

## E-SPLOST COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE – MEETING SUMMARY

**Meeting Date:** April 14, 2020 8:30 am by teleconference.

**Attendees:** Alex Sams            Mike Waldrip            Rick Parker            Andrew Malec  
Lara Mathes            Greg Davis            Patricia Yager            Allison Wright  
Dexter Fisher            John Gilbreath            Troy Bassett            Gerald Arscott

**Staff Reports:** Copies of the following were distributed:

- March, 2020 Meeting Summary
- April, 2020 SPLOST Monthly Report
- April, 2020 SPLOST Contingency/Change Order Report
- April, 2020 Construction Schedule
- February, 2020 SPLOST 5 Revenue Monthly Trend
- February, 2020 SPLOST 5 Financials
- February, 2020 SPLOST 5 Budget Projections

**Hilsman:** The crosswalk is now fully installed. The only outstanding item is for the county to approve the as-built storm water drawings.

**Cedar Shoals Gym/Locker/Wrestling Room Renovations:** The only outstanding item is the installation of rubber floor tiles in the Varsity Locker Room. Quotes are being obtained.

**High School Stadiums:** At their meeting on April 9 the BOE approved an 8 lane track and artificial turf field at Clarke Central and a six lane track at Cedar Shoals. The contracts were awarded to Sports Turf Company. The overall cost is \$6m (\$5.1m Clarke Central; \$.9m Cedar Shoals). The budget allocation was \$4m and the additional \$2m is funded by revenues which have been higher than anticipated. Contracts and time schedules are being finalized and it is anticipated that work will commence shortly. The Cedar Shoals Field House was not part of this vote, the priority being to obtain approval for the work that has to be completed over the summer. The Field House may be considered depending on revenues for the remainder of E-SPLOST 5 and/or become a project in E-SPLOST 6. The school is aware of the position. Concern was expressed at the apparent preference being shown to Clarke Central however the 8 lane track will be beneficial for the entire District and community.

**Clarke Middle School:** Feedback thus far appears to show a preference for new build, rather than renovation. The architect will review the cost of renovation vs new build. Consultation with the school and parents will continue with the objective of having a scheme ready to start in E-SPLOST 6.

**West Broad Campus:** Following the town hall meetings, the architect has prepared nine schemes for the site which are ready to be discussed at a further town hall meeting. This is delayed due to the pandemic restrictions. It was noted that there is no scheme that can meet all the expectations, due to the limitations of the site. Additionally some expectations (e.g. community center) cannot be funded by the school district. Dexter Fisher explained that in order to be open and transparent he did not wish to form a local committee, but continue with the town hall approach. COC members felt that a committee would help to create ownership, consistency and continuity for the project, and that would not preclude wider town hall type meetings.

It was noted that design work on the Minor Street building could proceed and that would provide a “good news” story.

Consultation will proceed as soon as the pandemic restrictions are lifted. The expectation is that after two or three further meetings a recommendation will be made to the BOE.

**School C:** Student enrollment numbers for that area are being monitored closely, and this will determine if and when this project proceeds. Offers for the site are not being entertained. The school district view is that this is a good site and offered alternatives have been less favorable. There are design challenges in the area such as underground gas pipes and other utility issues.

**Manufacturing Lab:** Four bids were received. The top two were interviewed and on April 9 the BOE awarded the contract to Grahl Construction. Grahl did the work on the Cosmetology Lab, so are familiar with the building. Contracts are being finalized and a start will be made shortly. Work is to be completed by August 1. Experience from visits to similar facilities in other school districts have been fed in to the design requirements.

**Facilities Review:** The key elements are student enrollment numbers, the condition of buildings and revenues available. These will all feed in to the planning for E-SPLOST 6. In the short term the uncertainty re E-SPLOST revenues means no further projects will commence.

**Transportation & Technology:** Five buses are on order for delivery this summer. Three of these are propane powered. Technology expenditure entails replacement of student devices on a programmed replacement basis and upgrades of the infra-structure. The Director of Infrastructure Support Services is reviewing the devices/equipment renewal schedule in the light of likely reduced revenues.

**COC Membership:** Alex Sams indicated that there was a continuing need to add further members in order to ensure that there was a good representation at every meeting. He encouraged everyone to bring forward names of those who may be appropriate.

**Sales Tax Revenue:** The January figure was \$1.99m, and the February figure \$1.96m. These figures are consistent with the experience in previous years. Gerald Arscott will circulate the March figure as soon as it becomes available at the end of April. There are sufficient funds in the bank to meet current obligations, including a bond principal payment and interest of \$12.8m in September, 2020. The future program will be dependent on the revenues going forward, with priority being given to providing for future bond payments.

#### **Future Meetings**

May 12, 2020

June 9, 2020

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55am.