

May 16, 2019  
Infrastructure Surtax  
Advisory Committee  
Meeting

The regular meeting of the Okaloosa County Infrastructure Surtax Advisory Committee was called to order at 10:00 A.M. in the Okaloosa County Administration Building, 1st Floor Training Room. Members present were Ms. Kathleen Sharon, District 3 member (Chairman); Mr. Jim Foreman, District 5 member (Vice Chairman); Mr. Henry Berry, District 1 member; Brig. Gen. (Ret) Robert Buhrow, District 2 member; and Mr. Matthew Turpin, District 4 member. Also present were Hon. Graham Fountain, District 1 Commissioner; Hon. Carolyn Ketchel, District 2 Commissioner; Hon. Nathan Boyles, District 3 Commissioner; Hon. J. D. Peacock, Clerk of Circuit Court and Comptroller; Undersheriff Steve Harker, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office; Mr. Marcus Chambers, Okaloosa County School Superintendent; Mr. John Hofstad, County Administrator; Mr. Greg Kisela, Deputy County Administrator; Mr. Jason Autrey, Public Works Director; Mr. Steve Schmidt, Surtax Project Manager; Ms. Faye Douglas, Office of Management & Budget Director, Mr. Ron Adimov, Chief Financial Officer; Mr. Jordan Steffens, Finance Director; and Mr. Gary Stanford, Director of Treasury & Board Services.

Opening Remarks and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The meeting was opened by Ms. Sharon. Mr. Hofstad stated that the meeting had been properly noticed in accordance with section 286.011, Florida Statutes. Mr. Berry made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes, with a second by Mr. Turpin. The minutes were approved, 5-0.

Public Comments

None

Presentation

Commissioner Fountain introduced the topic, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Surtax Initiatives, and emphasized the need for Public Safety and gives his full support. He then turned the presentation over to Undersheriff Harker, who went through the slide presentation. Key points included were the breakdown of the four categories: 1. Emergency Services/Communications Equipment, 2. Fleet Improvements, 3. Headquarters Improvements, and 4. School Safety. Undersheriff Harker stressed that an immediate need for the department was live stream video capabilities in the schools. He also mentioned that the Sheriff was not asking for any funding currently for the School Guardian Program and this was just to keep the committee in the loop. Ms. Sharon asked what specifically the requests were. Undersheriff Harker

replied with a request for \$44,778 for the live stream video and \$42,558 for a prisoner transport van. Undersheriff Harker went on to explain in greater detail the function of the live stream video system in response to questions. Mr. Turpin asked if there was a completed priority list from the Sheriff, to which Undersheriff Harker stated yes and no, but they could have a complete list put together for the committee. Mr. Chambers, School Superintendent, then went on to stress the need for the live stream system and the importance of school safety. He briefed on several initiatives that are currently being implemented to increase safety. Commissioner Ketchel suggested that the School Board ask the citizens for a ½ cent surtax, as well, to help with these initiatives. She stated that the community would likely support the initiative.

Mr. Foreman made a motion to approve the two items brought forward by Undersheriff Harker and Mr. Berry seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0 to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners \$44,778 be allocated for the live stream video system and \$42,558 be allocated for the prisoner transport van.

#### Presentation

Mr. Mark Galvin from Hilltop Securities briefed his presentation on financial options. Commissioner Fountain asked if it could be an option for the provider, whoever that may be, to finance the communications part of the Public Safety request. Mr. Galvin replied that he can take a look at all options to save the County money. Discussion ensued concerning the timeline of the SW Bypass project. Mr. Galvin continued with his presentation. Mr. Kisela suggested 2 motions; one to authorize the financial plan as presented and a separate motion to approve \$25M to start the project. Mr. Turpin made a motion to approve the Financial Plan. Mr. Buhrow seconded. The motion was approved 5-0. Mr. Turpin made a motion to approve a \$25M allocation to the SW Crestview Bypass Project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Berry. The motion carried 5-0.

#### Projects List Update/Funding Discussion

Mr. Schmidt gave an update on the format/summary spreadsheets. He added the Overbrook project, but not asking for any money at this time. Commissioner Fountain asked if the John King Widening Project was the 4-lane or the intersection. Mr. Schmidt replied it was both. Mr. Berry asked if there was a design yet, and Mr. Autrey gave an overview of the project and said the State is designing. Mr. Turpin asked to add a column of % complete next to % spent.

#### Office of Management & Budget

Mr. Hofstad introduced Ms. Faye Douglas, the new Office of Management &

Budget Director. Ms. Douglas stated that the main project right now is the Sheriff's Training Facility.

Clerk of Circuit Court & Comptroller

Hon. J.D. Peacock went over the 1 page summary financial report.

Public Comments

None.

Schedule Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at 10:00 A.M., location TBD.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:03 A.M.

(These minutes were transcribed by Grant Dugre)