

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

- PRESENT:** DAVID SIKES, JEFF McCORMICK, ALFRED CASON, WENDELL HUGH DIXON, DARRIEL NOBLES, JOHN M. JONES AND HELEN HARRIS.
- Call to Order:** Chairman Sikes called the March Meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.
- Invocation:** Commissioner Cason 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 approve the March 22, 2018 Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
- Approval of Minutes:** Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the February 20, 2018 Regular Board Meeting.
February 20, 2018 Regular Board Meeting: Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the Minutes of the February 20, 2018 Regular Board Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimous.
- Employee Recognition:** Chairman Sikes stated that tonight, we have a very special recognition. Mr. Charles Newsome recently completed 40 years of service to Toombs County, which is quite an achievement. Mr. Newsome's preacher at St. Matthews Church, Mr. Harry Sims, came forward and spoke about Mr. Newsome's willingness to contribute to the church and his community. Reverend Sims continued to say that Mr. Newsome was a fine man of the church and helped in any way he could. In recognition of this rare achievement, Chairman Sikes and the Commissioners presented a plaque and One Hundred Dollar cash Reward to Mr. Newsome for his years of service with the County.
- Development Authority Report:** Michelle Johnson announced the upcoming meetings for the Chamber: Leadership Toombs-Montgomery Graduation will be held on Friday, March 23, 2018 at the Train Depot. Now is the time to nomination Candidates for the next class. Digital Marketing Boot camp, which is an interactive workshop with multiple sessions where small business owners will learn how to apply effective tactics to build their digital brand, expand their market, and acquire new customers. The Boot camp will be held on Thursday, April 12th, 2018. Showcasing Toombs-Montgomery, please save the date, Friday, May 11th, 2018. Georgia 2030 with Chris Clark, President of the Georgia Chamber, will be held on Thursday, August 9th, 2018. March 2018 Meeting will be held March 27th, 2018 at 8 AM in the Chamber and Development Authority Boardroom.

The Development Authority has project "Apple Cart" ongoing; this is a local expansion. Project "Gingerbread" is a new prospect. PFI submitted February 21th, 2018 and the follow-up information will be submitted this week. This is a food processing company with a \$ 65 M investment and two hundred jobs in the next five years. The March 20th, 2018 visit with the Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) visit was cancelled by port participants, due to weather. The Development Authority will consider rescheduling.
- Department Reports:** Drew James, EMS Director, stated there were 551 calls for service in the month of February and 21,416 miles were placed on the fleet. We have been going to training on the ventilators the Board approved in last month's meeting. March 3rd the ambulance service did a stand by for the Chick-Fil-A Road Race. March 24th our services will be at the United Farm Festival and on April 13th at the Vidalia High School covering the Special Olympics.

Lynn Moore, EMA Director, stated that John Jones and his self has been working on Hazard Litigation Plan that is required every five years. The City of Vidalia, the City of Lyons, and the County has been very helpful in getting this project done. Mr. Moore commends the people that help with the paperwork required by FEMA for the Hurricane Irma Storm that came through in September of last year. There was a \$

115,000 request in which we hope to get 85 percent of that amount reimbursed by FEMA.

Chairman Sikes acknowledge "Skipper" William Smith was present at the meeting to support Charles Newsome for his special recognition. Chairman Sikes also told Skipper that he was very proud that he was not injured more than he was, from the horrific wreck he was in last Tuesday.

Public Participation:

Chairman Sikes asked if either of the two of three candidates running for the seat of District Four would like to come forward, please do so.

Eddie Toole came forward and announced that he was running for District Four and then he shared a story about Charles Newsome. Mr. Toole asked for everyone to remember that he just wanted to serve the people of our district and voice their opinion.

Randal Clark came forward and stated that he also appreciated Charles Newsome's years of service. He, as well, will be running for District Four and he also would like to serve the people of District four.

**Consideration of Approval
For Furniture at Public
Works Building:**

Manager Jones stated that in the packet there was a proposal for \$ 7,507 from Southern Davis submitted by the Project Manager. This included three desks, with office chairs, twelve training tables and twenty five chairs. The Board needs to ratify the purchase of the furniture and that is to be paid with SPLOST funds. Also, Appling County came and visited our Public Works Building because they are considering building one for their County.

Chairman Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to ratify the purchase for the necessary office furnishing for the Public Works Building in the amount of \$ 7,507 from Southern Davis. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Approval
of Purchase of Vehicles
for Sheriff's Office:**

Manager Jones stated we replaced one-third of the Sheriff's Office Fleet every other year, this helps with the budgeting of the purchase of these vehicles. In order to replace one-third of the Sheriff's Department's fleet, bids for the equipment were obtained from Hub Electronics, Secret Geek Electronics and West Chatham Warning Devices. Based on the prices that were obtained, the Sheriff has requested five (5) trucks and three (3) cars from Woody Folsom Dodge, buy two (2) used Crown Vic's from Brannen Ford for the Detention Center to use for transporting inmates. Additionally the Board is requested to approve \$ 23,500 for the purchase of a van for the Detention Center. Unfortunately these vans do not stay on the lot long enough for the matter to be brought before the Board at a Commissioners Meeting, so the Board is being asked to approve up to \$ 23,500, for the purchase of a van. West Chatham Warning Devices was recommended for the equipment installation and Lee Graphics for the lettering on the vehicle. In addition, there will be a need to replace one vehicle that was declared as a total loss. The insurance company will pay for a majority of the truck but there will be some cost to the County to replace this truck. The grand total comes to the amount of \$ 357,871 and will be paid from SPLOST funds.

Vice-Chairman Jeff McCormick made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to accept this proposal for the purchase of the necessary vehicles and the equipment that is also needed. The cost of the proposal will be \$ 357,871 and will be paid with SPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Approval
of Road Striping Bids:
from**

Manager Jones explained this project would provide Road striping for approximately twenty six and a half miles of roads in Toombs County. The roads that were selected striping were from the result of an evaluation and anticipated future re-surfacing of the paved roads in Toombs County last year. The evaluation scored each road on a scale of one to five with five being the worst. This list includes all four and five's on this list and include some of the three's as well. Southeast Centerline, Inc. was the lowest bid at \$ 102,828.75. With the approval of the Board, TSPLOST monies will pay for the completion of the project.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman McCormick to approve the Road Striping Bid submitted by Southeast Centerline, Inc. in the amount of \$ 102,828.75 and the project will be paid with TSPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chairman request the Manager Jones read a list of the roads that would be striped with this bid. Manager read the roads as listed: Racket Town Road, Bob Sharpe Road, Old Savannah Road, DeWayne Dykes Road, Kingswood Drive Road, Largo Drive, Regency Road, Old Petross Circle, Sandspur Road, J. R. Rollins, Woodhollow, Dixon Lake, TH Tippet, Petross Road, Buck Horn Road, Mel Blount Road, Aimwell Road, South Thompson Road, Green Oak Road, Rocks Springs Road, Jack O'Neal Road, Ben Roy McClendon Road, Ponderosa Road and Sol Anderson Road.

Consideration of Approval of Engineering Fees for Sewer System Improvements (Grinder) :

Manager Jones stated the bids received for the Grinder bid located at the Detention Center. The Board approved the low bid at the previous meeting. There is an invoice from Hofstadter & Associates, Inc. (the engineer) for their services. The invoice in the amount of \$ 18,176.07, represents approximately 8.4 % of the lowest bid. If the Board approves, the invoice will be paid from the Jail Fund.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman McCormick to pay the invoice in the amount of \$ 18,176.07 to Hofstadter & Associates, Inc. for engineer cost on the Sewer System Improvements (Grinder) at the Jail. The Jail Funds will be used to pay for the invoiced amount. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of Proposal for Design and Construction of a Passive Park in Normantown:

Manager Jones stated the park is a passive park because there will not be an attendant at this park. Last year, land was purchased with the intent to build a park in Normantown. We received a proposal from Progressive Landscaping & Irrigation, in the amount of \$ 43,615, for the design and construction of the Passive Park in Normantown. The County has some extra picnic tables, from Gray's Landing and Toombs Recreation Department Project. We will need to purchase an additional two (2) tables to complete the project. The all inclusive price would be \$ 44,815, if approved it will be paid with SPLOST funds.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the proposed Design and Construction of the Passive Park in Normantown by Progressive Landscaping & Irrigation with the additional cost of two (2) additional picnic tables, for a grand total of \$ 44,815.; to be paid with SPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of Firm to Conduct Feasibility Study for Courthouse and Jail:

Manager Jones explained that after over two years of research, consideration and various due diligence trips the county is now ready to decide on one of the three finalist to conduct the feasibility study. The three Companies to chose from: 1) Hussey Gay Bell & DeYoung International, Inc. from Savannah, Georgia; 2) CRA Architects from Thomasville, GA; and 3) Collins Project Management from Peachtree Corners, GA. The Board is now being asked to vote on who we should consider for continuation of the feasibility study of our Courthouse and Jail.

Vice-Chairman McCormick made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to elect Hussey Gay Bell & Deyoung International, Inc. from Savannah, GA to do the Feasibility Study for the Courthouse and Jail in Toombs County. Motion carried unanimously.

County Manager Report: Financial Report:

Manager Jones stated that we are at the first of the year with two months that can be analyzed. The M & O Budget is at 13 % of budget with 16.6 % of the year behind us. The Landfill, EMS, & Special Revenues Funds are off to a good start for the year as well. LOST collections was off 0.56 % from this time last year in February and 1.09 % YTD.

Other Miscellaneous Items:

Remember March 24 is Tire Amnesty Day in Toombs County. Citizens can bring in old car and truck tires, for no charge, to the landfill, from the hours of 8 AM to 4 PM. This is for residential citizens only and does not include farm equipment tires or commercial equipment tires.

The Department of Revenue is changing their computer systems software and required the County to purchase new hardware. The new program is called "DRIVES". This is going to an expense to the County and there will be no reimbursement from the Department of Revenue. They are expecting in to be in place by September of this year. The cost is estimated at \$ 13,000.

**Quote for Fencing for the
New Public Works Building:**

The local fencing companies were asked to bid on a six foot fence with and without barbwire. They were also asked to quote an eight foot with and without barbwire. Central Fencing out of Statesboro was the lowest bid, with a six foot fence with barbwire for the price of \$ 24,528 and will be paid from the SPLOST funds.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman McCormick to accept the quote from Central Fencing, with a six foot fence with barbwire for the price of \$ 24,528 and will be paid from the SPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Sikes announce that there was an executive session scheduled following the Commissioner Meeting but he really appreciated everyone coming out to acknowledge Charles Newsome forty years of service to the County.

There will be a ten minute recess before we begin our Executive Meeting; this meeting is for the purpose of discussion on legal issues.

Vice-Chairman McCormick made a Motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to go into Executive Session after the ten minute break. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session:

The Executive Session was called to order by Chairman Sikes at 6:30 PM.

After discussion on a legal issue, Chairman Sikes asked if there was a motion to adjourn from the Executive Session.

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

Chairman Sikes open the floor back to the regular session. Chairman Sikes stated that in the Executive Session there were no actions made.

Adjournment:

Chairman Sikes ask for a Motion to adjourn the Regular Commissioners Meeting.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman McCormick to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM

Chairman, David Sikes

Attest: _____
Helen Harris, County Clerk