



Hamilton County Board of Commissioners

RESOLUTION

No. 1004-27

A RESOLUTION TO MAKE CERTAIN FINDINGS RELATING TO THE U.S. XPRESS, INC. PROJECT, TO DELEGATE CERTAIN AUTHORITY TO THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF THE COUNTY OF HAMILTON, TENNESSEE, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AND EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 7-53-305(b) Hamilton County (the "County") is permitted to delegate to The Industrial Development Board of the County of Hamilton, Tennessee (the "Corporation") the authority to negotiate and accept payments in lieu of ad valorem taxes from lessees of the Corporation upon a finding by the County that such payments are deemed to be in furtherance of the Corporation's public purposes; and,

WHEREAS, U.S. XPRESS, Inc. (the "Company") is contemplating the acquisition of real property and the construction and equipping thereon of an office building in Chattanooga, Hamilton County, and, because of the substantial economic benefits to the City of Chattanooga and the County resulting from the project, has asked the Corporation and the County to approve payments in lieu of ad valorem taxes; and

WHEREAS, the County has determined that payments in lieu of ad valorem taxes from such a project would be in furtherance of the Corporation's public purposes as set forth within Chapter 53 of Title 7 of the Tennessee Code Annotated;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS COMMISSION:

That we do hereby find that the U.S. Xpress, Inc. project referenced above is in the best interest of the County, and that payments in lieu of ad valorem taxes derived therefrom would be in furtherance of the Corporation's public purposes; and,

That, having made such a finding in this instance, we do hereby delegate to the Corporation the authority to negotiate and accept payments in lieu of ad valorem taxes from the Company, it being further noted that this delegation is for this purpose and this project only; and,

That the County Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into an Agreement for Payments In Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxes in the form attached hereto, with such changes thereto as he shall approve; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THIS RESOLUTION TAKE EFFECT FROM AND AFTER ITS PASSAGE, THE PUBLIC WELFARE REQUIRING IT.

US Xpress - County Commission Resolution

Approved:

CERTIFICATION OF ACTION

Rejected:

W. J. Rouse
County Clerk

Approved:

Charles H. ...
County Executive

Vetoed:

October 6, 2004
Date

MB 289 ~~1~~ 298





**HAMILTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Room 204 County Courthouse
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-1956
Telephone (423) 209-6150
Fax (423) 209-6151

Rheubin McGhee Taylor
County Attorney

David Norton
Assistant County Attorney

Mary Neill Southerland
Assistant County Attorney

MEMORANDUM

TO: Debbie Rollins, County Clerk's Office
Arlene Hughes, County Mayor's Office
Susan Bedwell, County Trustee's Office
Susan Silvey, County Assessor's Office

FROM: Deborah Jefferson, County Attorney's Office *[Signature]*

DATE: July 11, 2005

RE: U.S. Xpress, Inc.
(Pilot Agreement for Payment In Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxes)

Enclosed, please find the final executed copy of the Agreement between The Industrial Development Board of the County of Hamilton, Tennessee, U.S. Xpress, Inc., the City of Chattanooga, and Hamilton County.

The original is being sent to Debbie Rollins for the County Clerk's records.

Thank you for your continued assistance in these matters.

Enclosure

Cc: Rheubin Taylor,
County Attorney

L:dj:memopilotagreement final.doc

W. F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk
FILED on 7-12-05
Misc. Record Book File # 1551
By *[Signature]*, Dep. Clk.

**AGREEMENT FOR PAYMENTS IN LIEU
OF AD VALOREM TAXES**

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into as of this the 1st day of December, 2004, by and among THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF THE COUNTY OF HAMILTON, TENNESSEE (the "Board"); U.S. XPRESS, INC., a Nevada corporation ("U.S. Xpress"); the CITY OF CHATTANOOGA (the "City"); and HAMILTON COUNTY (the "County") and is joined in, for purposes of evidencing their acceptance of the agency relationship established herein, by CARL E. LEVI and his successors, acting in the capacity of HAMILTON COUNTY TRUSTEE ("Trustee"), and by WILLIAM C. BENNETT and his successors, acting in the capacity of HAMILTON COUNTY ASSESSOR OF PROPERTY ("Assessor").

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, U.S. Xpress is contemplating the acquisition of land and the construction and equipping thereon of office buildings in Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee (the "Project"), resulting in an increase of 500 jobs ("Phase I") by December 31, 2008, and an increase of 500 additional jobs ("Phase II") by December 31, 2013, both measured from a starting point of May 7, 2004 (together, the "Job Projection"), and has requested the Board's assistance in the financing of the Project ; and

WHEREAS, substantial economic benefits to the City and County economies will be derived from the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Board has agreed to take title to certain real property constituting a part of the Project, as described in Exhibit "A" attached hereto (the "Real Property"), and to certain personal property constituting a part of the Project, as described in Exhibit "B" attached hereto

(the "Personal Property") (collectively referred to herein as the "Property"), which Property is to be owned by the Board and leased to U.S. Xpress; and

WHEREAS, because the Property is to be owned by the Board, which is a public corporation organized under the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, §7-53-101, et seq., all such property will be exempt from ad valorem property taxes ("property taxes") normally paid to the City and to the County, so long as the Property is owned by the Board, pursuant to the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, § 7-53-305; and

WHEREAS, for the public benefit of the citizens of the City and the County, the Board has requested that U.S. Xpress make certain payments to the Board in lieu of the payment of property taxes that would otherwise be payable on the Property; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Xpress has agreed to make such payments to the Board in lieu of the property taxes otherwise payable on the Property (the "In Lieu Payments"), as more particularly set forth hereinafter; and

WHEREAS, the Board has been authorized to receive the In Lieu Payments in lieu of property taxes by resolutions adopted by the City and the County, acting through their duly elected Council and Commission, respectively, which resolutions delegate to the Board the authority to accept the In Lieu Payments upon compliance with certain terms and conditions, including, without limitation, the requirement that the Board collect and expend such payments in furtherance of the public purposes for which the Board was created; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Xpress and the Board have agreed that all In Lieu Payments made to the Board by U.S. Xpress shall be paid to the Trustee, who shall disburse such amounts to the general funds of the City and the County in accordance with the requirements specified herein; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to designate the Assessor as its agent to appraise the Property and assess a percentage of its value in the manner specified herein; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to designate the Trustee as its agent to receive the In Lieu Payments in accordance with the terms of this Agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF the mutual covenants and agreements set forth herein, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. Designation of Assessor; Appraisal and Assessment of Property. The Board hereby designates the Assessor as its agent to appraise and assess the Property. The Assessor shall appraise and assess the Property in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the State of Tennessee as though the Property were subject to property taxes. The Assessor shall give the Trustee, the City Treasurer, the Board, and U.S. Xpress written notice of any changes in appraisals of the Property in the same manner that notices are given to owners of taxable property. The Assessor shall make available to the Board and U.S. Xpress all records relating to the appraisal and assessment of the Property.

2. Designation of Trustee; Computation and Billing of Payments In Lieu of Taxes. The Board hereby designates the Trustee as its agent to compute the amounts of the In Lieu Payments, to receive such payments from U.S. Xpress and to disburse such payments to the City and the County. On or about October 1 of each year during the term of this agreement, the Trustee shall compute the taxes which would be payable on the Property if it were subject to property taxes, in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the State of Tennessee and in accordance with the appraisal and assessment of the Assessor. Each year hereunder, the Trustee shall send the Board and U.S. Xpress a bill for appropriate amounts of In Lieu Payments (the "Tax Bill").

3. Payments in Lieu of Taxes. After receipt of the Tax Bill, U.S. Xpress shall pay to the Trustee the amounts indicated on the Tax Bill in accordance with the amount set forth below in Paragraph 4. The In Lieu Payments shall be made by U.S. Xpress in lieu of the property taxes which would otherwise be payable on the Property if it were subject to property taxes.

4. Amount of Payments by U.S. Xpress. For each of the years 2006-2015, U.S. Xpress shall make In Lieu Payments with respect to Phase I of the office building in amounts, as determined by the Assessor and the Trustee, equal to the following percentages of the amount of the taxes that would have been payable on the Property constituting the initial phase of the office building if it were subject to property taxes:

<u>Years</u>	<u>Percentages</u>
2006-2007	0%
2008-2015	50%

For each of the ten (10) calendar years following the year that the Property constituting the expansion phase of the office building is completed, U.S. Xpress shall make In Lieu Payments with respect to Phase II of the office building in amounts, as determined by the Assessor and the Trustee, equal to the following percentages of the amount of the taxes that would have been payable on the Property constituting the expansion of the office building if it were subject to property taxes:

<u>Years</u>	<u>Percentages</u>
1 and 2	0%
3 through 10	50%

For any periods before or after such respective ten (10) year periods that the Property constituting Phases I or II of the office building is owned by the Board, U.S. Xpress shall make

In Lieu Payments in an amount, as determined by the Assessor and the Trustee, equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the amount of taxes that would have been payable on the Property if it were subject to property taxes.

5. Penalties and Late Charges. U.S. Xpress shall make the In Lieu Payments for each year before March 1 of the following year. All In Lieu Payments shall be subject to penalties, late charges, fees and interest charges as follows:

(a) If U.S. Xpress fails to make any In Lieu Payment when due, and such failure to pay shall continue and not be fully paid within thirty (30) days after written notice of such non-payment has been provided, then a late charge shall be charged and shall also be immediately due and payable. The late charge shall be in the amount of one and one-half percent (1-1/2%) of the owed amount, for each month that each payment has been unpaid. Such one and one-half percent (1-1/2%) per month late charge amount shall accumulate each month and be payable so long as there remains any outstanding unpaid amount.

(b) If U.S. Xpress should fail to pay all amounts and late charges due as provided hereinabove, then the Board, the City or the County may bring suit in the Chancery Court of Hamilton County to seek to recover the In Lieu Payments due, late charges, expenses and costs of collection in addition to reasonable attorneys' fees. If the Company fails to achieve the Job Projection, then the City and the County reserve the right to terminate the benefits of this Agreement for any years remaining hereunder. If the Company closes the Project or moves it from the County during the term hereof, the City and the County reserve the right to require the partial repayment of amounts that would have been payable on the Property if it were subject to property taxes.

6. Disbursements by Trustee. All sums received by the Trustee pursuant to Paragraph 3 shall be disbursed to the general funds of the City and the County in accordance with this paragraph and in accordance with the normal requirements of law governing the settlement and paying over of taxes to counties and municipalities. All sums received shall be divided into two (2) accounts, one for the use and benefit of the City and the other for the use and benefit of the County. The account for the use and benefit of the City shall be funded with the proportionate amount to which the In Lieu Payments are attributable to property taxes which would otherwise be owed to the City, and the account for the use and benefit of the County shall be funded with the proportionate amount to which the In Lieu Payments are attributable to property taxes which would otherwise be owed to the County. All disbursements to the general funds of the City and County shall be made by the Trustee subject to the requirement that all funds disbursed may be used by the City and the County only in furtherance of the public purposes of the Board, as described in Tennessee Code Annotated § 7-53-102.

7. Contest by U.S. Xpress. U.S. Xpress shall have the right to contest the appraisal or assessment of the Property by the Assessor and the computation by the Trustee of the amount of the In Lieu Payment. If U.S. Xpress contests any such appraisal or assessment, then it shall present evidence to the Assessor in favor of its position. Likewise, if U.S. Xpress contests any such computation, it shall present evidence to the Trustee in favor of its position. If the In Lieu Payments being contested shall be or become due and payable, U.S. Xpress shall make such payments under protest. U.S. Xpress and the Assessor or the Trustee, as the case may be, shall negotiate in good faith to resolve any disputes as to appraisal, assessment or computation. If U.S. Xpress and the Assessor or the Trustee are unable to resolve a dispute, then U.S. Xpress may file suit in the Chancery Court of Hamilton County to ask that the provisions of this

Agreement, including those covering appraisal, assessment and computation, be construed or applied to the relevant facts by the Chancery Court in order to resolve such dispute.

8. Lien on Property. Any amounts which remain payable under this Agreement shall become a lien on the Property, and such lien shall be enforceable against the Property in the event that any payment owing hereunder is not timely made in accordance with this Agreement.

9. Term. This Agreement shall become effective on the date that the Board attains title to the Property and shall continue for so long as the Board holds title to any of the Property or U.S. Xpress has made all payments required hereunder, whichever shall later occur.

10. Leasehold Taxation. If the leasehold interest of U.S. Xpress should be subject to ad valorem taxation, then any amounts assessed as taxes thereon shall be credited against any In Lieu Payments due hereunder. U.S. Xpress agrees to cooperate fully with the Assessor in supplying information for completion of leasehold taxation questionnaires with respect to the Property.

11. Stormwater Fees. U.S. Xpress shall be responsible for all stormwater fees assessed by the City of Chattanooga against the Real Property.

12. Notices, etc. All notices and other communications provided for hereunder shall be written (including facsimile transmission and telex), and mailed or sent via facsimile transmission or delivered, if to the Board, c/o Mr. Ross I. Schram III, Suite 600, Pioneer Building, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402; if to the County, if to the City, c/o Mr. Randall L. Nelson, Suite 400, Pioneer Building, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402; if to the County, c/o Mr. Rheubin M. Taylor, County Attorney, Hamilton County Government, Room 204, County Courthouse, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-1956; if to U.S. Xpress, 4080 Jenkins Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421, Attention: Lisa Pate; if to the Trustee, at his address at Hamilton

County Courthouse, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402; and if to the Assessor, at his address at Hamilton County Courthouse, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402; or, as to each party, at such other address as shall be designated by such party in a written notice to the other party. All such notices and communications shall, when mailed by registered and certified mail, return receipt requested, Express Mail, or facsimile, be effective when deposited in the mails or if sent upon facsimile transmission, confirmed electronically, respectively, addressed as aforesaid.

13. No Waiver; Remedies. No failure on the part of any party hereto, and no delay in exercising any right under this Agreement shall operate as a waiver thereof; nor shall any single or partial exercise of any right under this Agreement preclude any other or further exercise thereof or the exercise of any other right. The remedies provided in this Agreement are cumulative and are not exclusive of any remedies provided by law.

14. Severability. In the event that any clause or provision of this Agreement shall be held to be invalid by any court or jurisdiction, the invalidity of any such clause or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this Agreement.

15. No Liability of Board's Officers. No recourse under or upon any obligation, covenant or agreement contained in this Agreement shall be had against any incorporator, member, director or officer, as such, of the Board, whether past, present or future, either directly or through the Board. Any and all personal liability of every nature, whether at common law or in equity, or by statute or by constitution or otherwise, of any such incorporator, member, director or officer, as such, is hereby expressly waived and released as a condition of and consideration for the execution of this Agreement.

16. Binding Effect. This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of each of the parties and signatories hereto and to their respective successors and assigns.

17. Governing Law. The Agreement shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of Tennessee.

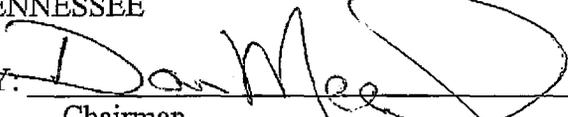
18. Amendments. This Agreement may be amended only in writing, signed by each of the parties hereto, except that the Trustee and the Assessor shall not be required to join in amendments unless such amendments affect their respective duties hereunder.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement as of the day and date first above written.

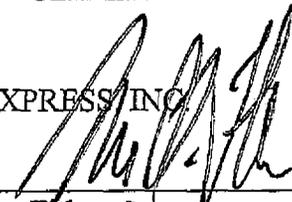
ATTEST:

BY: 
Secretary

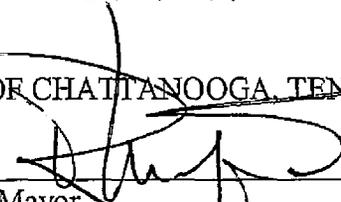
THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD
OF THE COUNTY OF HAMILTON,
TENNESSEE

BY: 
Chairman

U.S. XPRESS, INC.

BY: 
Title: *Chairman*

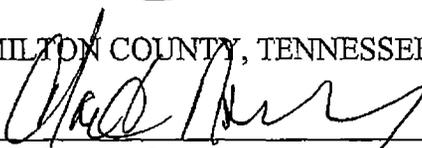
CITY OF CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE

BY: 
Mayor

Approved:


~~David Eichenthal~~ *Daisy Madister*

HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

BY: 
County Mayor

CARL E. LEVI

BY: Carl E. Levi
Hamilton County Trustee

WILLIAM C. BENNETT

BY: William C. Bennett
Hamilton County Assessor of Property

EXHIBIT "A"
TO PILOT AGREEMENT FOR
U.S. XPRESS, INC.

REAL PROPERTY

Lot One (1) of U.S. Express Subdivision, as shown on Final Plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 79, Page 33 in the Register's Office of Hamilton County, Tennessee.

TOGETHER WITH a 115-foot wide access, ingress and egress easement (private) as show on the Plat.

EXHIBIT "B"
TO PILOT AGREEMENT FOR
U.S. XPRESS, INC.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

All personal property used by U.S. Xpress, Inc. or U.S. Xpress Enterprises in connection with its office buildings located on the real property described in the foregoing Exhibit "A".

