

February 17, 2021  
Infrastructure Surtax  
Advisory Committee  
Meeting

The regular meeting of the Okaloosa County Infrastructure Surtax Advisory Committee was called to order at 2:00 P.M. in the Okaloosa County Administration Building, Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room. Members present were Mr. Matthew Turpin, District 4 member (Chairman); Brig. Gen. (Ret) Robert Buhrow, District 2 member (Vice Chairman); Ms. Kathleen Sharon, District 3 member; and Mr. Jim Foreman, District 5 member. Also present were: Honorable Paul Mixon, District 1 Commissioner; Mr. John Hofstad, County Administrator; Mr. Craig Coffey, Deputy County Administrator; Ms. Faye Douglas, Office of Management & Budget Director; Mr. Jordan Steffens, Clerk of Court's Finance Director; Mr. Dan Sambenedetto, Information Technology Director; Mr. Jeffrey Hyde, Purchasing Manager; Mr. Jason Autrey, Public Works Director; Major Ted Pecot, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office; 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 2-8-2021.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

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

Public Comments

None.

Projects Update

A. Mr. Hofstad briefed the Committee on BOCC action to increase the annual "50 in 5" dirt road paving project Surtax funding allocation for this year from \$1.6 million to \$2 million. The Committee originally approved the \$2 million in funding during the February 20, 2020 meeting and this amount was subsequently reduced by the BOCC to \$1.6 million. Mr. Hofstad requested the Committee reaffirm it's original \$2 million commitment, with the understanding that the annual request will be brought back to the Committee for review and approval for every subsequent year. Ms. Sharon made a motion to reaffirm the recommended approval of the project. It was seconded by Mr. Buhrow. Approved 4-0.

## Presentations

### A. 800 MHz Phase II, Emergency Radio Communications Project

Joint presentation provided by the following: Okaloosa County Sheriff Eric Aden; Captain Ron Kimble of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office; Mr. Mike Milas and Mr. Nick Falgiatore of Mission Critical Partners, LLC.; Mr. Craig Coffey; and Mr. Mark Galvin (via online video conference) of Hilltop Securities. Sheriff Aden discussed the dangers associated with the shortfalls of the current communication systems. Mr. Milas and Mr. Falgiatore discussed the interagency cooperation throughout the county in developing the Invitation to Negotiate, system technical evaluation, and contract selection processes. Mr. Milas discussed the revenue generation opportunities and future update possibilities through site purchasing versus leasing options. Mr. Coffey discussed the project budget elements leading to the \$26.5 million cost, cited multiple funding sources, and the technical advantages of the project. Mr. Galvin discussed the bond financing and Surtax funding figures. Ms. Sharon asked if this system will be compliant with the Alertus mass notification equipment currently being installed. Discussion ensued and it was explained that the mass notification system operates independently of the proposed emergency radio communications project, which are able to use both analog and digital communications. Ms. Sharon asked if this project has been vetted by local military bases for radio emissions. Discussion ensued and it was explained that while there has been preliminary due diligence by the carrier, the military coordination is programmed into the project timeline with Eglin having a liaison on the project planning commission. Ms. Sharon inquired about ongoing project maintenance costs and revenue. Discussion ensued and it was explained that maintenance costs are forecast to be up to \$550,000 to \$600,000 per year beginning in year 3 or 4, with speculation on significant revenue amounts to cover maintenance costs and more. Mr. Turpin asked for the lifespan of the equipment and Mr. Falgiatore explained that the equipment should have a 15 to 20-year lifespan, with the towers ongoing. Mr. Turpin asked if cost-sharing with the other agencies has been considered. Mr. Coffey stated that we aren't pursuing that option in order to ensure maximum project participation.

Mr. Foreman made a motion to recommend approval of the project. It was seconded by Ms. Sharon. Approved 4-0.

## Public Comments

None.

## Schedule Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 24, 2021, 10:00 am, location TBD.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:24 P.M.

(These minutes were transcribed by John Parisi)