

August 15, 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 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 Adamov, Chief Financial Officer; Mr. Jordan Steffens, Finance Director; and Mr. Gary Stanford, Director of Treasury & Board Services, Dr. Lee Hale, Okaloosa County District School; Sheriff Larry Ashley; OCSA Capt. Ted Pecot.

OPENING REMARKS AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was opened by Ms. Sharon at 10:00 A.M. Mr. Hofstad stated that the meeting has been properly noticed in accordance with F.S. § 286.011.

Brig. Gen. (Ret) Robert Buhrow: Motion to approve minutes.

Matthew Turpin: Second

Approved

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No members of the public were present.

PRESENTATIONS:

ITEM A – Mass Communication System –

Sheriff Larry Ashley presented a funding request for improvement of school safety, specifically regarding reaching the goal for increase in certified guardians, installation of a mass notification system, and live feed cameras. Though the OCSA has received some funding from the Department of Education, they are still in need of additional funds to complete the fiber optic cabling from the Niceville Complex into all County schools. There have been some complications with the current vendor, Bosch, regarding the fiber run, hardware installation and costs for software upgrade.

The proposed system would include:

- Speakers in all school common areas including assembly rooms, hallways, playgrounds and gymnasiums

- Communication software that will provide emergency information, lockdown instructions, inclement weather warnings, and situational instructions via teacher desktop applications, law enforcement portable radios, registered smart phones, and/or school intercom systems either through the entire community, a specific school or to specific small groups;
- Lightning rods and battery backups.

The plan anticipates two phases. The first phase would involve installation at the 10 largest schools, specifically Choctaw High School, Fort Walton Beach High School, Niceville High School, Crestview High School, Baker School, Laurel Hill School, Davidson Middle School, Ruckel Middle School and Edwins Elementary.

Smaller schools would require a 6,000 watt system and larger ones a 12,000 watts. The smaller watt system costs \$40,336 per campus and the larger costs \$42,256. Spread over 36 County schools and 3 charter the cost would average \$41,000 per school.

Two vendors are available with a preference for the vendor that can get it done fastest rather than cheaper. References were made to the recent Marjory Stoneman Douglas and other mass school shootings, and the impact of the failure of those school's communication systems to provide needed information immediately.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Turpin asked if the system is currently in use anywhere, and Sheriff Ashley stated that Florida State University has the system in place, it has been tested and is compatible with the system elements currently in place in Okaloosa County, specifically the previously installed cameras, the School District intercom system, OCSD portable radios recently acquired and additional ones requested. The proposed system allows law enforcement to see and identify threats, communicate the threat to the affected groups and/or individuals and respond to the threat, all in real time. He stated that the configuration of the exterior loudspeakers will provide information to the surrounding urban areas as well as the school grounds.

Ms. Sharon asked about the fixed asset aspect of the project, the continuing maintenance and software licensing costs. Sheriff Ashley assured the Committee that the School Board will bear the costs of maintenance and software updates. Discussion ensued regarding the amount of surtax spent on public safety to date, what items are "pay as you go", and the projected amount of needs over the next 10 years. Members expressed concern over the County paying for the fixed asset for the School Board without some confirmation from the School Board that they will be contributing to the expense of the asset. Sheriff Ashley stated that he has been working with the Superintendent of Schools and Dr. Hale, Principle of Choctaw. The School Board had contributed significant funds to the project by updating many items within the school buildings that are compatible with the new project. Dr. Hale advised that funds for capital expenditures have been set aside for safety issues, including fences, single point entry, doorbell access into buildings, secure vehicle access points and traffic patterns.

Capt. Pecot stated that he sits on School Safety committee which meets bi weekly or monthly as needed. He advised that the School Board has paid for upgrades to all communication systems within buildings and some exterior spaces, including enhancement of the speakers to reach beyond the buildings to the parking lots and between buildings, fencing, and in-school cameras, all of which benefits law enforcement, fire safety and EMS by providing for a higher response capability. The School Board has also purchased the equipment needed to connect the various components to the Alertus speaker system. Granting the request will allow the School Board to tie all the improvements together to better increase the various departments' response in any emergency situation. He stressed the added benefit that the exterior alarm/speaker system can be heard by the surrounding communities.

Some discussion regarding the timing of the request, the projected schedule for completion of the project, and whether or not postponing for a month will affect the overall timeline.

Mr. Turpin: MOTION to approve the mass notification system up to \$1,623,040.00 with information from the Okaloosa County School Board regarding what they are bringing to this project.

Mr. Buhrow: Second

CONTINUED DISCUSSION:

Mr. Kisela requested receipt of the information regarding the School Board's contribution to the project not later than August 23, 2019 for distribution to the ISAC; Mr. Hofstad spoke to the need to determine details of ownership and transfer of same to the School Board; Ms. Douglas advised the ISAC account balance; Ms. Sharon directed that the recommendation be prepared for presentation to the BCC.

MOTION CARRIES 5-0

ITEM B – Communications Interoperability –

Sheriff Ashley described on campus communication issues for the SRO due to outdated radios and dead zones. Recommended radios were tested over the summer, cover most dead zones, offer analog and digital channels, and are compatible with the new mass communication system.

Ms. Sharon opened the floor to discussion.

Mr. Turpin: MOTION to approve spending not more than \$43,680 for 56 Motorola 7550E portable radios.

Mr. Foreman: second

Ms. Sharon opened floor for discussion. Mr. Berry requested input from the County. Mr. Hofstad stated the radios were needed from a public safety perspective.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

ITEM C – Safety Equipment –

Sheriff Ashley's presentation revealed that OCSD officers do not have back shielding, quick release backpacks need replaced, and additional rifles are needed. Details provided regarding specific numbers and cost.

DISCUSSION:

Discussion regarding BCC budget for these items, frequency of replacement, use of BCC capital for vehicle purchases would not be sustainable, and intended purchase of surtax funds.

Mr. Buhrow: MOTION to approve request for \$131,595 to purchase safety equipment.

Mr. Turpin: Second

CONTINUED DISCUSSION:

Some discussion regarding whether would be using an existing vendor.

MOTION CARRIES: 5-0

Mr. Hofstad reported the bond market status and spoke regarding the Triumph Gulf Coast term sheet, the revisions of document language related to the DOT dollars, job creation credit requirements, limitations and classifications, specifically related to STEMM classification in and around the bypass route, possible requirement that we use construction manager, risks involved because of required guarantee max price and unknown factors related to underground construction, our desire for design-bid-build due to the control gained therein, our request for some consideration in that issue. Further discussion regarding over invoicing and Triumph's desired 32% cap, which conflicts with our intent to front load county money and use DOT funds on the back end. Term sheet must be finalized in the next 30 days and approved at BCC.

Some discussion regarding job creation, definitions of defense industry versus corridor jobs and who will receive credit for same.

Ms. Sharon departed at 11:00 and Mr. Forman took over the meeting.

PROJECTS LIST UPDATE/FUNDING DISCUSSION

Mr. Schmidt reported current status of revenues at \$6.5 million with expenses lagging but moving forward on the bypass project; excess cash is encumbered but not spent; expense summary updated through current date; Santa Rosa Blvd. crosswalk project is moving forward; SW Bypass ground breaking in September.

Brief report from Jason Autry regarding status of east/west connector, possibility of that project being complete ahead of schedule, leveraging with Developer to connect with Highway 85, and signaling the intersection.

Mr. Schmidt reported design revenue of \$39,000; minimal design work is more than half complete; no work done on the road; no surtax \$\$ allocated to that project. This was in response to a question from Mr. Turpin about Millside Roadway Improvements; specifically,

why 47% of the budget (for the preliminary design work) was spent, while the project only showed as 2% complete.

Annualized funding hasn't changed since last meeting except for SW Crestview bypass; we will continue to see funds balance come down as new numbers come in; expect the trend to continue as we get through right of way.

Faye Douglas reports that a budget transfer request is before the BCC at the next meeting regarding county wide communication system; we have budgeted \$14 million for surtax proceeds with reserves of \$20.6 million.

Clerk of Court reports that sales tax revenue modifications were made from last meeting through the end of July at \$6.807 million with a budget of \$10.9 million versus a \$10.5 total.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

Next scheduled meeting is September 19, 2019 @ 10:00

ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Mr. Hofstad expressed his hope that the Sheriff doesn't view the Committee as adversarial; the Committee has a duty to watch the funding source; concerned about the BOCC buying infrastructure on School Board facility; it is critical that we work through some type of mechanics with an interlocal agreement to specify agreement contingent upon the School Board contributing to the expense; unfortunate they don't have a similar surtax to support this infrastructure need. He stated there is no problem with the Board buying assets for the Sheriff's employees, such as vests, vehicles, etc., which is the intent of the surtax. We must be careful about acquiring assets that are going to be owned by a separate independent tax district.

Mr. Berry asked about similar purchases made for installation at Northwest Florida State College, and Mr. Hofstad responded that the Board and NWFSC entered into a joint interlocal agreement that provided for the College to have defined areas of responsibility.

The discussion continued regarding who owns the equipment, who has access to the system, and the need to reconcile the requests for money against the available funds.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT ??