

October 20, 2009
Statesboro, GA

Workshop

The Board of Commissioners reconvened for a Workshop at 9:50 a.m. following the regularly scheduled meeting.

Commissioners present: Chairman Nevil, Commissioner Tankersley, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Rushing, and Commissioner Thompson.

Staff present: County Manager Thomas Couch, Clerk of the Board Maggie Fitzgerald, Chief Financial Officer Harry Starling, Planning and Zoning Development Director Andy Welch, Statesboro Bulloch County Parks and Recreation Director Mike Rollins, Transportation Director Eddie Smith, and County Engineer Kirk Tatum.

Chairman Nevil called the Workshop to order and yielded the floor to County Manager Thomas Couch for his presentation regarding the 2015 Surface Transportation Improvement Plan that is now under development by the Staff and the County's road grading schedule. Mr. Couch asked Transportation Director Eddie Smith to discuss the modifications to the road grading schedule. Mr. Smith stated that his department has four grading crews, but that he believes that could be modified to three grading crews. Mr. Smith stated that four crews allows for too much grading during the year, and that over grading the roads is causing the roads to fall apart when it rains. Mr. Smith also stated that reducing the amount of grading and grading crews will save the County money for diesel fuel and will reduce the amount of wear and tear to the motor graders. After some discussion, Chairman Nevil stated that reducing the grading crews from four to three is worth trying, and if it becomes a problem, the crews can be changed back to four.

Mr. Couch addressed the Board, and stated that the County made assumptions about the expectations of State Aid for road paving in the 2007 SPLOST that are no longer valid because of the economy. Mr. Couch presented a slide show to the Board, and discussed the following topics: (1) Bulloch County by the numbers, (2) the long-range transportation plan, (3) major accomplishments, (4) the Bulloch County 2015 Surface Transportation Improvement Program (BC-STIP), and (5) the forward issues. Mr. Couch explained that the 2015 BC-STIP will allocate approximately \$14 million dollars in local funds for the "most needed" projects. Mr. Couch discussed Fast Forward

Bulloch II, and explained the following groups of road projects: (1) Group I – Shovel Ready Dirt Roads, (2) Group II –Right-of-Way Acquisitions for Dirt Roads, (3) Group III – Southeast Quadrant Corridor Improvements, (4) Group IV – Neighborhoods First Resurfacing, (5) Group V – LARP Resurfacing Strategies, and (6) Group VI – Economic Development. Mr. Couch discussed several of the bridges that also need repairing.

Mr. Couch also explained the possibility of financing several of the shovel ready dirt roads paving projects through the Infrastructure Bank. When asked, Mr. Couch stated that only three paved roads are shovel-ready with all of the right-of-ways obtained by the County. The Board discussed the possibility of preparing the roads for paving before the funding is actually available. After some discussion from Mr. Smith and County Engineer Kirk Tatum, Mr. Couch stated that he would rather wait until funding is available before preparing the roads.

In conclusion, Mr. Couch stated that a subsequent Workshop will be held next month to further discuss road project financing. Chairman Nevil asked if there were any further comments or discussion from the Board or Staff. Hearing none and with no further business for the Workshop, Chairman Nevil called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Tankersley offered a motion to adjourn the Workshop. Commissioner Rushing seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

The Board adjourned the Workshop at 11:15 A.M.

J. Garrett Nevil, Chairman

Attest: Maggie Fitzgerald, Clerk of the Board