

## E-SPLOST COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE – MEETING SUMMARY

**Meeting Date:** March 17, 2020 8:30 am by teleconference.

**Attendees:** Alex Sams            Mike Waldrip        Rick Parker            Nancy Hart            Andrew Malec  
Lara Mathes            John Gilbreath        Troy Bassett            Gerald Arscott

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

- February, 2020 Meeting Summary
- March, 2020 SPLOST Monthly Report
- March, 2020 SPLOST Contingency/Change Order Report
- March, 2020 Construction Schedule
- January, 2019 SPLOST 5 Revenue Monthly Trend
- January, 2019 SPLOST 5 Financials
- January, 2019 SPLOST 5 Budget Projections

**Hilsman:** The only outstanding items are some matters relating to the retention pond and the striping of the crosswalk, which requires several dry days to complete.

**Cedar Shoals Gym/Locker/Wrestling Room Renovations:** Remaining work consists of revisions to the fire alarm system and installation of rubber floor tiles in the Varsity Locker Room.

**High School Stadiums:** As a result of the Artificial Turf Field and Track presentation at a board work session, the board requested additional pricing for an eight lane track at Clarke Central, pricing for the Field House and utilities required for a future artificial turf field at Cedar Shoals. These are currently being compiled and will be presented at the Board Work Session in April if not sooner. These costs will be substantially more than the budgeted \$4m, so the Board will need to prioritize the work if not fully funded. Timing is critical for getting the field work completed this summer before school starts in August. If there is no school for the remainder of the year this may allow an earlier start of this work.

**Clarke Middle School:** The survey of parents, including those at the feeder schools is in progress. The next step is to conduct a facility and site analysis to determine if the project is a renovation or a new build.

**West Broad Campus:** The architect is preparing Facility and Site options for the third community meeting. These are based on the design charrette exercise that was conducted at the second community meeting. The architect is working to fit all the facility and site programming requirements on the West Broad Campus. The challenge is not only the building itself but the need to accommodate the underground water retention requirements, parking, drop off areas for cars and buses, playground space for the children and ADA accessibility to the Minor Street building.

Design solutions for the West Broad Campus will be presented to the Board soon with various options. District wide strategic planning needs to address Elementary and Early Learning needs. If an Early Learning Center is determined to not be viable for the West Broad Campus, others sites such as Old Gaines and School zone “C” need to be considered.

John Gilbreath spoke in regards to all the competing “requests” for the West Broad Campus (Early Learning Center, Historic preservation and a Community Center) and that it may be impossible to satisfy all parties. Concern was expressed that there would be critical community reaction if the proposed Early Learning Center did not proceed and it would be best if that conclusion could be reached by the community representatives. Concern was also expressed that there is no real local committee for this project. Therefore, people who expressed strong views at one meeting were not present at the next, so there was been no consistent community representation. John Gilbreath will coordinate with Dexter Fisher to establish a local community committee as soon as possible. The COC representative on the committee is Lara Mathes, but other COC members are welcome to attend.

There was also concern that the overall project was delaying work on the historic Minor Street building, which is deteriorating and in need of remedial work.

It was agreed that the opportunity would be provided (possibly following the next meeting) for the COC to walk the site to better understand the challenges.

**School C:** Offers have been received to purchase the school C site or to exchange other property for it. None of these proposals have been deemed viable after review of the alternate sites. Alex Sams stressed that, although some of that real estate activity came from his office, he has had no involvement in any such proposals. With the increasing number of building permits and housing units being issued in that area it is possible that school C will need to be included in E-SPLOST 6. Student numbers are being closely monitored.

**Manufacturing Lab:** Bids are due to be received on March 25. A pre-bid meeting was held with contractors last week. A recommendation will be made at the April Board meeting with the intention to commence work in May.

**Facilities Review:** Recent student numbers, particularly at Elementary levels, have shown a decrease in numbers. However, there has been a marked increase in building permits issued by ACC over the last two years. The implications of this are being monitored and there is the distinct possibility that School C will be required, which also implies some re-zoning.

**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.

**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 December figure was \$2.38m and January \$1.99m. The lower January figure is consistent with the experience in previous years. Consideration also needs to be given to the likely downturn in ESPLOST revenues and how that may curtail the program going forward.

There was discussion on the possible impact of the corona-virus on revenue. It was felt that there was likely to be a marked reduction in revenues, starting with the March figure. The amount for a month is not known until the end of the following month, so the March figure will not be known until 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.

#### **Future Meetings**

April 14, 2020

May 12, 2020

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50am.