TOOMBS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS **Courtroom A**
December 15, 2015 **5:30 PM**

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

PRESENT: **BLAKE TILLERY, JEFF McCORMICK, ALFRED CASON, WENDELL HUGH DIXON, JOHN M. JONES AND HELEN HARRIS.**

Call to Order: Chairman Tillery called the December meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

Invocation: Vice-Chairman McCormick gave the invocation.

Approve Agenda: Vice-Chairman McCormick made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Vice-Chairman McCormick made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the Minutes of November 17, 2015 Regular Board Meeting as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Employee of the Month: None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

Development Authority: Mr. Bill Mitchell announced that they would not have a meeting this month. Chicken of the Sea has decided not to buy Bumble Bee, but they plan to increase production in both of their buildings. Dot Foods has made the decision to expand with a 50,000 square foot freezer section, which is an $ 8 to $ 9 million investment.

Department Reports: None

Consideration of 2016 Beer and Wine Licenses: La Joya Mexican Store; OMK Convenience Store; Big Ma's, Inc; Frank's Club, Inc. : Mr. Jones presented the four renewals of Beer and Wine Licenses for the County for the year of 2016. All three have the supplied check list of requirements checked off. It is up to the board to vote on them individually or to vote on them as a group since it is renewals.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to accept all four renewals for Beer and Wine Licenses for the year of 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Tillery asked Manager Jones if we mailed a letter to every current license holder reminding them the need to renew every year. Manager Jones stated that Sandra Barber sends a reminder out to them in October of each year.

Consideration of Resolution on Probate Court Judge Vital Records Fee:

Manager Jones stated that the next item was the consideration of the resolution on Probate Court Judge Vital Records Fee. The Probate Court is able to retain, if they so choose, all the fees collected on the vital records. Judge Threlkeld has given that money back to the county in the past to be placed in our general funds with the exception of $ 12,000. that he retains. This resolution will place a cap of $ 12,000. on his vital records, which is required by Georgia Code. Manager Jones asked the board to accept the resolution as presented.

Vice-Chairman McCormick made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon we cap the Probate Judges vital records fees at $ 12,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Resolution for Submission of a FY 2016 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG):

Manager Jones stated that the next item is a resolution authorizing the county to proceed with filing a submission for a fiscal year 2016 Community Block Grand, referred as CDBG. Last year we filed for the Grant so that we could pave Pendleton Creek, Deer Run, and Oscar Cruz Road, but that project was not chosen by DCA. By adopting this resolution our administrator can begin filling out the paper work to make an application for the fiscal year 2016.

Commission Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to adopt the resolution for submission of a FY 2016 Community Development Block Grant. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Qualifying Fees for 2016 Elections:

Manager Jones stated that two years ago we adopted a policy by which the Chief Election Official, the Probate Judge and myself, John Jones, would meet prior to our December meeting and identify all the offices that would be coming up for election for the coming year, then identifying the qualifying fees that would be applied.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman McCormick to accept the qualifying fees for 2016 Elections Resolutions. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Proposal to replace damage Truck for Ordinance Officer:

Manager Jones stated that the board needed to ratify the replacement of a damaged truck for the Ordinance Officer. Last month while working a wreck the Ordinance Officer's Truck was struck by on-coming traffic. The insurance company classified the truck as a total loss and paid around $18,000 for the loss of the truck. The replacement truck was purchased from Brannen Motor Company in Unadilla, Ga. in the amount of $ 29,439. This will be paid out of SPLOST. The board needs to approve the payment of the invoice to Brannen Motor Company.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the purchase of a Ford F-150 from Brannen Motor Company in the amount of $ 29,439. To be paid out of SPLOST. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval for Payment of Mitigation Credits for Ezra Taylor Road Project:

Manager Jones stated that he had received a letter from Hodges, Harbin, Newberry & Tribble, Inc. This is the engineers that determine the wetland mitigations. We budgeted $ 20,000 to buy the wetland mitigations on Ezra Taylor Road. The mitigations payments as stated are $ 79,249.50, made payable to Georgia L. Flanders, LLC. The board needs to approve the purchase of the mitigation credits before we can move forward with the Ezra Taylor Road Project. The funds will be paid out of the SPLOST funds.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman McCormick to approve payment for mitigation credits for wetlands for the Ezra Taylor Road Project to be paid out of the SPLOST account in the amount of $ 79,249.50, made payable to Georgia L. Flanders, LLC. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval for Holiday Schedule for 2016:

Manager Jones asked the board to approve the Holiday schedule for 2016, as presented in their packet.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the Holiday schedule for 2016 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of Resolution for Use of Insurance Premium Tax:

Manager Jones stated that this resolution defines how we plan to spend the Insurance Premium Tax proceeds that we have received. This is what we will budget in 2016 and where we spend the funds. These funds are spent for the services primarily for the benefit in the inhabitant of the unincorporated areas. We ask for the board to adopt this resolution and approve it.

Vice-Chairman McCormick made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the Resolution for use of Insurance Premium Tax in the year 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration for Payment to Repair Transmission of John Deere Motor Grader:

Manager Jones stated the next item is the consideration for repair for the transmission of a John Deere Motor Grader in the amount of $16,976.24 and will be paid out of SPLOST. We are asking the board to approve this invoice from Flint Construction which is the John Deere Dealer in the amount of $16,976.24 and for this invoice to be paid out of SPLOST.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman McCormick for Flint Construction to repair the transmission of the John Deere Motor Grader

in the amount of $16,976.24 and will be paid with SPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of 2016 LMIG Project:

Manager Jones stated that we have to submit to the DOT what roads we would like to use the money for. Our LMIG funds will be somewhere around 470,000 dollars and we have had discussion with the Road Committee and Mr. McCormick will be making recommendations on which road we would like to use this money on. Mr. McCormick stated that we would like to use this money, this coming year, to resurface Old River Road.

Vice-Chairman McCormick made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to accept the 2016 LMIG Project to resurface Old River Road. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Status of Petross Green Box Site:

Manager Jones combined the consideration of Status of un-manned Petross green box site and the consideration of Christmas Schedule for the Solid Waste Collection & Recycling Centers. (See next item)

Consideration of Christmas Schedule for Solid Waste Collection & Recycling Centers:

Manager Jones stated that he had talked with Tommy Thompson who oversees the Centers and we decided that we recommended on Christmas Day the solid waste collection and recycling centers stay open from 1 pm to 7 pm. Historically they always worked Christmas Day other than Tuesday and Thursday but we decided to let them off on Christmas Morning. We have people that volunteered to work that Christmas afternoon. We would like for the board to approve the 1 pm to 7 pm hours. On the Green Box Site, Republic will empty Thursday and Saturday and the prison crew will clean up on Monday.

Manager Jones and Commissioner Dixon looked at an acre of land where we can close the un-manned site and build another Solid Waste Collection & Recycling Center but were unable to meet the owner of the land.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman McCormick to amend the schedule of the convince centers where they will be open from 1 pm to 7 pm on Christmas Day. Motion carried unanimously.

Manager Jones gave the financial report and stated that he had been finalizing the year end where we will be ready for the Audit in March.

EMS Report:

EMS reported year to date 222,000 miles and 6,150 calls. November there were 539 calls for the month.

ACCG Workmen's Comp: ACCG workmen's Comp renewal; they were able to pay a dividend and decrease the rates by 4.7%, $2,016. for the prior year. Dividends credit will be thirty seven thousand dollars for Toombs County.

Toombs County Revolving Loan: The board needs to approve the $ 275,000. loan request from the Toombs County revolving loan fund to Grand Onion for Local industries expansions.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman McCormick to approve the $ 275,000. revolving loan to Grand Onion Project. Motion carried unanimously.

Declare Obsolete Property: Manager Jones stated that there were five vehicles from the Road and Bridges Department that needed to be declared as obsolete property. 1) 1999 Ford Cut-down Ambulance 2) 1987 Dodge Service Truck. 3) 2002 Chevrolet pickup 4) 2002 Chevrolet pickup and 5) 1999 Tahoe

Vice-Chairman McCormick made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to declare these five vehicles obsolete property. 1) 1999 Ford Cut-down Ambulance 2) 1987 Dodge Service Truck. 3) 2002 Chevrolet pickup 4) 2002 Chevrolet pickup and 5) 1999 Tahoe. Motion carried unanimously.

Bridge Closing on State Road 135: We received a letter from the Department of Transportation on December 10 and we attended a public hearing with Mr. Bill Bedingfield from Vidalia on the matter of a bridge closing on state Road 135, over the Altamaha River. This is a part of the TSPLOST project. DOT was preparing to close the Bridge for 24 months, rerouting the traffic through Toombs Count and Montgomery County. There was a large turnout at the public hearing. There is a website in which you can make comments toward the closing of the bridge until December 21, 2015.

Support Letter for Emanuel County I-16 Water Tower: Emanuel County development Authority asked for a Letter of Support because they are seeking a grant for their I-16 water tower. Mr. Mitchell stated that the park had been established for sometime by Swainsboro and Emanuel County. Mr. Mitchell doesn't see it being detrimental to the development that we have. It will help them get the grant if they have a Letter of Support from their regional area.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman McCormick to sign a Letter of Support for Emanuel County Development Authority for a water tower at I-16 industrial park. Motion carried unanimously.

Meadows Regional Hospital Authority Appointment of Meadows Regional Hospital Authority has made a recommendation for a three year term to re-appoint three members to their board. There are Danny Foshee of Vidalia, Wayne Brantley of Cedar Crossing and Marsha Moore of Lyons.

Three Members to Their Board:

Vice-Chairman McCormick made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles made a motion to re-appoint Danny Foshee of Vidalia, Wayne Brantley of Cedar Crossing and Marsha Moore of Lyons to the three position they currently occupy on the Toombs County Hospital Authority Board. Their term will start on January 1, 2016 and end on December 31, 2018. Motion carried unanimously.

Purchase of (9) Nine Vehicles for the Sheriff's Department:

Manager Jones stated he had a request form the Sheriff's Office. They are requesting the purchase of nine vehicles. They requested Dodge Trucks because the price is better than the Ford models. The trucks would be purchased out of the SPLOST funds. They estimate the cost of the vehicles will be $260,000. Six will be Dodge Rams 4x4, two will be two-wheel drive 1500's and one is a 4x4.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman McCormick to purchase (9) nine police vehicles to be paid out of SPLOST. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentation of Scheduling Order of Alexander v. Toombs County, et al:

Manager Jones stated that our Attorney Howard Kaufold has scheduled a hearing the tax law suit. Judge Flounders has two issues to decide on, certifying that it is a class action law suit or summary judgment or a hearing at 10:00 am on March 24, 2016. Manager Jones stated he just wanted to notify the board of the letter.

Commissioners Comments:

Commissioner Nobles: We have had a very successful year and looking forward to doing more next year. Thank you to all of the employees and Thank you Commissioner for working so well together.

Commissioner Cason: I've almost made it a year and I want to thank everyone for their support.

Commissioner Dixon: Thank you for working closely together this year and thank you for the things we have accomplished. I wish everybody a Merry Christmas.

Vice-Chairman McCormick: Let me reiterate what everyone said. We have an incredible amount of things to be thankful for and what we have accomplished this year. Thanks to all the Employees that continue to work tireless in so many areas and Merry Christmas to everyone.

Chairman Tillery: This is my third years of the Commission and looking back over those three years, in 2013 when I took office, the average EMS call volume was 450 a month, now we have an average of 600 calls in a month, with 18,000 miles in a month and roughly 200,000 miles per year. There are 360 miles of dirt roads we are pulling but we are reducing these back to 352 next year because of the paving of roads. I appreciate the help making that happen. We have experienced tremendous growth in the County and I think it will continue in the year 2016.

You will see the resolution of the law suit and see changes in state law on how we use premium insurance tax now. One thing we will have to watch in 2016 is sales tax collections continue to decline, we are going to have to change the paradigm for what we do for recruiting and increasing sales tax. Remember in Toombs County each dollar in sales tax is used to directly offset each dollar of property tax. If that model continues to fall we are going to have to adjust our paradigm here at home. Thank you for three years so far. I hope each of you have a Merry Christmas.

Completion of Scott Drive: Manager Jones state there was one major thing he forgot to mention. As we speak starting last week the first paved road in Toombs County in about ten years has began on Scott Drive and should be finished up this week or the first of next week.

Adjournment: If there is no further business, Chairman Tillery would like to adjourn at this time.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

_____
Michael Blake Tillery, Chairman

Attest: _____
Helen Harris, County Clerk