

## E-SPLOST COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE – MEETING SUMMARY

**Meeting Date:** October 13, 2020 8:30 am by teleconference.

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

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

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

**Hilsman:** The County has issued the permanent certificate of occupation. A completion report will now be made to the next BOE.

**Manufacturing Lab:** The SPLOST work is complete. Orders have been placed for the welding equipment (approx. \$45k), which will be reimbursed by the Athens Community Foundation. Further orders are about to be placed for minor items such as benches, shelving etc.

**Public Safety Radio:** This project is required to bring certain buildings up to date as a result of a change in the fire code. The buildings where work is required are BHL, Coile, Oglethorpe and Hilsman. It ensures radio coverage within the building for public safety staff. The equipment has been ordered by the vendor and work will begin shortly with a view being completed by December 31.

**Clarke Central Track/Field:** A drone video was shown to the Committee. Work on the field is complete. The track has the asphalt base laid; the final surface will be laid dependent upon the football program and weather. Work on the concession building is in progress. John Gilbreath explained that the “filler” on the field is wood, not rubber. This gives a substantially cooler surface. The trees that were removed for the project were mulched to provide some of the field filler. Recent heavy rain was a good test of the field drainage and there were no issues.

**Cedar Shoals Track:** A drone video was shown to the Committee. The track has the asphalt base laid; the final surface will be laid dependent upon the football program and weather.

**Board HQ:** An interior space survey of the buildings has been completed and we are waiting on the final drawings. This will enable space planning to take place. A site survey is also required. The latest news is that Piedmont will not move out until the end of March, which reduces the time available to make renovations and for moves to take place next summer. The necessary renovations have not yet been specified, but are likely to be \$3-5m over the next five years. It is proposed to purchase the building in March, thereby saving the lease charge of \$50,000 per month. There are three houses on the property, two of which could be made available for sale. The third is in the center of the site and could not be separately sold.

**Clarke Middle School:** A meeting with the Local Building Committee is set for Tuesday, October 20 at 5:30pm. The Principal is yet to decide whether it will be virtual or in person. Andrew Malec is the COC representative, but any COC member is welcome to attend as an observer. This meeting will consider renovation and expansion vs new build and the style of a new building. The architect’s initial assessment indicates that new build is the most cost effective solution. A new building would be constructed with the school operating, which reduces the scope for use of the site. It is anticipated that a new building will be towards the back of the site, similar to Oglethorpe. Concern was expressed that this could potentially encroach on a burial site and that an archaeological assessment would be warranted to avoid potential problems. There was also concern that if a building was too

far back it would not be visible from Baxter Street. John Gilbreath explained that these are all issues that the architect will take into account.

**West Broad Campus:** The Superintendent and Dexter Fisher are in the process of finalizing the Local Building Committee (LBC). The District has assessed the priority needs and will come forward with proposals for early learning or a facility for high school students. The Superintendent has stressed that the facility should provide for the educational priorities of the District. An early learning facility would not be available for use by the community, due to furniture etc. being small, whereas a facility for higher education would be available similar to how the District's schools are utilized after hours. There would be approximately 80 students on the site. There would be external play space and equipment which the community could use. The next stage will be for a LBC meeting to be set.

**School C:** Student enrollment numbers for that area are being monitored. Recent information indicates a drop in student numbers, especially for elementary schools. If this project proceeds it would be an E-SPLOST6. Construction of School "C" will require rezoning of several Elementary schools on the West side of town.

**Facilities Review:** E-SPLOST 6 planning meetings will be held over the next 6 months with every school to determine their schools needs/wishes. The outcomes from these meetings will be merged with the physical buildings reviews (age of plant, maintenance issues etc.) to determine the E-SPLOST 6 program. This will also feed into the DOE 5 year facility plan. This will need to be ready for approval by the Board in spring 2021, ready for the E-SPLOST referendum in November 2021. Based on building assessment needs and facility age the priorities would be Cedar Shoals, Gaines, Alps and schools with trailers.

**Transportation & Technology:** All new 2020 buses on order have been delivered. All iPads have also been received, but an order for approximately 1000 Chromebooks for Grade 2 is on back-order. There are still reports of connectivity problems for some students and these are being addressed as they arise. Any reports should be referred to Dexter Fisher or Taylor Duke.

**COC Membership:** The person put forward by Lara Mathes at the last meeting is considering the implications of not being able to bid for any school district work while she is a member. Alec Sams referred to a recent Clarke Central graduate who could be a helpful member, but it was felt that the fact that he would be moving away in six months meant that he would not have sufficient time to make an informed contribution. Nevertheless, there was support for considering younger members, especially CCSD graduates. It was agreed that Allison Wright should make the opportunity known to the Mayor's youth group.

**Sales Tax Revenue:** The August figure was \$3.23m, which included a special item of \$1.05 as the result of an audit. The final capital outlay payment of \$234k from the GA DOE for Coile has also been received

#### **Future Meetings**

\*November 17, 2020- date changed due to the start of school on November 9, 2020.

December 9, 2020

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10am.