GREENE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

NOVEMBER 15, 2022 CALLED MEETING

Call to Order: Chairman Usry led the invocation and called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Commissioners Deering, Smith, Lindsey, Filice, and Chairman Usry were present. Also present was County Manager Byron Lombard.

Consideration of a TEFRA Resolution: The Board received background information that the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act (TEFRA) requires that before tax-exempt bonds are issued, there is a process whereby a hearing is held to receive comment from interested parties. A hearing was held on November 15, 2022. The Resolution confirms that a hearing was held and other items, including that the project is located in Greene County. The Resolution also states that the approval by the Board of Commissioners shall not result in or impose any indebtedness upon, or constitute a lien upon, the property of or a claim against the County. Attorney Dick Schmidt spoke as a representative of the project and advised that the bonds were for improvements to the Hospital but also part of a larger nationwide project. Commissioner Filice motioned to adopt Resolution Number 2022.11.15(a) representing approval of the Greene County Board of Commissioners with respect to the issuance of certain revenue bonds by the Michigan Finance Authority for the benefit of Trinity Health Corporation and its affiliate, St. Mary's Health Care System, Inc., and to waive the reading of the resolution. Commissioner Deering seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of a Resolution Seeking an Amendment to Local Legislation – Board of Elections & Registration: The Board received public comment from Bob Lofgren, Mark Shulz, Steve Broadbent, Annie Grant, Kathryn Harris and Melanie Miller. All the speakers spoke against the proposed amendment to local legislation governing the Board of Elections and Registration (BOER), expressing various opinions and encouraging the Board of Commissioners to not change the BOER representation. Chairman Usry then advised the audience that the Board of Commissioners wasn't voting on the item. Commissioner Filice inquired as to what other Counties have done, and Chairman Usry encouraged the Commissioners to reach out to all interested parties and other Counties for background and research. There was additional discussion amongst the Board about the current BOER makeup and when the Board may take up the item for further consideration. No official action was taken.

Consideration of Budget Adjustments – Audit Purposes: The Board received background information that a list of budget adjustments was compiled in preparation for the annual audit. These adjustments were identified by the Finance Office to address adjustments to maintain compliance with State requirements. Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the necessary budget adjustments for the 2022 Fiscal Year as detailed on the submitted budget amendment forms. Commissioner Lindsey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Request for an Associate Probate Judge Position: The Board received background information that the Probate Judge would like to create the position of Associate Probate Judge. Unlike the Chief Clerk, an Associate Probate Judge would have total legal authority to assume the duties of the Probate Judge in the absence of the elected Probate Judge. After some general discussion, the Board's consensus was to wait and consider the position and its related funding in the FY2024 budget cycle, noting that the position wasn't mentioned in the FY2023 budget submission and there were no funds for the position included in the approved budget. No official action was taken.

Discussion on the Athens Tech Facility: The Board received background information that the lease between Greene County and the Technical College System of Georgia for the Athens Tech facility located in Greensboro is set to expire on June 30th, 2023. Additionally, the Intergovernmental Agreement between the County and the Development Authority also expires. After some discussion, it was the general consensus of the Board to let both expire and to advise the affected parties that the County would not be pursuing renewals of the lease and agreement. No official action was taken.

Discussion on TSPLOST Projects: The Board received background information that the Airport Capital Improvement Program will encumber some funding but that there are two immediate capital needs identified for Public Works. Commissioner Deering motioned to approve the purchase of an excavator mulching head using TSPLOST funds totaling $30,100.00, and to approve the construction of an equipment shelter at Public Works using SPLOST funding. Commissioner Lindsey seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Smith also commented about the T-hangar project at the Airport, and County Manager Lombard advised that the County would build them, own them, and lease them in cooperation with its operator of the Airport. General discussion ensued as to the projects identified on the Capital Improvement Program document.

Discussion on the Solid Waste Contract: The Board received background information that the solid waste contract expires early next year and that County staff needs direction on whether to re-bid the service or renegotiate certain provisions and extend the current contract. County Manager Lombard detailed the efforts of staff to address recurring issues and add some contract provisions should the Board decide to renegotiate and extend the contract. After some discussion about service issues, it was the general consensus of the Board to extend the current contract. No official action was taken.

Consideration of a Request for Funding from the Georgia Hi-Lo Trail: The Board received background information that a request for funding from the Georgia Hi-Lo Trail, Inc. was received asking for funding to study the idea of a bike and pedestrian trail project that extends from Athens all the way to Savannah. Given that the County hasn't had a chance to evaluate the effectiveness of the similar Firefly Trail currently under construction, it was the general consensus of the Board to deny the Georgia Hi-Lo Trail Inc. request and re-evaluate the project at a later date.

Adjournment: Chairman Usry adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Sylvia V. Hill, County Clerk

The above minutes were adopted and approved this day 13th day of December, 2022.

Gary Usry, Chairman	Jeffery L. Smith, Vice-Chairman
Angela Walker Deering, Commissioner	Dee Lindsey, Commissioner
Ernie Filice, Commissioner	