if they would be willing to commit another \$100,000.00. This would bring the total for the City of Douglas, County and Board of Education to \$200,000.00 and the Economic Development Authority to \$100,000.00. Vice-Chairman Kitchens stated he believes the County should be involved in the value engineering of this project. The City of Douglas is requesting a commitment letter today. Mr. Vickers called Georgia Henderson with the City of Douglas. The Commission discussed the project with Ms. Henderson. The Commission decided for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to review this project with the contractor, Mr. Ron Lewis, later today. Chairman O'Steen asked for a motion. Commissioner Jowers made a motion authorize the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to give the authority to commit funds as necessary up to \$100,000.00 to the City of Douglas for the purpose of the Head Start building. Commissioner Paulk seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Administrator Vickers stated he met with Ms. Vickie Lewis and Mr. John McLeod with Coffee Regional Medical Center. They are requesting the County to revise the Intergovernmental Agreement with the County to change the definition used in calculating the number of days cash on hand. Commissioner Jowers stated he does not have a problem with this as long as it doesn't deplete the security of the bonds. The Commission will bring this back on the January 2024 agenda.

Chairman O'Steen asked for a motion to adjourn the Special Called Meeting. Commissioner Jowers made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 12:04 p.m. o'clock. Commissioner Dovers seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Clerk

Chairman