

WORKSHOP

Anderson Columbia-Bridges and Roads Dixie County School Board Meeting Room March 04, 2021 – 1:30 PM

While adhering to the CDC Guidelines and following State of Florida Executive Orders: 20-51 Establishing Response Protocol, 20-52 declaring a Public Health Emergency, 20-69 regarding Local Government Public Meetings and the Dixie County Emergency Declaration 2020-27. The Board will meet and limit access by staff and the public to the meeting room. The Board meetings are audio recorded. The public can hear and participate in the meeting via conference call by dialing 1(917)900-1022 and enter code 32628.

COMMISSIONERS

Jody Stephenson
Mark Hatch, Chairman
W. C. Mills
James Valentine
Jamie Storey, Vice Chairman

STAFF

Duane Cannon, County Manager
Michael Osteen, County Attorney
Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk of Court
Jacki Johnson, Chief Financial Officer
Della Rhymes, Asst. Chief Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

The Board meeting was called to order at 1:33 PM by Commissioner Hatch.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

The Invocation was led by Commissioner Valentine and the Pledge to the American Flag was led by Commissioner Mills.

Mr. Walter Edwards from Anderson Columbia spoke to the Board. He said he is the VP over the bridge division. He said the Board had previously asked for a price on the Shired Island Road and the Jena temporary bridge. He said they would build a bridge and a road and then tear out the old material and use the right of way to realign the road. He said FDOT has temporary bridges, but they own the structures and you must ask permission to use and borrow the temporary structure. They provide the material and there is added cost.

Commissioner Mills asked if on a short span they need pilings or can do a free span.
Mr. Kevin Lamar from Anderson Columbia replied you can do this up to 40 feet.

Mr. Walter Edwards said the Design Build versus the other types of bridge construction is more cost effective. He said we can discuss the pros and cons and tell you what the county is responsible for. He said the main thing is that the design build process is faster to do. He said that large scale projects require an environmental development study. The condition and age of the structure is assessed.

Commissioner Hatch said he had a conference call with FDOT, and they estimate the time to take 15 months for construction.

County Manager Duane Cannon agreed. They said 15 to 18 months for the design build and other can take up to 24 months to do.

Mr. Walter Edwards spoke to the Board about doing a box culvert in Jena.

Mr. Kevin Lamar spoke about the large bridge at Shired Creek. He said that engineering estimated the cost to be \$1.3 million for the design estimate from FDOT. He said the cost would be \$534,000.00 for the smaller one.

Mr. Walter Edwards said the PDE Study is a Federal mandated study. He said that when a government adds or reconstructs a project, endangered species may be affected. He said they will determine if this is a necessary project and which is the least resistant path.

He said they know what kind of structure will be most efficient and will not impact the area and be cost efficient. He said there are not many choices for a two-lane road and a bridge.

He said that most jobs have been at 60 percent plan set and then the project ran out of money in that fiscal year, so it sat on the shelf for later. He said the design build shortens the timeline and is less expensive.

Commissioner Hatch asked about their last presentation when they spoke of delays for foundation issues which added more to the cost. He asked if the difference would fall back on the county and what is the savings between the two bridges.

Mr. Lamar said that the risk falls on the contractor and the design build team.

Commissioner Stephenson asked if there are no change orders with a design build.

Commissioner Hatch asked for an explanation of the process.

Manager Cannon explained that FDOT gives the Board the project with an agreement to fund from the State. Then the Board picks the engineer to do the design. Then the Engineer will do the design and turn into the State for approval. Then they advertise the project and get bids and do a contract. He said that FDOT may accept the bid amount or they may need to re-bid or ask for more money from FDOT. He said they will then choose a CEI firm and do a notice to proceed. Then the project will be turned over to the contractor and the CEI firm. He said they will monitor the work progress of the contractor. He said they will review and give status updates and submit for payment.

Mr. Walter Edwards explained if the fiscal budget amount is \$100,000.00 then the PDE cost comes off the front and then FDOT separates the CEI cost.

Contractor warranty covers design and construction costs and does not change unless you make changes. The design, construction, and inspection costs come with the warranty from the contractor.

Commissioner Mills asked if the contractor does the design.

Mr. Kevin Lamar said the build team does the design and the construction.

Mr. Walter Edwards explained that most projects done by FDOT have 30 to 60 percent of the process done. He said they will have concept plans or sketch. The design build can be more innovative. He said they can make this work in the field. He said sometimes you are given two choices and you chose which works best for the area. The county can have as much input as they want. He said when doing an update or reconstruction of a pavement section, the design build can work with right of way restrictions whereas, FDOT may not want to deal with these issues.

Commissioner Stephenson asked about funding through the State and how to bid on projects. He asked if it gets sent to FDOT for approval, how can they be fair with bidding? He said the contractor may make a design and not get the job and then they lose money on the design.

Mr. Walter Edwards said that FDOT maintains a tight rein over the design. He said we submit 60 percent of the design and estimate 6 months to do the whole project. He said they will look at it and comment. Then we do a 90 percent plan and submit to FDOT. Then we do a 100 percent plan for review. Then we can move forward with construction.

Mr. Walter Edwards said the contractor design team is at risk. He said they provide information to the county based on the idea of the direction for the project that you want. Then the county will choose one person over the others. He said you can possibly do stiping for larger jobs to cover the losing bidders time and effort.

Commissioner Storey asked about saving money. He said for example if three million may not be needed to cover the whole road. He asked if the difference could be used on another project.

Mr. Walter Edwards said for SCRAP and SCOP projects. He said you have a better deal with a design build versus several contractors involved in the project.

Mr. A. J. Land with Anderson Columbia spoke to the Board and said the County can hire a designer through a competitive process.

Mr. Kevin Lamar said the competitive pricing starts at the design stage.

Manager Cannon explained that the County can turn in the application and submit this on the portal and a certified engineer will do the cost and design and CEI and projection for construction based on real time. He said the FDOT accepts a project on the five-year plan. He said if the funding is coming from FDOT, then the county can't change the limits.

He said we can use our own money to do the design build and go by the green book standard and can save money this way.

Mr. Kevin Lamar said that to get FDOT funding you must go by their rules.

Commissioner Hatch asked if FDOT funds the design builds, too.

Mr. Kevin Lamar said yes and said that State and Federal funding is also available.

Mr. Walter Edwards said bridges are 100 percent funded.

Commissioner Hatch said he would like to keep the "in kind" cost down, as well.

He commented that the County did the rock for the 2.4 miles on the Punk Clark Road.

Manager Cannon said in previous years a cost estimate was not required by FDOT along with the application. He said that FDOT saw this as a short fall with the money so now they require this. He said there are other costs to figure into the projects as well. He said he will need to ask FDOT about the statute changes and separation of duties between the designer and CEI.

Commissioner Storey asked if the project paperwork, that the County Manager would usually do, could be given to the design build team to handle.

Mr. Walter Edwards said a lump sum job could possibly cut out some desk work.

Mr. Kevin Lamar asked if there are any jobs coming up that they can do a proposal on for the County. Commissioner Hatch suggested they can look at some jobs that are closed out and compare some numbers.

Mr. Kevin Lamar added that the FDOT funding binds you to the limits of the project. Commissioner Stephenson asked when FDOT sets limits on a project where can you use the extra money. Commissioner Hatch said they will lift the limits. He said for example on the Punk Clark Road they needed another 4 tenths of a mile to finish the project. He said they called FDOT and they lifted the limits.

Mr. A. J. Land said the extra money can be used for rumble strips or to widen the shoulder for turns.

Mr. Walter Edwards said that design builds are what they do now. He said they send a technical proposal to FDOT and they grade the value added. He said additional features can be budgeted. He said this allows the County to look for the best value and benefit.

Town of Cross City manager John Driggers Jr. commented that with this process the County will get more construction and more say so in the project.

Commissioner Hatch directed Manager Cannon to get some information from previous jobs together for Mr. Edwards and Mr. Lamar to look over and compare.

Mr. Lamar said they are currently looking at the three roads mentioned.

Ms. Rebecca Fusco suggested the Board use the cost savings to elevate the coastal communities by using the old bridges for pedestrian traffic and fishing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

There were no comments or questions from the public at this time.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Mills made the motion to adjourn at 2:323 PM. Commissioner Storey seconded. Board approved.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

Mark Hatch, Chairman

Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk-Auditor

PLEASE BE ADVISED that if a person decided to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearings, he/ she will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, he/ she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

“Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact (352) 486-4931 (Voice & TDD) or via Florida Relay Service at (800) 955-8771.”

The Board meets the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 AM and the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM. Individuals that would like to be placed on the agenda should call Barbie Higginbotham, Clerk of Court, by 4:00 PM on the Friday Preceding the Board meeting, at (352) 498-1200.