

**MINUTES OF THE CALLED MEETING OF THE
JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
MAY 26, 2016 – 4:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Jarnigan. Board members present were Chairman Jarnigan, Vice Chairman Jim Vines, Randall Bradley, Anne Marie Potts, and Judy Cavanah. Board members Ralph Lowery and Jonathan Rogers were absent. Dr. Charles Edmonds, Director of Schools and Secretary to the Board, was also present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Capital Projects

Vice Chairman Vines asked Langdon Potts, County Finance Director, if the county commission had the authority to tell the board how to spend the \$200,000 capital outlay fund money. Mr. Potts responded it was the board's decision as long as the funds stayed in line item 141.

There was discussion from board member Potts regarding a current capital project needs list and if the board had received an updated list since August 28, 2014. She pointed out the JCHS football stadium lights was listed on that list for replacement in the year 2020. Michael Phagan, Facilities Supervisor, commented that Steve Wolfenbarger, maintenance supervisor, had recently relayed safety concerns to him regarding the football stadium lights.

Board member Bradley expressed his thoughts regarding previous discussions the board had for some time regarding what the \$200,000 capital outlay projects would cover when the budget passed. He felt the \$200,000 should be used to address those projects. Mr. Bradley was concerned about the timing of receiving the information regarding safety concerns with the football lights at the high school and why the board did not know about it until now. Mr. Bradley stated that he would like to approach county commission regarding taking the money for the football stadium lights from the fund balance.

Chairman Jarnigan commented that he was in agreement with whatever the board approved but pointed out the football lights was a serious situation and needed to be addressed. Vice Chairman stated the lights were the most pressing need at this time due to safety concerns.

Capital Projects – continued

Board member Potts asked if an engineer or someone certified had checked the stadium light poles for safety issues. Michael Phagan responded the electrical had not been checked but a lighting company had checked the condition of the poles to see if they were good enough to mount new lights on with a 25 year warranty. The lighting company reported the poles were not in good enough shape.

Ms. Potts commented that a certified engineer had done a structural assessment on the baseball stadium in 2014 and reported the stadium needed to be addressed. She pointed out the football stadium had already been addressed under the same conditions.

Vice Chairman Vines stated the football lights needed to be addressed as well as the baseball stadium whether or not funding came from fund balance or the capital outlay fund.

Mr. Phagan went over cost comparisons to repair/refurbish vs. purchase for the football stadium lights. He stated the cost to repair/refurbish was estimated between \$132,000 and \$177,000 which included the electrical issues, lighting, and poles with a 1 year material/labor warranty and the cost to purchase was between \$185,000 and \$210,000 with a 25 year warranty.

Mr. Phagan addressed the question from board member Bradley regarding the timing in which the board received a copy of the letter from Mr. Wolfenbarger in regards to safety issues of the football stadium lights. Mr. Phagan commented it was his intention to have Service Electric keep the lights in working order as in the past but then received the letter from Mr. Wolfenbarger. He explained that after conversation with Mr. Wolfenbarger regarding the safety issues he then had a meeting the first part of May with the athletic facilities committee when at that time the committee agreed it was the first priority. Mr. Phagan commented it was his intention to bring this to the board and request fund balance to address the issue not knowing at the time that it was the board's desire to have \$200,000 built in to the school budget for capital projects. He stated \$70,000 was available from the operating budget to address the electrical.

Board member Potts commented she would like to see an updated list of capital projects and cost. She stated she did not want to see the board make a decision to do other projects other than the football stadium lights and those projects be overlooked.

Vice Chairman Vines suggested taking the stadium lights out of the fund balance. Board member Cavanah asked Mr. Potts how much would roll over into the fund balance this year.

Capital Projects – continued

Mr. Potts responded an estimate of \$100,000 or less would roll over to the fund balance. Dr. Edmonds commented that he was in favor of asking for the funds for the stadium lights from the fund balance because fund balance should be used for capital projects.

Board member Bradley recommended making out a prioritized list of capital projects to be used with the \$200,000 capital outlay fund including the cost. Board member Potts went over projects the board had discussed which included windows at Piedmont Elementary, the baseball stadium, cleaning up the restrooms at the JCHS football stadium and the tennis courts. She commented that she would like to see the list the board received in 2014 updated.

Ms. Potts suggested including all the security upgrades that had been cut from the 2014 list. Mr. Phagan stated the tennis courts had been included as part of the paving project at JCHS as a separate alternate. Ms. Potts pointed out the windows at Jefferson Elementary were in bad shape.

Mr. Phagan stated that \$70,000 would be used from the operating budget for the football lights plus \$130,000 from the fund balance. Mr. Phagan asked Mr. Potts if he could take the \$70,000 from the current budget and reserve it for the football lights. Mr. Potts responded he could.

Board member Bradley made the motion to allocate up to \$130,000 from the fund balance to replace the JCHS stadium football lights with any funds left over going back in the fund balance. Board member Potts seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Phagan asked for guidance on the capital projects list requested by the board. The board agreed on a list of what is planned for capital projects and what needs to take place.

2. 2016-2017 School Budget

Langdon Potts reported the county commission budget committee passed the general, federal and student nutrition 2016-2017 budgets.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Mr. Potts updated the board on the White Pine School project architectural agreement. He stated there was still no agreement on the contract. He pointed out there was approximately \$100,000 worth of invoices from Cope and indications that Cope was going to bill the board on a \$2.8M project. He stated that these were two major obstacles to overcome.

Items for Information - continued

Mr. Potts suggested moving on to the second choice for an architect which was Red Chair Architects. Board member Cavanah stated it was time to move on.

Chairman Jarnigan set a called meeting for June 9, 2016 in order to take action on the White Pine School project. A work session was also scheduled for June 9th. The work session will begin at 6:30 followed by the called meeting.

Board member Potts requested that an update on the log cabins be added to the agenda for the meeting. Mr. Phgan gave a brief update commenting that he was meeting with a representative from Bush Brothers regarding the log cabin on their property. He stated the other log cabin that had been discussed was no longer available.

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Bill Jarnigan, Chairman

Dr. Charles Edmonds, Director of Schools &
Secretary to the Board

Date

Date