

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**PRESENT:** **DAVID SIKES, ALFRED CASON, WENDELL HUGH DIXON, DARRIEL NOBLES, TOMMY ROLLINS, JOHN M. JONES, BLAKE TILLERY AND HELEN HARRIS.**

**Call to Order:** Chairman Sikes called the July 16, 2019 meeting to order at 5:31 P.M.

**Greeting:** Chairman Sikes stated, "It is a power packed house here tonight and I would like to recognize all of you." Mayor Willis NeeSmith of Lyons, Mayor Ronnie Dixon of Vidalia, Terry Thompson with the Chamber of Commerce, City Manager Nick Overstreet of Vidalia, Bill Bedingfield - City of Vidalia, Former Vidalia Council Member - Eddie Tyson, Former Lyons Council Member - Spec Nobles, a Local Legend Ansel Callaway with his wife Virginia and Pastor Danny Williams. It is an honor to have you with us tonight.

**Invocation:** Commissioner Cason gave the Invocation.

**Approve Agenda:** Chairman Sikes asked for approval of the Agenda.

Vice-Chairman Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the agenda with the addition of Consideration of Appointment to the Board of Assessors after the public participation. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes  
June 18, 2019 Regular  
Board Meeting:** Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on June 18, 2019.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Dixon to approve the Minutes of the June 18, 2019. Regular Board Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Development Authority  
Report:** **Michele Johnson** announced a Ribbon Cutting for Meadows Health Immediate Care on July 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM, 303 Harris Industrial Boulevard, Suite 5, Vidalia. The Toombs County Funeral Home Ribbon Cutting will be held on August 1<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 PM, 211 West Liberty Avenue, Lyons. Abednego Primary Care Ribbon Cutting will be held August 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM, 1608 Meadows Lane, Vidalia, GA. The Chamber's will not have a Regular Monthly Meeting in the month of July but will have a meeting on Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at 8:00 AM in the Chamber and Development Authority Boardroom. As far as the Development Authority side of business; Dot Foods Expansion 2016 Project Update: The Annual Report was submitted on June 4<sup>th</sup>. As of December 31, 2018, the total number of FTE positions was reported to be 335 against a goal of 294. The Development Authority will not meet in the month of July but will have a meeting on Thursday, August 15, 2019 at 12:00 PM in the Chamber and Development Authority Boardroom.

**Department Reports:** **Drew James**, EMS Director, for the month of June there were 660 calls for service and 26,730 miles placed on the fleet of our ambulances. We partnered with the City of Vidalia Police and Fire Department for a "Beat the Heat" Campaign. We are inviting everyone out July 20<sup>th</sup> at the Lowes parking lot from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. There will be an EMS crew on location as well as Vidalia Fire and Police Department, DNR and the Lyons Fire Department. They will be handing out safety tips for heat related emergencies, as well as hands on CPR and doing blood pressures screenings.

**Resolution to appoint  
Tina S. Lindsey to be the  
Associate Judge,  
Probate Court** Manager Jones stated that he had a request from Judge Larry Threlkeld. Judge Threlkeld is asking the Board to consent to a Resolution pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 15-9-2-1 that would appoint Tina S. Lindsey to be the Associate Judge for the Probate Court of Toombs County, to take office July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and would be concurrent with Judge Larry Threlkeld's term of office. The Board would need to approve this and give their consent to this appointment.

Vice-Chairman Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the Resolution to appoint Tina S. Lindsey to be the Associate Judge for the Probate Court of Toombs County and would be concurrent with Judge Larry Threlkeld's term of office. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Participation:**

**Mr. Reid Threlkeld** gave a presentation to name the existing and future large "Courtroom A" to be named after Judge Marvin Hartley, Jr. He requested the Board to grant an exception to the Toombs County naming policy. Marvin Hartley, Jr. started his practice in 1963 and later was elected by the citizens to serve as the State Court Judge for a year. At this time the Governor recognized his legal abilities and moral character, appointed him to be the Superior Judge for the Middle Judicial Circuit, where he served for Twenty Three and a half years. For these number of years of service certainly deserves some kind of recognition. All of the former State Court Judges are honored by their picture placed in the Large Courtroom. Judge Hartley is the only Superior Judge that lived in Toombs County. The Commission has received a letter from Hugh McNatt who was Judge Hartley's long time friend and law partner. Mr. Mitchell Shook is here on behalf of the Toombs County Bar Association. The Board has received letters from the Toombs County Bar Association, the Middle Judicial Circuit Bar Association (which is all five counties that are in our Circuit), Mayor NeeSmith of Lyons and a Resolution on behalf of the City of Vidalia, which all recommend the Toombs County Board of Commissioners to rename the Large Courtroom to honor Judge Marvin Hartley, Jr.

**Mitch Shook**, on behalf members of the Toombs County of the Bar Association, asked the members of the Toombs County Bar Association and its members were supportive of this proposal.

**Lew Tippett**, on behalf of the Middle Judicial Circuit Bar Association, asked the members of the Middle Judicial Circuit and its members were unanimously in support of this proposal.

**Pastor Danny Williams** spoke and stated that Judge Hartley was attending First Baptist Church when the church had a by-law that black people could not be a part of the congregation. He took a stand back in the 60's and said if they could not change the by-laws, he would have to find another church. We need more people like the late Judge Marvin Hartley in this world.

Chairman stated that he really appreciated everyone's effort in this request. Our community is one that stands behind this kind of stuff. Such as the Ross P. Bowen building, named in 1980, a little ways down the street is Charles Durst Detention Center named one year after he passed away and our Hospital Authority named R.T. Stanley Health Center, one year after R.T. Stanley passed away. Under our Policy we would not be able to grant this request at this meeting. However, I feel like the commission is strongly open to the request to make an exception. Please give us a month to discuss this and to go through our process. Tonight has been the most compelling request I have seen in this community since I've become Chairman.

Commissioner Dixon stated that Judge Hartley was a well respected man and also a Georgia Bulldog.

Commissioner Nobles was in Mr. Hartley's Sunday School Class and he commended Mr. Hartley on his ability on teaching a Sunday School Class. I will give your request all the consideration that I can.

Commissioner Rollins told a short story about Judge Hartley. Commissioner Rollins told that he had gotten chosen on a jury and I was scared to death. We were in the Large Courtroom and I was sitting on the front row on the end. I had made a phone call during break and forgot to place my phone back on silent before I entered the courtroom again. It so happened that I got a phone call and my phone began to ring, when Judge Hartley, in all of his humorous wonder asked me, "Tommy is that phone call for me?" I replied, "No sir and I promise it

would not happen again.” Commissioner Rollins stated that he would give his full consideration also.

Commissioner Cason stated that Judge Hartley was thought of as an outstanding person among his peers and himself and would also give it his full consideration as well.

**Consideration to appoint Mike Holland to the Board of Assessors Board:** Manager Jones stated, in May of 2019 the Board appointed Otha Dixon to the Board of Assessors to fill a vacancy on their Board. Once appointed Mr. Dixon found that his schedule had conflicts that did not allow him the time to dedicate to that position on the Board. We would like for the Board to appoint Mike Holland to the Board of Assessors to fill the vacancy on their Board.

Vice-Chairman Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to appoint Mike Holland to the Board of Assessors. Mr. Holland’s term will expire December 31, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Approval to begin Phase II Courthouse Renovation & Jail Renovation:** Manager Jones stated the proposal from Hussey Gay Bell to begin Phase II is ready for approval. This will be to complete a full schematic design for the Courthouse and the Jail Renovation and a partial design development for cost estimate.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion and seconded by Commissioner Cason to continue with Phase II. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Approval of Financial Advisor:** Manager Jones stated after reviewing the various options regarding the ultimate financing of a new Courthouse and renovating the Jail, the Finance Committee (Wendell Dixon, Tommy Rollins and John Jones) felt it was in the best interest of the citizens of Toombs County to find a financial advisor to assist the county. After interviewing and meeting with various Financial Advisors, we narrowed the list down to three. We completed our due diligence which included, but was not limited to, interviewing prior clients of each. At the conclusion, the committee is recommending that the Board approve Davenport & Company as the Financial Advisor for Toombs County for this transaction. The scope of their work is identified in the attached agreement which can be terminated by either party with a 30-day written notice. Davenport and Company will be paid at the closing of the ultimate financing arrangement and will be part of the closing costs. Davenport & Company is one of the largest financial advisors in the state of Georgia and has many clients throughout the State. They have been in business since 1863.

Vice-Chairman Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rollins to approve Davenport & Company as the Financial Advisor for Toombs County. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Renewal of Liability Insurance:** Manager Jones stated in the packet there was a copy of the liability insurance for the County and the fire volunteer departments. The renewal cost of the twelve month policy is \$ 229,456. This policy provides insurance for 43 different buildings with a value of over \$ 21 million and contents of \$ 3 million. Additionally, we have 50 pieces of heavy equipment and 156 vehicles, trailers, etc., with serial numbers with a new cost value of \$4 million. This is the same insurance companies that we have had for several years and we ask for the Board to approve.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the renewal of Insurance coverage with Bishop-Durden Insurance of Vidalia for an annual premium of \$ 229,456. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Purchase of Tractor for Public Works:** Manager Jones stated, in your packet there are two comparisons of the bids we received for a new tractor for Public Works. John Deere 5090 from Lasseter Tractor and the Kubota M-5-091 from Low Country Kubota. Lasseter Tractor is the low bid of \$ 53,000 that comes with a two year comprehensive warranty and a five year Power train warranty. We are recommending that the Board

approve Lasseter Tractor as the low and acceptable bid and to use SPLOST Funds to pay for this transaction.

Vice-Chairman Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rollins to accept the bid from Lasseter Tractors in the amount of \$ 53,000 and to be paid with SPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of  
Purchase of Limb  
Cutter for Public  
Works:**

Manager Jones stated several years ago we purchased a front end loader and we placed a limb cutter on the loader and it has worked very well. This mower has over 3200 hours on it and it has lasted its expected life / usage. We received a complete limb cutter package price from Diamond Mowers that includes the box and the boom that attaches to the tractor in the amount of \$ 58,931. The Road Department feels like the boom kit is the only thing that needs to be replaced on that. The boom kit is \$ 27,382; so we are recommending that the Board approve the request for the boom Kit only for \$27,328.00 and to use SPLOST Funds for this purchase.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to purchase the boom kit in the amount of \$ 27,382 from Diamond Mowers and for the purchase to be paid with SPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of  
Excess Property:**

Manager Jones stated there are three items need to be sold as sealed bids. One is a 2011 Ford Crown Vic that has over 174,000 miles on it. The tractor that was approved to be purchased tonight will replace the two (2) tractors that we would like to dispose of. The two tractors are a Kubota Tractor and a John Deere Tractor. We would accept seal bids on both of these tractors.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Dixon to dispose of one (1) 2011 Ford Crown Vic, two (2) tractors; Kubota Tractor and a John Deere Tractor. All three items will be sold at seal bids. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of  
Approval of Replacing  
ECM on CAT Motor  
Grader:**

Manager Jones stated in the packet is a copy of the quote to replace the ECM on a CAT Motor Grader. This is the motor grader that we recently refurbished the engine and the transmission but we did not refurbish for the electronic brain of the machine better known as ECM. The repair cost is \$ 6,681.55 and for it to be paid out of the Public Works Budget.

Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to replace the ECM on the CAT Motor Grader in the amount of \$ 6,681.55 and for it to be paid out of the Public Works Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of  
Resolution for Complete  
County Committee:**

Manager Jones stated that a Resolution for Complete Count Committee would be signed at a joint signing next month with the City Officials, if the Commission approves. Prior to this, the County went through their E- 911 addresses in an effort to validate the addresses we have on file in the County. The cities used their water and sewer bills to validate their addresses. Our goal will be to reach 30,000. If the household does not complete the census on the internet, then there will be a personal visit at the address to be sure they are counted. LIMIG money is based on two factors; one being population and the other being road miles. This is just one example of funds that we receive that is based upon the census. It is extremely important to count everyone in our County.

Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Dixon to approve the resolution and allow the Chairman to sign the Resolution for the Complete County Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

**County Manager Report  
Financial Report:**

Manager Jones stated our Management & Operation Expenses remain under budget for the first half of the year. All of our major revenue streams (with the exception of property taxes which will hit in November and December of this year) are at or above budget at Mid-Year. Landfill Revenue is 6 % above budget with expenses 1 ½ % under budget. At the Landfill intake is 3,500 tons up from this time last year. EMS Revenue is ½ % under budget with expenses

3 ½ % under budget. In its entirety, the first six months of 2019 finished very well in all aspects, financially speaking.

Wellness Report – You will also find your monthly wellness report.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**Commissioners Comments:** None

**Executive Session –  
Legal & Real Estate:**

Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of Legal and Real Estate.

Vice-Chairman Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to go into executive session after a 5 minute break. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to come out of Executive Session.

Vice-Chairman Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rollins to adjourn from the Executive Session.

Chairman Sikes open the doors back to the public and asked for a Motion to approve the Quit Claim deed to Jimmy and Patricia Dixon to a never-accepted road named “Glory Drive”.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the Chairman to sign a Quit Claim deed to Jimmy and Patricia Dixon to a never-accepted road named “Glory Drive”. Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment:**

Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to adjourn from the Regular Board Meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.

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David Sikes, Chairman

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Helen Harris, County Clerk