Miller County Government
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Board of Commisioners

SPECIAL SESSION MEETING
05/26/2023, 9:00 A.M., County Government Complex

MINUTES

Present: Chairman Worsley, Commissioner Edwards, Commissioner Nixon, Commissioner Cox Others Present: Faye Whittaker, Austin Lambert, Douglas Cofty, Andy Moore.

Chairman Worsley calls the meeting to order. Special session 05/26/2023.

Chairman Worsley stated Alright, we have a short deal we have got to make a decision on the motor grader before the quote runs out, I think it runs out this evening, correct. Mr. Cofty stated well yes and no, he the John Deere guy called me and said he can push his bid back. I told him that they were going to make a decision Friday. So, I gave you all a cheat sheet, it's in your packet what all I've talked to everybody about but he said his is good. I talked to Caterpillar and said that they're warranty is for seven years not 5 years. So, that's two extra years. John Deere said they would provide the loaner and Cat said that and they did put it in quotes if you want to look at it. They put it in there where they would match the payment. So, we do have it in writing if something happens we could go back and hold them accountable. Other than that, both of them are the same, same price. I will say that the third option is off the table because that machine has been sold. So, we cannot buy that machine. The USDA, I did talk to USDA, we can pay off the limb cutter. That is 106,000 as of today but it goes up $8.56 cent a day. Chairman Worsley stated so we would owe like 56,000 if we, you know, if we done it today. Mr. Cofty stated that's right and I have completed the USDA grant just waiting on you all, whatever you all's decision is. So, we're ready for it. However, you all want to go, we're ready. Chairman Worsley stated well, we don't really need to pay it off yet because we don't have the grant money.

Mr. Cofty stated you will not get the grant money until September anyway. It's what she was telling me, it's frozen until the next fiscal year. Chairman Worsley stated Andy, tell us what you think about the Machine vs Machine. Mr. Moore stated the way I look at it, you know, getting a lot better quality machine with the cat and then, they both, they both run. My, my thing's not as much the machine as it is really the service. You know, I mean, motor graders are the most important thing we have and we don't have enough of them. When they break down, you need them right back running. I mean, Chairman Worsley asked Doug what was the time limit we're looking at to get this motor grader.

Mr. Cofty stated both of them were all around September. I think John Deere was more Septemberish but it's probably going to be September. So, all everything is going to fall in about September. Payoff, September, and all that stuff. So, we won't have any payments until then. Chairman Worsley stated like I said, we'll still be accumulating SPLOST and TSPLOST all this time, you know, up to that point. Mr. Cofty stated Yeah.so, it's just a matter of y'all decide which one. Chairman Worsley stated well, I'm recommending Cat. It's just a better machine. I'm sorry to say it. No offense meant to John Deere whatsoever. I just know that they give better service. One thing and it's a better machine. Like I said, I would recommend Cat. Commissioner Edwards stated and I also would recommend Caterpillar also. Due to just a history that we've had. We're not really looking into buying anything at the end of the lease. We always lease after and that's been going on for 40 years. So, looking at it at the end is not going to going to, you know, going to make a difference. It ain't weighing out nothing. We are looking at service. We're looking at turnaround time. We're looking at you know, soon as something breaks down, the caterpillar has been out there on it. You know, I don't know the history of John Deere but if we got a relationship with Caterpillar right now, I say keep it. I say, go with Caterpillar like he said, it's better equipment and the service is awesome. So, I will go with Caterpillar.

Commissioner Nixon stated Doug, didn't caterpillar offer to even help train if needed to. Mr. Cofty stated I think both of them would but I talked with Caterpillar and he said he has a demo man that comes out and will stay as long as you need to teach the guys truly on a motor grader. Commissioner Edwards stated you can't beat that. Mr. Cofty stated and also on the on that that bill, you know, I think it was what? 14 or 15,000 dollars that we had that non-compliance. They've knocked it down to about 7,500, we're going to have to pay for that because that was actually the physical damage They took the tires off. They did all that. So, but he did. They did work and get that down and they did say that they would train. They would come out. They would send a guy out there and he'd they'd stay, you know, he said he'd done it for the different, the different ones but they would do that. He said they did have a simulator too that they and I don't know if they still got into this area but they, the Cats got a simulator that can do but that's just a matter of getting with them and scheduling and talking to them but I mean, both companies, to me, like I said, that's you all's decision. Both of them are willing to work. You know, we've had caterpillars for years. We got caterpillars. We got John Deere. So, that's y'all's decision.

Chairman Worsley stated Any more discussion? Any questions? Alright. We need to make a motion on which way we want to go. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to go with caterpillar, Commissioner Cox seconded. Vice Chairman Calhoun is not present to vote. All in favor. Motion carried. Mr. Moore continued discussion on the Golden triangle using a grant to train motor grader drivers. Discussion continued. Chairman Worsley stated we have completed the item on the agenda we need a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Nixon made the motion, Commissioner Edwards seconded. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

SIGNATURE PAGE:

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Cristene Edwards, Commissioner – District 1

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Jeff Cox, Commissioner – District 2

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Allen Worsley, Chairman – District 3

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Niki Nixon, Commissioner – District 4

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Ladon Calhoun, Vice Chairman – District 5

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Douglas Cofty, County Manager