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JOINT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS/SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
APRIL 9, 2015

At a joint meeting of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors and the Pulaski County School Board held on Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Information Technology Training Room located on Commerce Street in the Town of Pulaski, the following Board of Supervisors members were present: Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman; Charles Bopp, Vice-Chairman; Andy McCreedy; Ranny O'Dell; and Dean Pratt.

County staff present included; Peter Huber, County Administrator; Karen Thompson, Assistant County Administrator for Management Services; Diane Newby, County Finance Director; and Gena Hanks, Clerk to the Board of Supervisors.

School Board members present included Mike Barbour, Chairman; Jeff Bain, Vice Chairman; Joseph Guthrie; Timothy Hurst; and Frances Viars.

School Board staff present included: Thomas Brewster, Superintendent of Schools; Chris Stafford, Finance Director; Greg Brown, Deputy Superintendent; Ron Nichols, Director of Operations, Transportation and Maintenance; and Heather Freeman, Clerk to the School Board.

1. Welcome, Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Mr. Sheffey welcomed those in attendance. Mr. Sheffey and Mr. Barbour expressed appreciation for the opportunity for the two boards to meet jointly.

2. Dublin Elementary School Bid Results

Mr. Nichols summarized bid tabulations received on the renovation of the Dublin Elementary School (DES), noting the low bid for the base contract is \$2,549,854 from G&H Contracting. Mr. Nichols also noted that while G&H is not the low bidder for alternatives 1-8, the project was bid as a whole and individual alternatives cannot be awarded to other contractors. Further, based on Spectrum's recommendation and the fact that G&H is the low bid, regardless of the inclusion or exclusion of alternate bids, the School Board awarded the bid to G&H in order to meet the project timeline.

Mr. Nichols advised that G&H's bid for the window replacements, better quality tile, reconfiguration of the office area, bullet-resistant glass, and the removal of asbestos around the windows would add an additional \$276,200 for a total bid of \$2,826,054.

Mr. Nichols advised the total cost of the project with architectural (\$200,000) and 5% construction contingency (\$141,302) is \$3,167,357.

Mr. Huber advised the Board of Supervisors would have the option of reducing the amount to be borrowed to approximately \$3.2 million, or apply the \$232,643 difference between the anticipated and actual cost of the project to the

installation of air conditioners and window treatment at one or both middle schools (\$15,000 is already being spent for this purpose). If air conditioning is to be considered, staff recommends combining air conditioning with window treatments in order to reduce cooling and related electrical loads required to cool selected classrooms.

Board members discussed the following points related to the project: the intensive labor associated with the window replacements; the project timetable; contractor hours of work; inmate labor to be used for painting of interior at Dublin Elementary; affects on observatory operations; plans to build another walking track at DES; plans for use of funds borrowed for project, but not used; and timeframe for work on middle schools.

Mr. Sheffey inquired as to the interest rate applied to the funds borrowed. Mr. Huber offered to provide the information in the weekly update.

3. School Board Health Insurance Update and Tentative Funding Request

Mr. Barbour described the School Board's overall request related to health insurance as follows:

- \$429,026 for estimated federal ACA mandated health insurance coverage (pending open enrollment results). The estimated \$429,026 is based on a 60% overall participation rate for all employees. Current participation is 55% but 60% was conservatively applied. This amount is likely to change after open enrollment.
- \$130,369 (revised from \$218,745 due to the one-time application of consortium funds) to cover employee and employer share of 7.1% health insurance cost increase. In order to bring School Board and Board of Supervisors health insurance plans closer to each other, the School Board will need to fund a greater portion of employee premiums over a number of years.

Dr. Brewster advised that, depending upon the outcome of the school open enrollment, the numbers may be reduced.

Mr. Huber advised that although the county and schools have the same insurance, the method of funding is different. Mr. Huber also described action taken by the Board of Supervisors at their budget work session held prior to the joint boards meeting.

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Board of Supervisors and School Board members discussed the following: King vs. Burwell Supreme Court case; the potential use of federal dollars for insurance for paraprofessional positions for which federal dollars could potentially be used; concerns over the inequity of the current insurance premiums for both county and school employees; staffing at the School Board central office; statistics related to the overall state rank of students in Pulaski County; and the need to promote the quality education provided by Pulaski County schools.

Mr. Huber advised the staff recommendation was to approve \$477,395 in funding for insurance for the School Board employees.

Mr. McCready described in detail the history of the Board of Supervisors commitment to the School Board through the raising of taxes, specifically for school funding.

Discussions were held by both boards relative to the funding provided to the School Board by the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Sheffey advised that county staff would have additional information for the Board of Supervisors at its April 13, 2015 budget work session, at which time it was anticipated the Board of Supervisors would make a final decision related to funding for school insurance.

4. Other Items for Future Discussion

Mr. Barbour requested adding the following two items for discussion at the next joint Board of Supervisors/School Board meeting:

- Joint garage agreement; and
- Renovation to County Administration Building for School Board offices.

5. Next Meeting

Dr. Brewster and Mr. Huber were requested to meet and determine a timeframe for the next joint meeting and notify board members accordingly.

Dr. Brewster offered to provide the date and time for the DES groundbreaking ceremony, once a date is set.

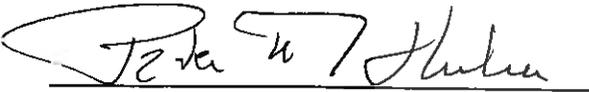
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6. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Odell, seconded by Mr. McCready and carried, the Board of Supervisors adjourned its joint meeting with the School Board. The next meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be a special meeting to be held on Monday, April 13, 2015 in the Information Technology Training Room located on Commerce Street in the Town of Pulaski.

Voting yes: Mr. McCready, Mr. O'Dell, Mr. Sheffey, Mr. Bopp, Mr. Pratt.
Voting no: None.


Peter M. Huber, County Administrator


Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman

