

ESPLOST COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE – MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Date: November 9, 2021 8:30 am in HT Edwards, Heritage Conference Room and by virtual attendance.

Attendees: Alex Sams Nancy Hart Rick Parker Andrew Malec Erwin Greene
Tad MacMillan Greg Davis Patricia Yager Allison Wright Niki Jones
Linda Davis Xernona Thomas Dexter Fisher John Gilbreath Troy Basset
Gerald Arscott

Staff Reports: Copies of the following were distributed prior to the meeting:

- October, 2021 Meeting Summary
- November, 2021 SPLOST Monthly Report
- November, 2021 SPLOST Contingency/Change Order Report
- November, 2021 Construction Schedule
- September, 2021, 2020 SPLOST 5 Financials
- September, 2021 SPLOST 5 Budget Projections
- September, 2021 SPLOST 5 Revenue Monthly Trend

Niki Jones, Assistant Manager, Athens-Clarke County was introduced.

ESPLOST 6: The result of the vote on November 2 was noted. The “Yes” vote was nearly 80% which showed strong support for the ESPLOST program. Andrew Malec was thanked for the lead he had taken in promoting the vote. Collections for ESPLOST 6 commence in July, 2022.

West Broad Campus – Work is continuing on developing temporary facilities for Early Learning in order to qualify for the grant. This is now likely to be Old Gaines, where 16 classrooms would be used. There are advantages in terms of administration and school nutrition to being in one location. Currently sanitary plumbing is being surveyed and plans are being made to obtain bids for the required work. It is anticipated that they would be located at Old Gaines for at least two years.

Proposals for West Broad have been reviewed and the optimal solution for Early Learning use is the two building option – retain and restore the Minor Street building and create a new building. The 3 building option has been reviewed which is a smaller new facility, renovating Minor street and Campbell Street building requires a redesigned site plan for parking, vehicle access and playgrounds and reduces the program capacity to 100 students.

Board HQ: Work is progressing well. Installation of the elevator has commenced this week and is estimated to take three weeks. This is one of the most time critical items together with some rooftop air equipment which is also expected this week. There is an issue with the fire line check valve which needs replacement and this two-day job will be done at the end of November. There is a potential delay on some interior office doors. The gym is included in the work and having lighting upgraded. This will be used for school registration and will be available for community use. The plan is for moves into the building to commence on December 18 and be completed by the holiday. John Gilbreath will check out a date when COC members would be free to visit.

Clarke Middle School: The school has now indicated their preferred scheme and the architect is working on developing this scheme. Scheduling is a major issue with the need to carry out the work in phases and to fit temporary classroom trailers into the scheme. Consideration also has to be given to the availability of key items,

which could delay the construction. A presentation is being planned for the Board and COC. A further meeting of the Local Building Committee will be planned for after the holidays.

School C/Easom: Enrollment numbers continue to be monitored. The October figures, published by the Department of Education show elementary student numbers down, middle school numbers about the same and high school numbers higher. There is nothing to indicate the need for a new school at this time. The School C land swap proposal was dismissed following a risk assessment survey indicated that the swap site would not be acceptable for a school. However, a different offer has now been received which is being reviewed.

Cedar Shoals Field-House: The school has indicated their preferred design and the architect is developing this further. A site survey is almost complete, which will be the basis for likely additional stormwater requirements. This is a stand-alone project, separate from the ESPLOST 6 plan to renovate the school.

Early Learning Center Kitchen Extension: Work is in progress. Plumbing rough-ins are done. The slab is ready. There are supply issues for some items.

HT Edwards Culinary Kitchen: The Early Learning kitchen is being extended so that they can be self-sufficient, rather than having food delivered from HT Edwards. The HT Edwards kitchen will then be converted to a culinary kitchen training facility. Staff recently visited the Hall County Career Academy. They have streams for hospitality, culinary, welding, HVAC/Electrical. They work in close collaboration with Lanier Technical College. Their culinary facility serves meals to the public and trains students in all aspects of cooking and serving. Work is continuing to identify the requirements for the HT Edwards culinary facility.

Facilities Review: The five-year facilities plan has been agreed. The ESPLOST 6 Tier 1 projects will be the priority. Some systems renewal and other upgrade work will be programmed as necessary. Currently there is a need to replace the fire alarm system at Chase Elementary School due to the inability to obtain essential components for the current system. Facilities parking lot pavement is also being examined to determine any need for re-paving, which would be a summer job. School air systems have all had ionization units installed in the air handlers (but not a SPLOST project).

Transportation & Technology: Delivery of four propane powered buses, partially funded by ESPLOST 5, is awaited. Technology is primarily completion of infra-structure work. The remaining funds will be used for the purchase of replacement devices for summer, 2022.

COC Membership: Alex Sams encouraged COC members to seek out other candidates to join the Committee.

Communication between the COC and BOE: Alex Sams had met with Linda Davis and has one set with Dr. Gantt. The presence of Linda Davis at the meeting today is an indication of how communication can be improved. Other Board Members will be encouraged to attend, particularly as Dr. Yager will be absent for several months. COC meeting summaries are on the agenda at every BOE work session. The BOE staff reports are the same as those given to the COC.

Sales Tax Revenue: The September collections, received at the end of October were figure was \$2.74m, the highest figure ever.

Future Meetings

Future meetings are scheduled for:

December 14, 2021

January 11, 2022

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 am.