

The Monroe County Board of Education met in Special Called Session on March 6, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the board room at the Central Office. The following nine board members were present: Mrs. Janie Harrill, Chariman, Mrs. Marsha Standridge, Vice Chairman, Ms. Jo Cagle, Mrs. Faye Green, Mrs. Sharon Freeman, Ms. Sonya Lynn, Mr. DeWitt Upton, Dr. Larry Stein and Dr. Jason Miller.

Item No. 1. The Chairman read the Declaration of Conflict, all board members with relatives working for the school system swore that all votes would be made in the best interest of the school system regardless of the effect it would have on the relative.

Item No. 2. Mr. Tim Blankenship, Director of Schools, requested direction from the board on the bids that were received for the Tellico Plains High School Access Road. The lowest bid was from Wilson Construction totaling \$402,335.66. Mr. Phillip Carroll, Maintenance Director gave the board a breakdown of the bid. Mr. Carroll stated that removing the asphalt and school zone signs lowered the bid by \$84,582 which resulted in a total price of \$402,335.36. The cost of a site supervisor/inspector would need to be added at a cost not to exceed \$48,000.00, bringing the cost up to \$450,335.36. Mr. Carroll told the board that the remaining balance of money that was set aside for the Access Road is now \$320,000.00. Ms. Sonya Lynn stated that she had been contacted by local contractors and they were not aware of the requirements to bid on the road, Ms. Lynn asked if the board had to bid it this way, was it a state requirement. Mr. Carroll said that it was not a requirement but was bid this way to protect the citizens of Monroe County, to meet specifications and to ensure that the road would last. Mr. Carroll stated that all local contractors can pre qualify to bid by meeting the TDOT qualifications for contractors. We do not have to go with those qualifications, that is up to the board but he would not recommend it. Ms. Lynn then asked who they would be paying the \$48,000.00 site supervisor/inspector fee to. Mr. Carroll stated that it would be an employee of the Vaughn Melton Engineering firm who could ensure that things were being done the way they need to be done. Ms. Sonya Lynn asked if the site supervisor/inspector could be bid since it was over \$10,000.00. Mr. Carroll said that they could but it is an engineering firm and the board does not have to bid this service. The project engineer from Vaughn Melton stated that this price was for a site supervisor/inspector to work three (3) days a week for approximately six (6) months. Mr. Carroll also stated that if the board decided to bid the position they would need to be TDOT Certified. Ms. Sonya Lynn then asked if the project could be done in stages and bid out to see if the cost would come in any less than it has. The project engineer from Vaughn Melton said that you could break the work down into stages, clearing and dirt work and asphalt and base paving but he doesn't think it would be any cheaper, then you are paying for more than 1 mobilization and a site supervisor for each stage. Ms. Jo Cagle mentioned Steve Teague, Road Superintendent, spreading the gravel. Mr. Carroll stated that he did not recommend doing just gravel because of the volume of traffic and buses using the road it would cause a lot of wear and tear on the road and cause it to shift around it would take a lot of maintenance for that type of road. Mrs. Marsha Standridge asked Mr. Blankenship what his recommendation was on the project. Mr. Blankenship stated that he does not currently have any additional money in the 2017-2018 budget, his recommendation would be to set aside the remaining \$320,000.00 and if there is any money in June to look at it then. Mrs. Marsha

Standridge and Dr. Larry Stein asked the third (3rd) district board members what they wanted to do. Ms. Sonya Lynn stated that local people have done a lot in Monroe County and if they had known the requirements in time they could have got most of them but did not have time. Mr. Phillip Carroll asked Mrs. Libby Hicks, Finance Director, if there was a time limit on the bids. Mrs. Hicks said that the bids could not be withdrawn for 90 days. Mr. Carroll mentioned taking out the turn lanes that go on to Mecca Pike to save cost and have a two (2) lane road only, but would not recommend it for safety reasons. Ms. Cagle said she thought TDOT said they would do the turn lanes. Mr. Carroll stated that the board would have to go back and widen the road for the turn lanes at that point to make room for the turn lanes. Ms. Cagle said that she would try to contact TDOT to get clarification on the turn lanes. Mr. Blankenship stated that the board would need an additional \$230,000.00 to complete the road. Mrs. Janie Harrill asked how long the bid was good for, Mr. Carroll stated 90 days. The representative from Vaughn Melton Engineering said that someone could contact Wilson Construction and ask them to extend the bid. They could possibly extend the bid up to 280 days depending on how bad they needed the work. Dr. Larry Stein made a motion, second by Ms. Sonya Lynn, to earmark the current balance of \$320,000.00 and look at the 2018-2019 budget in June for remaining funds. Motion passed.

Item No. 3. Mr. Phillip Carroll asked the board if they wanted to bid the site supervisor/inspector or, if they wanted to continue with an employee from the Vaughn Melton Engineering Firm. Ms. Sonya Lynn made a motion, second by Dr. Larry Stein, to stay with the Vaughn Melton Engineering Firm for the site supervisor/inspector. Motion passed.

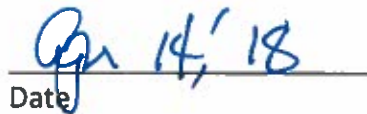
Item No. 4. Mr. Tim Blankenship, Director of Schools, told the board that other systems were currently adding additional School Resource Officers and he would love to add officers as well. Mr. Blankenship stated that the Board of Education has gone above and beyond funding current School Resource Officers. Ms. Sonya Lynn asked where additional officers would be placed. Mr. Blankenship stated he would like to place additional SRO's at Sequoyah High School and Sweetwater High School so there would be two officers at the two largest high schools. He would also place additional officers in the Vonore and Tellico Plains areas so that each elementary school could have a full-time School Resource Officer and would not have to share an officer with the Middle School or Jr. High, this would be a total of four (4) officers. Ms. Lynn said that it would be good to have an additional officer as a floater to fill in when others were out bringing the total to five (5). Ms. Lynn suggested that they could ask the County Commission for help funding the officers. Mrs. Janie Harrill suggested that the board look at all of the security needs for the buildings and then go to the County Commission with the total cost for security needs and additional officers. The board also discussed using retired military officers as School Safety Officers but Mr. Blankenship said he would prefer School Resource Officers. Mr. Tommy Jones, Monroe County Sheriff, told the board that he would be happy to ask for the five (5) additional SRO's in his budget but would like the Board of Education's support on this. Mr. Jones said that the board was having to put a lot of expense in to the needed security updates in the schools. Ms. Sonya Lynn made a motion, second by Mr. DeWitt Upton, that the board needed 5 additional School Resource Officers. Motion passed. Ms. Sonya Lynn made a motion, second by Mr. DeWitt Upton, for Sheriff Jones to ask the County Commission for

funding the SROs' in his budget. Motion passed. Mr. Blankenship asked the board to allow him to look for funding in the current budget for the needed security updates in the schools before going to the County Commission for funding.

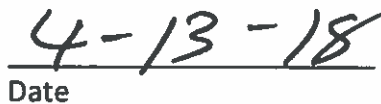
Item No. 5. The board discussed the need for metal detectors in each school. Mr. Blankenship said that they could purchase one (1) for each SRO with a cost estimated at \$1,900.00. Ms. Jo Cagle made a motion, second by Mrs. Marsha Standridge, to purchase one metal detector for each SRO and metal detectors for new SROs' could be purchased at a later time. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.


Chairperson


Date


Secretary


Date