TOOMBS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS Courtroom A

June 20, 2017 5:30 PM

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

### **PREESENT: DAVID SIKES, JEFF McCORMICK, WENDELL HUGH DIXON, DARRIEL NOBLES, HOWARD KAUFOLD, JOHN M. JONES AND HELEN HARRIS.**

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Call to Order: Chairman Sikes called the June meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. Chairman Sikes announced that Commissioner Cason could not be at the meeting, he had to handle family issues that were out of town.

Invocation: Vice-Chairman McCormick gave the invocation.

Approve Agenda: Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the Agenda.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the May 16, 2017 May 16, 2017 Regular Regular Board Meeting.

Board Meeting and May

18, 2017 Called Meeting Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the Minutes of the May 16, 2017 Regular Board Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the May 18, 2017 Called Meeting.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman McCormick to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2017 Called Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Development Authority Mr. Bill Mitchell announced the Leadership Toombs-Montgomery and Youth leadership, both of those have been structured and their names will be released at a later date. Toombs County Development Authority’s next meeting will be held Thursday, July 20th, 2017 at noon. Chamber of Commerce nomination committee for the Chamber Board will meet Tuesday the 27th of June. Save the date for the Business Expo which will be held on Thursday, September 28th at the Vidalia Community Center. Registration forms can be obtained from the Toombs-Montgomery Chamber Website or by calling the Chamber. The solar company has elected not to pursue their project in Toombs County; that was a 170 million dollar project. They were asking for a significant amount of the ad valorem tax relief and the Development Authority felt that it was a little bit more than we could do. In the June issue of Georgia Trend Magazine on page forth-six, forty-eight and page fifty one, out of 159, our county was one of six counties chosen for the 2017 “Counties of Distinction”. Mr. Mitchell continued in saying that there was another gentleman of Distinction that he would like to recognize and that was Mr. John Jones. He really worked hard in getting the project together with the cities, the Development Authority and the Chambers; you will see that in the Magazine.

Department Reports: Sheriff Kight: Sheriff Kight introduced Elliot Coursey and announced that he had an idea of having a remembrance walks on September 9th, 2017. Elliot came forward to speak. He explained that the walk was for the law enforcement officers, firefighters, first responders, men, women and children that lost their lives during September 11, 2001. The walk will begin at the Toombs County Courthouse at 10:00 AM and end at the BB&T Bank in Vidalia.

Sheriff Kight announced the daily Jail average was up to 124 for the month of May. There were 150 inmates last month that received medical care. There were a total number of 191 man hours and 6,843 miles used for the transports in the month of May. There were Forth-nine inmates transported to state facilities, ten inmates were to state mental health, drug treatment facilities; fifty four inmates for state probation detention center and/or state prison facilities, and five Juveniles was transported to the state R.Y.D.C., and/or to court. During the month of May, E-911 had 4,548 calls. The traffic death count for Georgia has increased and the main reason is due to not wearing seatbelts.

Manager Jones reported for the EMS Department, Mr. Drew James was called out on a run in the County. EMS mileage for the month of May was 29,825 miles, with 402 calls. Pictures were given to the Commissioners to show the progress that has been done on the new Ambulance. For the last eight months the EMS has been updating the Toombs-Montgomery EMS Protocol Book which has gone into service this month. Both Jim Jones (Instructor at STC) and Dr. Jeffery Conner has helped with the revised copy.

Chairman Sikes asked how much longer before the ambulance would be in service. Manager Jones replied, with a month we hope we will have it delivered to our County, then the ambulance will have to be furnished with equipment and that will be a cost of about $15,000. and the final step will be for the state to come and certify the ambulance as an ALS Ambulance.

Manager Jones gave an update on the Roads Department. The flashing lights have been installed at the dangerous intersection that was approved at the first of the year.

The main focus for transportation this year was safety, with that in mind, we have installed twenty cautions and stop flashing lights. There have been thirty six road signs installed at these intersections. The intersections are Aimwell Extension and US1; Harden Chapel Road and US1; Old Norman Town and Hwy 130; Lyons Center and Aimwell Extension; Lyons Center and Vidalia Cedar Crossing; South Thompson and Cedar Crossing Vidalia Road; Laura Dixon and Hwy 147; Marvin Church Road and Hwy 147; Cedar Crossing and US1; Old River Road and Cedar Crossing; Lent Stephens Road and then Resmondo and Hwy 152. These intersections were determined by DOT. GDOT had done a survey and rated our intersections and roadways for safety. Lyons Center Road was rated the highest with having the most accidents than any other road in the County. Last month we had rain to come into our area that caused havoc on our dirt roads. The road department worked overtime on Friday and Saturday to get our roads passable again. Manager Jones, then acknowledged some of the workers that had done overtime, Kevin Oglesby, Ted Mosley, Ron Frost, Don Collins, Jimmy Coursey, Rodney Hitchcock, Benton Kersey, Randy Rogers, Anthony Toby, Billy Padgett, and of course Fuzzy Swain and Jerry Bellflower. Currently with the rains we have had here, we may have an opportunity to repeat that performance again. Manager Jones continued with, “We really appreciate the work they have done and just wanted to give them the recognition they deserve.”

Manager Jones introduced the new Toombs County Recreation Department Director, Ryan Rodgers. Ryan is a graduate Of Montgomery County High School. He is a residence of Toombs County. He is a graduate of Brewton Parker College; he also is a graduate with a Masters Degree from Southeastern University; he has been employed with Toombs County Board of Education since 2001; he has also worked at Jeff Davis High School, Treutlen High School, and Wheeler High School; in addition he has coached High School and Middle School Students. Manager Jones continued with,”It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm to introduce Brian Rodgers.” Mr. Rodgers spoke and said that he appreciated the opportunity that has been given to him and he was pretty excited to have this opportunity as well. The facilities that are being built down there is a great asset to that area. The community down there is very supportive. He stated that he was again excited and thanked the Commission for the opportunity.

Public Participation: None

Consideration of Ratifying This is a resolution of support that will be submitted to the Georgia Recreation and

Resolution for Support of Parks Association for membership of our Toombs County Recreation Department. The

the Application to the Board needs to accept this resolution and to allow Chairman Sikes to sign the

Georgia Recreation and Resolution.

Parks Association:

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman McCormick to approve the Chairman to sign the Support of the Application to the Georgia Recreation and Parks Association. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Declaring The two 1999 Ford Crown Victoria cars are from the Tax Assessors Office. One has a

the following property Transmission that is completely gone in it and the other car, the mechanic told us to

as excess property and park it and do not drive it because the rear-end is about to go out of it. The 2001 Ford

to sale by seal bid: Crown Victoria car is from the fire department and they are not using it any more.

(2) 1999 Ford Crown Victoria

(1) 2001 Ford Crown Victoria Vice-Chairman McCormick made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve (2) 1999 Ford Crown Victoria and (1) Ford Crown Victoria as excess property and to sale by seal bid. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of The old bleachers at the Toombs County Recreation Department needs to be replaced.

Bleachers/Sod for In the insurance audit conducted by ACCG, considered the bleachers as not being safe.

Recreation Department: Manager Jones stated that he contacted Stadium Pro, Inc. and received a quote for two sets of a fifteen foot, ten rows with guard rails bleachers (which will seat 80 people) in the amount of $ 24,700. This price includes delivery and set-up. Manager Jones continued to say, that at the football field where there has been a lot of work done, soil erosion had become a problem and that sod needed to stop the erosion. There is a quote from Montfort’s Luxury Landscape in the amount of $ 20,300. There needs to be a motion to approve the purchase of the bleachers and Sod and for both to be paid with SPLOST funds.

Vice-Chairman McCormick made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the purchase of Bleachers from Stadium Pro, Inc. in the amount of $24,700. for Toombs Recreation Department and to approve the Sod needed for the Toombs Recreation Department football area from Montfort’s Luxury Landscapes in the amount of $ 20,300. and to be paid with SPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Bid A bid was received from Blount Construction Company in the amount of $ 567,341.54 for Project 2017-HA5- to apply the sealant and striping to fourteen miles of roads. This sealant will seal the

VARRD-001: roads from water and protect the roads from SUV rays that causes damage to the

paved roads. Manager Jones and Chairman Sikes have traveled to Heard County to look at some of the roads that had this sealant applied in that County and were very pleased. If approved, SPLOST funds will be used to pay for this project.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman McCormick to approve the bid for Project 2017-HA5-VARRD-001 from Blount Construction Co., Inc of Atlanta to apply sealant to fourteen miles of County Roads in the amount of $567,341.54; striping will be included in the price and will be paid with SPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Bids We received two bids for a new Motor Grader; Caterpillar and John Deere. The for Motor Grader: Caterpillar, Inc. cash price delivery was $283,700 and the cash price for the John Deere was $297,942. Recommendation from the Road Superintendent and the County Manager was to accept the lowest bid and purchase the Caterpillar, Inc. from Yancey in the amount of $283,700. This purchase will be paid with SPLOST funds.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman McCormick to approve the purchase of one Caterpillar 12 M3 Motor Grader from Yancey Brothers in the amount of $283,700. and will be paid with SPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Nobles ask if this has a side arm on it and Manager Jones replies, yes it does and that will give the county three machines with side arms.

Chairman Sikes asked the warranty on the Caterpillar and Manager Jones replied, seven years or seven thousand hours.

Consideration of liability Manager Jones stated that there were three options for the purchase of liability

Insurance Policy: Insurance. Bishop-Durden Insurance Agent has recommended that we accept the bid from Travelers/Nova in the total of $139,227. Selective Insurance Company will be for the Fire Departments in the amount of $34,889. The liability had been budgeted for $185,000 and for the Fire Department. The budgeted amount was $24,200, so we will be under budget on the liability expense by $45,773 but over budgeted by $10,689 on the Selective Insurance. This nets out at being $35,084 under budget for our Liability insurance. Based on Mr. Bishops recommendation, it is recommended to purchase Travelers/Nova and Selective Insurance for the insurance renewal.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman McCormick to approve the quote form Bishop-Durden Insurance Company for the purchase of liability insurance with Travelers/Nova in the amount of $139,227. and for the County Volunteer Fire Departments with Selective Insurance in the amount of $ 34,889. Motion carried unanimously.

County Manager Report: Manager Jones stated that the Local Option Sales Tax are down by 2.59 % for the

Financial Report: month of May; year-to-date we are down 2.31%. Budget wise we are at 42% of the year and currently our operating budget is 36.4%. In all we are in pretty good shape with the budget. All of the special funds are doing well. With E-911 all the revenue we have is the $1.50 fee that is being allowed to be collected by the state. There has been talk that the legislature to trying to address that, but the last time they proposed something, the governor rejected their proposal. They still have plans to introduce something new next year.

Up-Date on Wellness The next thing in your packet is the Wellness Program that we have. There has been a Program: wellness committee established and the members are our employees. Here are names on that committee: Patsy Chester, Rizza O’Conner, Nancy Pittman, Jerry Bellflower, Ashley Mobley, Laurie Holland, Jonathan Holland, Cindy Brown, Sandra Hamilton, Helen Harris, John Jones, and the two coaches, Pam Crews and Mandy Spivey. Displayed on the screen Manager Jones displayed the logo that has been designed that will be used for our Wellness Program that we have in place. This is the second year with CHP and they are working with the committee on thing that will help employee to become healthier. There has been a Mission Statement and Vision Statement created by this committee. The Mission Statement: To improve the health, well-being, and quality of life of all Toombs County Employees by empowering its employees to promote and model positive attitudes and behaviors through a lifelong commitment to wellness. The Vision Statement: To promote better living through healthier choices to prevent serious diseases or possible death to our employees and their families and to inspire a healthier community.

There are 176 employees that have chosen to participate in this program and CHP is doing an outstanding job and we are excited with some of the things they are coming up with and doing.

Close-Out of FEMA Project This is closing out another program with FEMA. Manager Jones stated that this - Dees Pond Dam Project: program began way before he was an employee of Toombs County. It was called Dees Pond Road, it started in 2008 and apparently there was a major rain storm that blew out the road. In December 2008 Toombs County submitted a plan to FEMA for help in restoring the condition of this road. It became very complicated, really quick. EPD issued a cease and desist order, not wanting us to do any kind of work out there. FEMA did award a grant to help with the repair cost but it was soon discovered that it was going to take a lot more money than the County could afford. The grant has never been closed out and basically FEMA will reimburse the county $32,240.80. We provided the information showing that the County had spent on the repair, so they have agreed to send the additional reimbursement. Chairman Sikes complemented Manager Jones on the attention to detail, and ended his statement with, “Wonderful job sir.”

Review Re-Cycling at Solid Manager Jones has a board displayed at the meeting to show that the County does

Waste & Recycling Centers recycle cardboard, waste oil, and metals.

Standing Committee: None

Reports:

Commissioners Comments:

Commissioner Dixon: Commissioner Dixon stated that he had received a lot of good comments about the flashing lights that had been installed at the dangerous intersections. He also said he had a couple of people bragging on the dirt roads, so he appreciated the work that had been done and thanked everyone for doing a good job.

Vice-Chairman McCormick: Commissioner McCormick said the flashing lights had been all over face book with comments like, ”it’s about time.” Again, Thanks for the work the employee do.

Commissioner Nobles: The comments have been good from the stop signs and flashing lights that have been installed. He believes that more people will be asking for them in areas that do not have them now. Commissioner Nobles asked how many did we install at the intersections. Manager Jones stated that there were twenty solar flashing lights. Commissioner Nobles asked how much each flashing lights cost and Manager Jones stated about seven hundred dollars each.

Chairman Sikes: The road department did an excellent job on installing them with the road signs. He was extremely impressed because it looks very professional and very well thought out. It is nice that when you come to an intersection you are able to know where you are at with the road names displayed on the signage. Chairman Sikes continued to say that the employees of Toombs County continue to welcome him and gives me gestures that I have never received in my life, as far as acts of kindness. That means more to him than they will ever know. He is appreciative that the employees know what we are doing and backs what we do.

Adjournment: Chairman Sikes asked if there was a motion for adjournment.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:13 PM

15 Minute Break: Chairman Sikes announced that there would be a work session after a fifteen minute break to discuss future plans for expansion.

Work Session: The workshop started at 6:26 PM. This work ship was to discuss the lack of space and planning phase of building a new Court House and extending the Jail capacity and office

space. Preferably, the commission would like to stay t the present location and not seek additional land for the structures to be built. The Commission must choose a firm before any other decisions can go forward. In order to choose a design company, the Commission made a decision to visit other structures, in the next six months that the three companies have build, to help with the final decision on who should be chosen. After a designer was chosen, the firm would then come in and make their recommendations and give costs to those recommendations so that the Commission will be able to start the long term planning phase.

The work session ended at 7:11 PM.

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**David Sikes, Chairman Helen Harris, County Clerk**