

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORK SESSION

July 16, 2020

6:00 P.M.

- 1. Approval of July 1, 2020 minutes**
- 2. Discuss Middle Georgia Regional SWMA Landfill Options**

July 1, 2020
Worksession

The Macon County Board of Commissioners held a worksession on Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. with Commission Chairman George, Vice-chairman Haugabook, Commissioner Felton, Commissioner Melvin, Commissioner Oliver and Acting County Manager Starling in attendance.

Vice-chairman Haugabook made the motion to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2020 meeting as presented, seconded by Commissioner Melvin and carried unanimously.

Chairman George stated he had spoken with the recruitment consultant from the Mercer Group and had been informed that after further review of various aspects of Macon County he had decided he would not be able to assist in the recruitment process and withdrew his proposal. Chairman George stated the Board either needs to work on updating the County Manager Ordinance or possibly restructuring the Commissioner's Office. Chairman George stated they could restructure the Commissioner's office and have an Administrator who would oversee daily operations and handle public complaints and a Project Manager who would oversee all projects and operations of other departments. Chairman George stated he had contacted Bill Toomey with ACCG and they would provide assistance in the restructuring of the Commissioner's Office. It was the consensus of the Board that Chairman George contact ACCG about providing guidance in this process.

Chairman George stated the Board needs to decide if they are going to pursue the East Ferry Road project. The county would have to purchase land to construct a new road and the State would construct a new boat ramp. A boat ramp and maintenance lease agreement would have to signed with the State and the county would have to maintain the new road. Chairman George stated Jeff Bishop with DNR had stated they prefer the road to the boat ramp to be an all-weather road. Lance Wood, Engineer with Ocmulgee Engineering, stated if the Board did an all-weather road it would cost approximately \$40,000 less. Lance Woods stated he would be meeting with Richard Stafford next week about the land needed for this project. Lance stated after he talks with Mr. Stafford, he will have a survey done and will know the exact amount of acreage needed and the county can then pursue purchasing the land. Once the land is purchased and submitted to DNR they will put the East Ferry Road boat ramp in their project list for funding. This item to be placed on regular meeting agenda.

Acting County Manager Starling stated the county had received notification that they had been awarded a \$500,000 GTIB grant from SRTA for Phase II Old Perry Road Improvements Project. The original grant total was \$1,300,000 which included 1 mile of widening and resurfacing of Old Perry Road in the city limits of Marshallville - \$225,000 and 2.1 miles of paving in the unincorporated area \$900,000 and \$175,000 for engineering, right-of-way, construction contingency. With the funding reduction from GTIB of \$250,000 the county must change the scope of work in the grant or either come up with the additional funds needed for the project. Commissioner Felton stated he would call Mayor Davis about the funding cut and see how they want to proceed. Chairman George stated he did not see the final version of the grant application and was not aware that the county was providing funding for a road in the City of Marshallville. Chairman George stated in order to proceed with the project and include the City of Marshallville the county could possibly pay the city portion out of the county TSPLOST and enter into a loan agreement with the city that they could pay it back. Chairman George asked the Acting County Manager to contact the county attorney for an opinion on this loan. This item to be placed on regular meeting agenda.

Acting County Manager Starling stated that the Tax Assessors had sent a contract from Qpublic over to be signed for the parcel maintenance in the amount of \$3,420.00 and had requested the Chairman sign the contract. The additional funds of \$3,420 were added to the FY2021 budget for the parcel maintenance for one year but the contract covers a two-year period and has a proposal expiration date of June 30, 2020. A new proposal for a one-year period was requested with an extended proposal date. Chairman George stated River Valley Regional

Commission usually does the parcel maintenance and he had not heard any complaints about their service and did not know why the Tax Assessors were changing. This item to be placed on the regular meeting agenda.

Acting County Manager Starling explained why the group health insurance plan was changed from Anthem Essential Blue Open access 2500/20%/7900KE - \$862.59 per employee to Anthem Blue Open Access POS OAP5 3500/30%/7,900 KE - \$876.02 per employee. When reviewing the summary of coverage it was discovered that the new plan proposed by Keith Holmes , Representative from Mutual Financial, had more differences than (80/20 to 70/30 and the prescription drug deductible from \$200 to \$500) it also has a \$500 deductible for each hospital stay, MRI, Outpatient surgery and does not have any coverage for therapy. Acting County Manager Starling had contacted Ben Piterelli with ACCG about the differences in the plans and asked for assistance in choosing a plan that is similar to the current plan. Mr Piterelli suggested a plan that has a \$3,500 deductible, 70/30 co-insurance, same prescription drug coverage and the cost is approximately \$13,000 higher than the other plan but has more coverage. Chairman George noted that the Board needs to review the insurance brokers in February. This item to be placed on regular meeting agenda.

Chairman George asked the Board if they felt comfortable having a face-to-face meeting on July 7th. The Board agreed as long as temperature checks are done, face masks are worn, and social distancing is observed. Chairman George stated the Board would start having face-to-face meetings.

MEMO

Date: July 9, 2020

To: Mr. Richmond Felton, Chairman
Middle Georgia Regional Solid Waste Management Authority

From: Kent McCormick, PE

RE: Recommendations for the
Middle GA Regional Landfill
Permit No. 094-009D(MSWL)
TPE Proj. # MGR 0522-20

The landfill received a Notice of Violation Letter from the West Central District office of the Georgia EPD dated March 16, 2020. The current operations at the Construction/Demolition Landfill at the above referenced site do not meet the requirements of the design and operational plan. The Middle Georgia Regional Solid Waste Management Authority (SWMA) has already responded to some of the comments already. The remaining comments will be addressed by a third-party contractor. Triple Point Engineering (TPE) is preparing plans and specifications to address these items. TPE has scheduled a meeting with the Land Protection Branch on July 15 to get clarification on current permits and requirements before finalizing the plans and specifications for the landfill repairs.

The waste flow rate over the last 12 months has decreased from 13,447 tons per year to 9,773 per year, representing a year over year decrease of 27%. The facility's income has also been reduced while expenses have increase due to the following:

1. The required preparation and submittal of the 5-year plan update by HHNT
2. Addressing landfill operation violations as documented by EPD
3. Other expenses? (e.g. equipment purchase, maintenance, etc.)

In short, income is down sharply, and the expenses are up sharply. This is not a sustainable financial condition.

In my opinion there are three basic potential options available to the SWMA. They are as follows:

1. Cease taking waste (2 options)

The probable estimated closure construction cost for the area that has received waste is \$500,000.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * requires the operations to be monitored more closely * requires the construction/excavation of an additional trench
3 Sell Landfill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The most financially beneficial. Recover permitting costs and sell at a profit. * Would provide an income stream to Macon County (& SWMA????) via host fee * Likely eliminate future expenses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Private operator will likely want to expand landfill. * Permitted capacity may or may not be marketable.

After reviewing the current landfill operations and considering the 3 options above, TPE recommends that the SWMA pursue Option 1b. TPE believes that that Option 1b provides the time and flexibility to pursue the sale of the landfill while limiting expenses to a more acceptable level. If the SWMA does not desire to pursue a sale, and a decision could be made within the next 30 days, then the closure construction could be included as a part of the landfill repair planning and construction process.