



FLOYD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Joint Meeting of the Floyd County Board of Commissioners
& the Floyd County Board of Education
February 1, 2024

Rome-Floyd Fire Education Room
409 E 12th Street 11:00 a.m.

PRESENT: ALLISON WATTERS, LARRY MAXEY, RHONDA WALLACE, WRIGHT BAGBY, AND SCOTTY HANCOCK; BOARD OF EDUCATION: MELINDA STRICKLAND, CHIP HOOD, JAY SHELL, SUPERINTENDENT GLENN WHITE, DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF OPERATIONS JAMEY ALCORN; COUNTY MANAGER JAMIE MCCORD, COUNTY CLERK ERIN ELROD, COUNTY ATTORNEY VIRGINIA HARMAN; SUSIE GASS, BRUCE IVEY, JOHN BLALOCK, MARK WALLACE, CARL LIVELY, RON HUNTON, AMY DAWKINS, ADAM CAREY

I. Call to Order

Chair Watters called the meeting to order.

II. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Watters led the Commission in the invocation and pledge of allegiance.

III. Discussion

Mr. McCord gave updates on the Glenwood location, stating it would open next week for bids. He stated not a lot of demolition would be involved, just adding walls and a training facility.

He stated a space needs architect would be working on the law enforcement center next week; adding that tax and tag office would be located on the first floor, with Juvenile Court beside 911, and Probate and Magistrate Courts on third floor. He stated renovation will begin to the historic courthouse once tax and tag offices have moved.

Mr. McCord stated he wants to make sure pathways are open for the Agriculture Center and College & Career Academy with county schools. He stated the Ag center is in the early architectural stages and hopes to have a draft plan by February.

Mr. McCord stated the new SPLOST will start collecting in April. He stated Park Avenue and Mango Road are the biggest projects for the school system. He stated there will be intersection improvements at Mango, right-of-way purchase, and the remainder will be improved with surface treatment and widening. He stated the culvert at the intersection with signal installation will be the bigger issue.

Mr. McCord mentioned the addition of two school resource officers, now totaling 10. He stated legislation is being proposed about cameras at intersections, restricting hours to morning and afternoon. He stated funds go towards school resources. Mr. White thanked the County officials for the soccer fields across from Armuchee. Mr. Shell stated he wished everyone could see how well everyone works together. He thanked Ryan and Blake for all the help with getting HVAC going at the Forum.

Dr. White stated they have about 8,900 students in County schools, with growth in the Model district. He stated the College & Career Academy is flourishing, looking to draw more kids into the program to expand. He stated they are working with the new battery plant to help employees with their industry. Chair Watters asked that they pay attention to public safety by encouraging young people who want to take that pathway. Chief Wallace stated they currently have something in place for those wanting to start a career in law enforcement. He stated they can be hired at 18 years of age in 911 and gain experience, then be hired at 21 years of age for the Police department. Dr. White stated they have over 1,000 out of district students, but the Rome High band is a big draw. He stated they are investing in all 4 programs in county schools, and we are investing in our bands.

Chair Watters discussed citizens being confused about the timing of SPLOST projects. She stated we have a policy of raising money then spending it; instead of borrowing it. She stated 2017 projects didn't collect until 2019, and that projects aren't late, we just choose not to borrow the money.

Commissioner Hancock asked for a timeline on Mango Road, and where it falls in priority, as it needs to be a priority. Commissioner Wallace stated if we don't bond, within a year to two years price will go up. Mr. Hood asked if it was a possibility to loan them the money for the project. Mr. Blalock stated accident reports have their own formulas to determine and evaluate. He stated he is not sure how much public outcry influences those decisions.

Mr. McCord stated most people that complain about the millage rate come to our meetings. Chair Watters stated it would help to produce the tax bill jointly. She stated Athens-Clarke County sends out an informational mailing. Commissioner Bagby stated these should be sent out with assessments. He stated we are graded on the previous year, and we use 2023 data for 2024 digest. Chair Watters stated our legislators have heard from us.

Ms. Harman stated the latest debate on the school zone cameras is 60 minutes before and 30 minutes after school opening; then 30 minutes before and 30 minutes after the end of day.

Mr. McCord added we are still desperately looking for a better location for our joint records facility. He stated the County has taken over 65% volume and 70% of movement, so we have adjusted what we pay. He stated the last quote to renovate was around \$400,000 a couple of years ago. He added that Greg is doing a great job, and Terrilyne is in line to take that position when he retires.

IV. Other Business

V. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by common consent.
The Board of Education adjourned as well.