

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

PRESENT: MICHAEL BLAKE TILLERY, JEFF MCCORMICK, ALFRED CASON, WENDELL HUGH DIXON,  
DENNIS DARRIEL NOBLES, JOHN M. JONES AND BELINDA R. WHIRLEY

- Call to Order: Chairman Tillery called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.
- Invocation: Vice-Chairman McCormick gave the invocation.
- Approve  
Agenda: Vice-Chairman McCormick made a motion seconded by Commissioner Dixon to amend the agenda to add an executive session to discuss a personnel issue and the Alexander law suit against the county. Motion carried unanimously.
- Approval of Minutes:  
January 20, 2015  
Regular Board Meeting: Commissioner Nobles made a motion seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the Regular Board Minutes of January 20th, 2015 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Employee Recognition: Chairman Tillery awarded Ms. Haley Peterson, Chief Administrative Assistant of the Solicitor's Office with a Gift Certificate in the amount of \$50.00 to J & B's Steak House for being voted in as Employee of the Month for February, 2015.
- Public Participation: None.
- Development Authority Report: None.
- Department Reports: Lynn Moore, EMA Director, appeared before the Board to discuss radio issues. There have been some reception issues in the bottom of the county. In 2013 the Federal Government cut the frequency from 25 to 12 Yt percent causing us to lose 30 percent reception. The new repeater to be discussed tonight should solve this problem.
- Chairman Tillery questioned if we were going digital or analog. Lynn Moore stated that we would have the ability to go digital but would be staying analog at this time. Vice-Chairman

McCormick thanked Lynn Moore and Bill Collins for all their diligent hard work on this issue.

Raymond Carroll, EMS Director, explained that all ambulances are now equipped with tablets on which the trip reports are loaded. This has improved and speeded up our billing process. Trip reports are more accurate and not as lengthy. County Manager Jones stated this has been a major improvement and that EMS Consultants purchased the tablets for us and that we only had to purchase one.

Martha Powers-Jones, Director of Ochoopee Regional Library System, gave a brief update for the Toombs County Libraries.

Carrie Alligood, Voter Registration Supervisor, gave a brief update on HB 194 in regards to the way advanced voting will be done. Legislature is still making changes to the bill. They are looking into changing the 21 days of early voting to 12 consecutive days including Saturday and Sunday with an option of two Saturday voting days if the county and the municipalities do not want Sunday voting. It will be at the discretion of the county and the municipalities.

Vice-Chairman McCormick questioned if the Sunday is right before voting on Tuesday. Ms. Alligood stated that it would not be. Chairman Tillery questioned if changing to this way would cost more. The difference would be a \$164.00 savings. Commissioner Nobles questioned what the percent advanced voting is. Ms. Alligood stated that approximately 12% of the actual people voting are advanced voters. She also asked if anyone knew of any ways to keep voters interested in regards to voting to please let her know considering that only 30% of the registered voters show up to vote.

County Manager Jones, for the Fire Department, stated that there would be a Fire Fighter I Class conducted on Hwy 15 for all fire departments including the City of Lyons and the City of Vidalia. This is a first for all the fire departments to participate.

Presentation of

County Manager Jones gave a brief report on the condition

Civil Engineer  
Report on 1964  
Heating/Cooling  
System on Courthouse:

of the fifty-one year old HVAC system. Michael Whitfield, engineer for Total Energy Services, looked over our system last week and gave a preliminary report with a \$500,000.00 design and build HVAC system. The entire ductwork will have to be replaced due to leaks. We need to move on the HVAC system but to keep in mind the thoughts of the lack of space here at the courthouse.

Vice-Chairman McCormick question how this can be done with the heat of the summer coming up. County Manager Jones explained that this would have to be a spring or fall project.

County Manager Jones reiterated that this price is a planned project price not an emergency price. He feels that the price would double if we wait and it becomes an emergency. This price is 5.4% of the County M&O budget.

Commissioner Dixon stated the he felt we would save money because of the new unit being energy efficient not like the one we now have. Vice-Chairman McCormick feels that we need to look to the future and consider not only the unit but the space factor.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion seconded by Commissioner Nobles to give direction to management to look at three (3) consultants in regards to space and HVAC. Motion carried unanimously.

Toombs County  
Health Department -  
Proposed Portable Toilet  
Ordinances and Fee  
Changes Tabled from  
January 20, 2015:

Commissioner Nobles made a motion seconded by commissioner Dixon to approve the Portable Toilet Ordinances and fee changes. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration for  
Closure of a Portion  
of Bud Jordan Road:

Vice-Chairman McCormick made a motion seconded by Commissioner Dixon to close a portion of Bud Jordan Road because it has been determined that it serves no public purpose. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration for

Commissioner Nobles made a motion seconded by Vice-

Closure of a Portion  
of Adams Hammock  
Road:

Chairman McCormick to close a portion of Adams Hammock Road because it has been determined that it serves no public purpose. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Bids  
for Bulldozer at Landfill:

Manager Jones presented the bids for a bulldozer at the landfill and recommended the John Deere at a cost of \$138,520.00. Commissioner Dixon made a motion seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the recommendation of the County Manager. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration Purchase  
of Kenwood Digital/Analog  
110Watt Repeater  
Installed on Tower  
Tom McDonald Road:

Commissioner Dixon made a motion seconded by Vice-Chairman McCormick to approve the purchase of Kenwood Digital/Analog 110Watt Repeater from HUB Communications in the amount of \$23,897.00 to be paid from SPLOST Funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval  
for Mercy Clinictosale excess  
Office Furniture/Equipment  
February 21, 2015 from  
8:00 AM to 12:00 Noon:

Vice-Chairman McCormick made a motion seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve for the Mercy Clinic to sale excess office furniture/equipment on February 21, 2014 from 8:00AM to 12:00 Noon. Motion carried unanimously.

County Manager Report  
Financial Report:

Manager Jones presented the financial report for month ending January 31, 2015. He informed the Commission that the LOST revenue in January was up, the highest in five (5) years.

EMS Report:

There were 513 calls for the month of January with 77 being Montgomery County. There were 23,341 miles put on our ambulances in January.

County Manager Jones stated that we need to make a motion to ratify the three (3) year EMS contract with Montgomery County. This is the end of the first year and every February the commissioners have to vote to renew the contract.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion seconded by Vice-Chairman McCormick to renew the contract with Montgomery County. Motion carried unanimously.

Website Up-Date:

County Manager Jones stated that we have a contract with a new company to redesign our website. Hopefully by this time

next month we will be up and running with a newer more modern look.

Land Use Management:

County Manager Jones overviewed the land use management plan. Land use is a critical issue for the community. We have had inquiries in regards to entertainment groups, junk yards, etc. We are a rural community with a minimal level of protection for property and business owners. We are not trying to restrict but trying to protect for the betterment of our community. We need to be planning ahead. By 2020 the bypass will probably be in place, the widening of US-1, the port in Savannah will be deepened causing approximately six times more traffic on I-16 and more business for the railroad from Cordele to the Savannah Port. We need to be planning ahead.

Other Miscellaneous Items:

County Manager Jones asked for the commissioners to adopt the resolution for the 2014 Amended and Restated Plan for the Association County Commissioners of Georgia Defined Benefit Plan for Toombs County.

Vice-Chairman McCormick made a motion seconded by Commissioner Nobles to adopt the resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

Standing Committee Reports:

Commissioner Nobles stated that he was getting well acquainted with the work it takes to get a grant. He has been knocking on doors and getting signatures to pave Pendleton Creek Road and Deer Run Road. We will apply to pave these two roads after April 1<sup>st</sup>. He has found out that it is not an easy task.

Commissioner Cason stated that he has enjoyed working with the staff this last month and the journey to the Capitol in Atlanta with the commissioners.

Commissioner Dixon thanked Lynn Moore and Bill Collins for their hard work and time spent on the repeater and radio issue.

Vice-Chairman McCormick stated that he and some of the commissioners went to Atlanta last week to voice their concern over HB 170. They took with them a letter signed by every elected official in Toombs County included the mayors and council members in the cities. The bill is a complicated one but we do not want to be taxed or penalized due to the fact that some areas in the state did not vote for the T-SPLOST tax. They had the opportunity to meet with Senator Tommy Williams and Representative Greg Morris.

Chairman Tillery stated that he had heard rumors from citizens that the commissioners intended to zone all of Toombs County tonight. That is not the case. We are concerned about certain industries and entertainment that may not meet the morals and character of our community. He stated that he would be happy to meet with anyone who had concerns and questions in regards to zoning. He thanked everyone for allowing the commissioners to serve.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion seconded by Vice-Chairman McCormick to take a short break and go into executive session to discuss personnel and legal matters. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session:

Commissioner Nobles seconded by Vice-Chairman McCormick made a motion to come out of executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chairman McCormick made a motion seconded by Commissioner Nobles to accept the resignation of County Clerk, Belinda Whirley and to direct the County Manager to proceed with steps to find someone to replace her. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Tillery thanked Ms. Whirley for her services to Toombs County.

Commissioners Comments:

Commissioner Nobles stated that the commissioners need to do another workshop or planning retreat. The commissioners conferred that there is a need for one but a date was not set.

Adjournment:

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

Ordinance Review: The Commission was given updates on the Mobile Home Ordinance.

A brief discussion followed.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.

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Michael Blake Tillery, Chairman

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Belinda Whirley, County Clerk