

MINUTES
WORK SESSION
COLQUITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Thursday, March 6, 2008
7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: The work session was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman John B. Alderman. It was duly called and advertised to discuss the Bid for Equipment and Vehicle Maintenance and the County Shop Reorganization.

PRESENT: Those present were Commissioners Luke Strong, Rebecca Whitaker, Terry Clark, Billy Herndon, Ray Saunders, Johnny Hardin, and Chairman John B. Alderman. Also present were County Administrator Jack D. Byrd, Jr., County Attorney Lester M. Castellow, and County Clerk Deborah Cox.

INVOCATION: Commissioner Hardin gave the invocation.

Chairman Alderman opened the work session by stating that the Bids for the Equipment and Vehicle Maintenance would be discussed as well as the Maintenance Shop reorganization. He further stated that the Board wanted to do what was best for the county and our employees and he would make sure that every commissioner had time to say how they feel about these issues.

Chairman Alderman turned the meeting over to Dr. Byrd to discuss the bid proposals and reorganization. Dr. Byrd presented a detailed outline of all proposals. Dr. Byrd stated that First Vehicle Services, Inc. was actually the only bid received. He followed up on the references supplied by First Vehicle and found all of them to have had very good experiences with this company. The references were from: City of Moultrie, John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital in Thomasville, Southwestern State Hospital in Thomasville, City of Thomasville, Baldwin County, Augusta-Richmond County, and Liberty County. Dr. Byrd also stated that the City of Moultrie, who contracts with First Vehicle, had received recognition as one of the top one hundred best fleets in North America, ranking number fifty-eight. Dr. Byrd presented the Board with the current shop budget, the current service costs comparison with First Vehicle with some things cut that Commissioner Herndon wanted removed, and the costs comparisons with reorganization of the shop. He stated that the two choices would be that (1) the costs would be more in the amount of \$44,802 for the county with *no improvements* or, (2) the costs would be cheaper for First Vehicle with the reorganization in the amount of \$24,386 less than the County.

Chairman Alderman then called on each Commissioner for their thoughts.

Commissioner Strong stated that sometime back, the possibility of seeking outside services had been discussed. He stated that he had not been able to attend the Board's Retreat, but Dr. Byrd had updated him on the proposals discussed. Commissioner Strong asked Dr. Byrd to get up some numbers to reorganize our present Shop and the numbers were \$24,386 less with First Vehicle Services. He questioned the \$25,000 capital outlay in equipment that was proposed to upgrade the present shop equipment. Dr. Byrd said that it would take this amount to reorganize. Chairman Alderman stated that we do not have the equipment that we need and it would take this equipment regardless if the County did it in-house or with First Vehicle.

Commissioner Whitaker expressed her concerns of the revamping of the Shop and taking on new personnel. She stated that it would be hard to find the personnel in Colquitt County to run the Shop. She further stated that the county has such a diverse group of equipment, from emergency equipment and road and bridge equipment, and having the ability to work on one piece of equipment does not mean a person can work on an ambulance. We would have to spend a good bit of money to train someone. She said that it is hard to find a qualified mechanic who specializes on a piece of equipment. This would be a challenge for Dr. Byrd to find a qualified mechanic that could work on all types of equipment that the county has. She stated that First Vehicle employees had experience on all types of equipment and it would be hard to find a qualified mechanic who met their qualifications.

Commissioner Clark stated that he had wanted to look at the numbers and that the overlay from First Vehicle showed that they were the cheapest. He thinks that they could work on the equipment faster and get things up to date.

Commissioner Herndon stated first that he wanted everyone on the Board to know that we are not going to have any hard feelings. He stated he was bothered by the figures provided by the Administrator and they went over the figures again and looked at some gas and oil figures added in. Commissioner Herndon went on his own and obtained figures from the county's vendors that the county bought oil from. He stated his figures were very different from the county's. He stated he took these figures to a CPA at his expense and came up with different numbers. He stated his problem was with the money and the contract proposed by First Vehicle and that he was looking after the people in his district. Commissioner Herndon stated that if the county contracts with an outside source, it will lose control same as the previous garbage collection service. He asked that they take a good, hard look at it. Commissioner Herndon offered for anyone who wanted, to get copies of his information and of what his CPA had found, which was about \$100,000 different from Dr. Byrd's original figures.

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Dr. Byrd stated that he respected Commissioner Herndon's opinion, but he stood by the numbers that he and Miriam Faircloth, Finance Director, who is also a CPA, had prepared. He further stated that they had all, along with Commissioner Herndon and Commissioner Strong, sat down and talked at length about the costs and made adjustments as requested by Commissioner Herndon. He further stated that he has documentation also.

Commissioner Saunders stated that he appreciated the time and effort that Dr. Byrd and Mrs. Faircloth had spent in this research and he accepted their figures and was satisfied.

Commissioner Hardin said the only thing he questioned was if the \$25,000 capital outlay would be purchased by the county or by First Vehicle. Dr. Byrd stated that the county could purchase it or First Vehicle could purchase it and charge the county an interest rate per month for financing. If we buy it, we would not have to pay a finance charge. The equipment would remain with the County if the contract was terminated.

Chairman Alderman asked if there were any more comments from the Board. He asked that everyone review the proposals and be prepared to vote on Monday, March 17, 2008.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John B. Alderman
Chairman

Deborah Cox
County Clerk

Approved:
