

**STATE VETERANS' NURSING HOME PROJECT AND
AUTHORIZE NECESSARY BUDGET AMENDMENTS.
(SPONSORED BY COMMISSIONER SAUNDERS) - MOTION TO
APPROVE W/AUTHORITY TO WORK WITH LEGISLATURE
AND THE LOBBYIST BY COMMISSIONER SAUNDERS;
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MCDANIEL – APPROVED**

MS. PATTERSON: Item 10B is a recommendation to allocate \$10 million from projected excess infrastructure sales surtax funds for the purpose of constructing additional square footage not funded by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs Construction Grant Program for adult health -- adult day healthcare and outpatient therapy services for the proposed state veterans nursing home project and authorize necessary budget amendments. This item is sponsored by Commissioner Saunders.

CHAIRMAN LoCASTRO: Sir.

COMMISSIONER SAUNDERS: Mr. Chairman, the reason I brought this forward, we had the workshop, which, quite frankly, was excellent in terms of giving us a lot of direction on what we can and cannot do. And one of the things that became clear is that the state and federal governments will not pay for new construction for adult day healthcare services, which we all agreed is very important for this project.

I'm not sure about the rehabilitation services. I don't believe that the state or federal government will pay for new construction for rehabilitation services as well. So those two services are very important, and the only way we're going to get those services is if we pony up and put some money into this to enhance the building to have those services.

I had a very preliminary meeting with Senator Passidomo, and she is 100 percent in support of this project, as we all know. We've

all met with her, and we've all had our individual conversations with her.

I broached this subject of if the county put an additional \$10 million into this project for those additional services, would she be interested in considering supporting a \$10 million matching fund next year from the legislature. And I -- she had indicated that this is something that she would certainly consider and may even come to our board meeting on June 27th to talk a little bit about it.

So we have in our sales tax fund a little bit more money than we had anticipated collecting. We have money in excess of the \$420 million. That's the county's share. And there's going to be a little bit of a food fight, because there always is when there's money available. And, of course, all of our projects are more expensive, so that -- a lot of those funds are going to be used to make up the increased costs of other projects.

But I wanted to set the table here on this project that this is important. Ten million of that extra money that's in our sales tax fund would be set aside for this contingent upon getting some matching funds from the legislature.

I think it would be an incredible deal for the state to have this facility with these additional services, and I think it would set the tone for the state and federal governments in the future to permit those funds to be used for these types of services in new construction, but right now we don't have that.

So if we want those services, this is one way, I think, we can accomplish that. If we are not able to get those services, for whatever reason, if there's no state matching funds, for example, that \$10 million would simply go back to our sales tax fund. So that's the reason I brought this forward.

Time is somewhat of the essence because, as indicated in the executive summary, this next legislative session starts the first week

in February, and -- or towards the end of January, and they'll start -- the legislature will start their committee meetings and their funding issues probably as early as September.

So I'd like to, in addition, be authorized to work with our legislative delegation and with our lobbyist to push this ahead if this Board agrees to do this this morning.

CHAIRMAN LoCASTRO: Yeah. I was going to add, I think this is a really smart proactive move, as you said. I mean, it's -- if in the end, you know, we don't need it for whatever reason -- but I think the value of the workshop we had proved that -- and we've said it before, we don't want just the next nursing home. We want the best one, and so does the state. And so it is going to take a bit more funding, as we learned during the workshop. So I think this is a no-brainer, and it's a good proactive move.

Like you said, there's going to be a lot of hands in the pot for the additional money that we collected, but, you know, this certainly, I think, to all of us, to include also, too, those in Tallahassee that represent us, is one of the important projects that's on the short list. So I think the extra 10 million is a smart, proactive move, so I definitely would support it.

Commissioner McDaniel, sir.

COMMISSIONER McDANIEL: And I am, as well. I'd like to hear about the segregation of the funds and the specifics with regard to their expenditure. And just for clarity purposes more than anything, you know, we've heard -- I have heard quite a -- several different paths for the actual cost of the facility, and I -- I just -- and certainly -- and we hear in the workshop that the adult day care center or facilities aren't part of the funding.

And I just -- I don't want this to -- I don't want it to be sitting there and have other hands grabbing at it because of cost overruns unless we decide that that's the case, that it's requisite for that. So I

just want to hear about the segregation, where it's going to be held, and then how it's going to ultimately be utilized.

MR. FINN: Thank you, sir. Edward Finn, Deputy County Manager. Mr. Chairman, members of the Board.

This is -- this is pretty straightforward. This does not involve an escrow, as I understand it at this point in time. It would simply be held as part of your budget. It would be allocated to a specific project number. Ultimately, that money cannot move without -- without the proper paperwork in place, whether that be a PO or contract relative to this matter, which would require some subsequent Board action and, ultimately, the Clerk of Courts would not release that money unless the Board had initiated the proper action.

COMMISSIONER SAUNDERS: And that is correct, that is what is anticipated, that the Clerk will certainly manage that fund. It's not going to be sent up to Tallahassee.

COMMISSIONER McDANIEL: Okay.

CHAIRMAN LoCASTRO: Okay. I don't see anybody else lit up, so --

COMMISSIONER McDANIEL: Second.

CHAIRMAN LoCASTRO: -- Commissioner Saunders, you made the motion.

COMMISSIONER SAUNDERS: I'll make a motion to approve this, and as I said, I'd like some authority to work with the legislature on this.

CHAIRMAN LoCASTRO: Absolutely.

COMMISSIONER SAUNDERS: Obviously, we all can, but I'd just like to be able to say to our lobbyist that I'm authorized to make certain representations. So I'll add that as part of the motion.

CHAIRMAN LoCASTRO: Okay. Got a motion. I think Commissioner McDaniel --

COMMISSIONER McDANIEL: Seconded.

CHAIRMAN LoCASTRO: -- seconded the motion.

All in favor?

COMMISSIONER HALL: Aye.

COMMISSIONER McDANIEL: Aye.

CHAIRMAN LoCASTRO: Aye.

COMMISSIONER KOWAL: Aye.

COMMISSIONER SAUNDERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN LoCASTRO: Opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN LoCASTRO: It passes unanimously.

COMMISSIONER SAUNDERS: Thank you.

Item #11A

AWARD REQUEST FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES (“RPS”) NO. 22-8006, “DESIGN SERVICES FOR WILSON BOULEVARD WIDENING,” TO JACOBS ENGINEERING GROUP INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,400,000, AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE ATTACHED AGREEMENT. (PROJECT NUMBER 60229) (JAY AHMAD, TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERING DIVISION DIRECTOR) - MOTION TO APPROVE BY COMMISSIONER MCDANIEL; SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HALL – APPROVED

MS. PATTERSON: Item 11A is a recommendation to award Request for Professional Services No. 22-8006, design services for Wilson Boulevard widening, to Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc., in the amount of \$5,400,000 and authorize the Chairman to sign the attached agreement.

Mr. Dennis McCoy, your Project Manager III from

Transportation Engineering Services Division, is here to present or answer questions.

MR. McCOY: Good morning.

CHAIRMAN LoCASTRO: Good morning.

MR. McCOY: Dennis McCoy, Transportation Service Management Division, project manager.

This is the Wilson Boulevard widening project. I have a brief overview if you want me to go through the presentation. We're asking, obviously, for your --

COMMISSIONER McDANIEL: Yeah. I just have a -- are you number three because you're third in line, or how did you get that designation?

MR. McCOY: It's a long story.

COMMISSIONER McDANIEL: I'll make a motion for approval.

MR. McCOY: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HALL: Second.

CHAIRMAN LoCASTRO: Okay. I've got a motion and a second. All in favor?

COMMISSIONER HALL: Aye.

COMMISSIONER McDANIEL: Aye.

CHAIRMAN LoCASTRO: Aye.

COMMISSIONER KOWAL: Aye.

COMMISSIONER SAUNDERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN LoCASTRO: Opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN LoCASTRO: It passes unanimously.

Item #11C

AWARD INVITATION TO BID ("ITB") NO. 23-8073,