

January 14, 2021
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 Center Room. Members present were Mr. Matthew Turpin, District 4 member (Chairman); Brig. Gen. (Ret) Robert Buhrow, District 2 member (Vice Chairman); Mr. Greg Gattis, District 1 member; and Mr. Jim Foreman, District 5 member. Also present were: Honorable J.D. Peacock; Mr. John Hofstad, County Administrator; Mr. Craig Coffey, Deputy County Administrator; Ms. Faye Douglas, Office of Management & Budget Director; Mr. Butch Hendrick, Facilities and Parks Maintenance Director; Mr. Steve Schmidt, Surtax Project Manager; and Mr. John Parisi, Surtax Project Coordinator.

Opening Remarks and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The meeting was opened by Mr. Turpin and Mr. Hofstad stated that the meeting had been properly noticed in accordance with section 286.011, Florida Statutes on 12-21-2020.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Mr. Buhrow made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes as written. It was seconded by Mr. Foreman. Approved 4-0.

Public Comments

None.

Presentations

None.

Projects Update

A. Mr. Schmidt covered changes to the Surtax Project Reconciliation Report since last meeting and noted that it is current through the end of the current calendar year. Mr. Turpin asked for clarification on the total cost of the Commons Drive Sidewalk Connections Project and Mr. Schmidt confirmed that the project should come in under budget, with the excess to be moved back into the reserve upon approval. Mr. Turpin asked if any projects are concerning due to being over budget and discussion ensued with the 6th Street Stormwater Improvement Project being mentioned as requiring a budget adjustment.

B. Mr. Schmidt covered the annual funding projection and explained that changes will be coming to the plan in the near future, pending the results of a scheduled meeting with the County Engineer.

C. Mr. Schmidt covered the SW Crestview Bypass Funding Summary. Discussion ensued and Mr. Schmidt agreed to ensure that project update documents be clearly labelled accordingly, as opposed to agenda request documents.

Agenda Items and Discussion

A. Santa Rosa Blvd Conceptual Designs- Mr. Schmidt requested \$100,000 funding for a conceptual design of the entire length of Santa Rosa Boulevard following the successful public meeting input. Mr. Turpin asked if there was considerable opposition to the project among the residents, to ensure that funds won't be expended to fund design for a project that would ultimately be rejected. Discussion ensued and it was clarified that there is no noted organized opposition and the majority of residents are supportive. Mr. Foreman inquired if this project involves planning that the TDC was supporting on Santa Rosa Island and Mr. Hofstad explained that it is not. Mr. Turpin asked where the conceptual design would start and if it is connecting with the bridge project. Discussion ensued and it was explained that it is separate from the bridge project and it will start at the boundary of the bridge project. Motion by Mr. Foreman. 2nd by Mr. Gaddis. Motion approved 4-0.

B. Additional Funding for the 6th St Stormwater Improvement- Mr. Schmidt requested an additional \$2,209,000 of FY21 funding to complete construction due to scope creep and significant engineering estimate differences due to multiple factors. Mr. Schmidt explained the actions by Staff to mitigate the project expense. Mr. Turpin asked if there was concern about other stormwater projects being under budgeted. Discussion ensued and it was explained that the increased cost of materials over the span of the project and the unpredictable nature of outdated underground assets will contribute to budget adjustments. Mr. Turpin asked if we will still be within the budgeted funding for the fiscal year, to include this increase, and Mr. Schmidt confirmed yes. Mr. Buhrow asked if plans were made for shifting stormwater project priorities for budget shortfalls and it was explained that Surtax revenue has outpaced projections, resulting in consistent surplus. Motion by Mr. Buhrow. 2nd by Mr. Foreman. Motion approved 4-0.

C. K-9 Acquisition Reconciliation- Mr. Schmidt requested a motion to endorse the purchase of the 7th K-9 and return the remaining \$2,000 to the Surtax account. Motion by Mr. Buhrow. 2nd by Mr. Foreman. Motion approved 4-0.

D. Inspector General Audit Report BCC-19-02 presented to the Committee as an informational item.

Office of Management & Budget

Ms. Douglas reiterated that funding has exceeded expectations, as budgeted amount was \$14,000,000 and actual earnings were \$16,700,000.

Clerk of Circuit Court & Comptroller

Mr. Peacock stated that their reconciliation of Surtax earnings are indicative of very healthy earnings due in part to a strong tourism season, construction, and the housing market.

Public Comments

Mr. Dave Skarzynski: Mr. Skarzynski requested that the effected districts be reflected on the agenda requests for new funds. Mr. Schmidt confirmed that this information will be included in future agenda item forms.

Schedule Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 10, 2021, 10:00 am, location TBD.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:48 A.M.

(These minutes were transcribed by John Parisi)