**TOOMBS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS Courtroom A**

**February 23, 2016 5:30 PM**

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**PRESENT: BLAKE TILLERY, ALFRED CASON, WENDELL HUGH DIXON, DARRIEL NOBLES, HOWARD KAUFOLD, JOHN M. JONES AND HELEN HARRIS.**

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

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

**Approve Agenda:** Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Noblesmade a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the Minutes of the January 19, 2016 Regular Board Meeting as written. Motion carried unanimously.

**Employee Recognition:** None

**Public Participation:** Tammy Nelson, 925 Tom McDonald Road, Vidalia. I believe that is County road Number 100. Ms. Nelson discussed the improper maintenance of the road she lives on. I have lived on that road for 40 years. She used strips of paper to illustrate how the road was being plowed and how the pipe was exposed and there was a hole in which were two foot long and one and a half foot deep in the center of the dirt road. She had called the commissioner’s office and expressed her concern. The office personnel in the Commissioner’s Office explained that the road department does not work on Friday but a couple of hours later there was a flag/saw horses with warning tape attached over the hole but it was not repaired. The road scrappers have been scrapping so deep on the road that the dirt is going back in the ditch. Ms. Nelson asked why we didn’t send our employees to a school to learn how to drive the machinery. Chairman Tillery made a statement that he wanted to make a point, we have searched for a school and there was not one that had been found. He then thanked Ms. Nelson and asked if she could stay until the meeting was over where he could see the pictures she had and to discuss her concerns more in detail.

The next Public Participation was from Pastor Ron Womack, 4444 Georgia Hwy 15 which is also the physical address of Center United Methodist church. They noticed there was a license for Beer and Wine application for to sell alcohol at the store right on the corner which is right across from our property. That store has been there for a long time and he could not remember alcohol being sold from that store. Mr. Ancel Kersey who is in the audience could possibly tell you more about the history of that store. The Church members wanted to voice their objection against the sale of alcohol in that store. Chairman Tillery thanked them for coming forward and asked if there was anyone else that would like to speak.

Mr. Ancel Kersey approached the podium and stated his name and that he lived at 547 George Morris Road. He stated that he had been the owner of Center Store located at 4384 Center Road for 38 years and never had a problem and never had a complaint from any of the Church Members. You have to be 300 feet from the door of the Church and it is that. Chairman stated that our ordinance states that a new Beer and Wine license application must run an ad in the paper for two weeks before it can be brought to the commission and this particular license had not been placed in the paper therefore it was not on the agenda for this meeting but will be for on the next month’s meeting. He thanked everyone for voicing their concerns, please don’t think your option has not been heard but they really need to be here next month because that is when it will be on the agenda.

**Development Authority** Mr. Bill Mitchell announced that the Toombs-Montgomery Youth Leadership Graduation

**Report:** will be held on March the 14th at the First Methodist Church in Vidalia at 7:00 PM with eighteen students graduating. Ribbon cutting event on Tuesday, March the 8th at 11:00 AM for Mimi Make Cake located at 106 East Meadows Street. He was asked by the Tourism Committee to bring a resolution to name Georgia Highway 15, “The Traditions Highway”. This highway runs from North Carolina Border to the Border of Florida.

The Board has been given a Memorandum of Understanding for the Dot Food expansion. This is for a nine million dollar expansion with 55 new jobs in our area and they will be remaining in our community which is good news. We also would like for the Tax Commissioner and the Tax Assessors to sign this MOU as well.

Chairman Tillery asked if there were any questions for Mr. Mitchell and Commissioner Dixon asked when Dot Foods would start this process. Mr. Mitchell replied hopefully in Mid March, with the completion in April. Chairman Tillery asked if there were any other departments. Manager Jones announced that it was not a department but City Manager Bill Torrance and Assistant City Manager Nick Overstreet are us tonight. Chairman Tillery apologized for not recognizing them earlier. He asked Mr. Torrance to speak. Mr. Torrance said that he hoped the commission would work with him to transfer all the work related to the City of Vidalia to Mr. Overstreet. As we have said in the past we were going to hire an assistant so he can take over so that I may retire at the end of this year. We hired Mr. Nick Overstreet who was from Alma, he had been the City Manager there and we are proud to get him involved. Mr. Overstreet spoke and thanked Chairman Tillery and the Commission allowing them to come. As Mr. Torrance said we have set up some meetings with Manager Jones. He is just looking forward to working with each one of you and being a part of the community and not only the opportunity in a municipal manner and county manner but a civic manner as well. He is looking forward to being a part of the community. Chairman Tillery welcomed him to the community and was pleased that he had already found a house to buy. We hate to see Bill make this transition, but we hope he stays involved in our community. Commissioner Dixon added that he had received several calls from Alma and Baxley area bragging on how nice of a guy Nick is.

**Reports:** None

**Consideration of** Manager Jones stated that the next item was the consideration of authorizing **Authorizing the Chairman** the chairman to sign the memorandum of understanding with Dot Foods. As **to Sign Memorandum** you know for several months there has been negotiations going on with Dot **of Understanding with** Foods for their expansion. The Toombs County Commissioners, the City of Vidalia, **Dot Foods:** the Tax Commissioners, the Tax Assessor’s office and the Board of Education will be signing this Memorandum of Understanding with Dot Foods. We need a motion from the Board to allow Chairman Tillery to sign the Memorandum

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with Dot Foods concerning their expansion in Toombs County. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of** Manager Jones stated that the next item was the Mutual Aid Agreement for Fire and **Mutual Aid Agreement**  Emergency Services with Tattnall County. This is a five year agreement. **For Fire and Emergency** We need the Board to authorize the Chairman to sign this agreement with **Services with Tattnall** Tattnall County. **County:**

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to sign the Mutual Aid Agreement for Fire and Emergency Services with Tattnall County. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Approval** Manager Jones stated that the next item is the approval of Speed Detection **of Speed Detection** Devices on the roadways in Toombs County. The Department of Transportation **Devices on Roadways** has sent a list of roads in Toombs County. DOT regulates the speed limit on each of **in Toombs County**  our roads. This has to be done periodically every so many years. **Ordinance:** Commissioner Nobles asked if we had any control over what the speed limits were set at. Could we get the speed limit on US 1 increased to 65 once it is made into a four lane road? Manager Jones replied that if you want to petition DOT the speed on a state road or county road they will consider that. Generally speaking if you want to raise the speed limit, they want the traffic studies which cost about 10 to 15 thousand dollars to do. They measure the amount of traffic and the speed that each vehicle is going and they consider any accidents that have happened on that road. There is no guarantee that they would change what they have already established for the speed limit on that road. Chairman Tillery stated that we can do a resolution urging that in the next meeting. Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to sign the approval of Speed Detection Devices on Roadways in Toombs County. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Tillery asked Manager Jones to consider doing a resolution for the next meeting for the speed limit to be changed on US 1 to the speed limit of 65.

**Consideration of** Manager Jones stated that the next item is the appointment of Duane Tomlin to **Appointment of Duane** fulfill the Kendall Brantley seat to the Board of Assessors. Mr. Tomlin also serves **Tomlin to fulfill the** on the Library Board. This is for a complete term of six years, beginning January 1,  **Unexpired term of** 2016 and ending December 31, 2021. **Kendall Brantley to**

**The Board of Assessors:** Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to appoint Duane Tomlin to the Board of Assessors. Duane Tomlin’s term will be from January 01, 2016 until December 31, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Cintas** Manager Jones stated the next item was the consideration of Cintas Rental Service **Rental Service Agreement:** Agreement with the County. This authorizes the Chairman to sign the contract.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to accept the rental service agreement from Cintas. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Ratifying** Manager Jones asked the board to ratify the purchase of poly pipe for Roads and Bridges. **The Purchase of Poly Pipe** The amount is $ 5,976.00 from Lanier Municipal Supply Company. This is just one supply **For Roads and Bridges:** of poly pipe.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to ratify the purchase of Poly Pipe for Roads and Bridges. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Approval** Manager Jones stated that the next item is the demolition and removal of mobile home **For the Demolition and** that we acquired by County Tax Sale. In your packet you have a copy of the sale and a **Removal of Mobile Home** picture of the mobile home. **Acquired by County in Tax Sale.** Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the demolition and removal of one mobile home acquired by County in a Tax Sale. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Purchase** Manager Jones stated that the next item is the consideration of purchase of a 2002 **Of 2002 International 4700** International 4700 truck for the Cedar Crossing Fire Department. This truck will be used **Truck for Cedar Crossing** as their pump truck. They are going to remove the water tank from the existing truck and **Fire Department:** place it onto this truck. We found this truck for $ 17,900.00 and will be paid out of the general operating fund. Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to purchase a 2002 International 4700 Truck for the Cedar Crossing Fire Department from I-75 Truck Sales in the amount of $ 17,900.00, paid out of the General funds. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Approval** Manager Jones stated that the next item is the consideration of approval of landscaping **Of Landscaping at Toombs** at the Toombs County Solid Waste and Recycling Collection Center number 2. This is our **County Solid Waste and** the busiest collection site we have. It is located on Aimwell Extension and Gibson. We **Recycling Collection** will pay thisout of the General Operating Fund if it is approved by the board. **Center Number 2:** Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the landscaping with a Brick Sign for the Toombs County Solid Waste and Recycling Collections Center Number 2 for the price of $ 5,709.73, which will be paid out of the General Operating Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Bids** Manager Jones said that in the packets there were two bids for the striping on **for Striping on Lent** Lent Stephens Road. We just resurfaced that road and now it needs the striping done on **Stephens Road:** it. We received two bids one from Southeastern Centerline, Inc. their quote was $ 4,418.40 and the second quote from Peek Pavement Marking, LLC and their bid was for $ 6,652.00. Manager Jones recommended to take the quote from Southeastern Centerline, Inc. for the amount of $ 4,418.40 and pay with SPLOST funds.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the quote from Southeast Centerline, Inc. on the striping of Lent Stephens Road for the price of $ 4,418.40, paid from the SPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Tillery asked how long is Lent Stephens? Manager Jones started that it was about two miles long. Commissioner Nobles asked about their credibility. Manager Jones stated that they do a lot of work for the City of Vidalia and do a good job.

**Consideration of Repairs** Manager Jones stated that we received a quote from Flint (John Deere) in the amount

**on JD Model 770CH Motor** of $ 32,964.43 to do the repairs on the JD Model 770CH Motor Grader transmission. **Grader transmission:** Ifapproved it will be paid out of the SPLOST funds.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the quote from Flint in the amount of $ 32,964.43 to repair the JD Model 770CH Motor grader transmission, paid from the SPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Resolution** Manager Jones stated the next item is the consideration of resolution for naming **for Naming Highway 15 as** Highway 15 as “The Traditions Highway”. As you know there has been a group working **“The Traditions Highway”:** with this for a couple of years organized by the City’s and County’s that run along this highway. They are trying to brand this highway in hopes of more traffic. The road comes into Toombs County North of Vidalia. A lot of people use it to go to Athens. They have established a website and Logos and been working on this with the Department of Transportation and the Georgia Legislature. This group wishes that the Cities and the Counties along this route to adopt this resolution but is it branding this route as The Traditions Highway and then the Department of Transportation will start marketing with this name and so forth. There is not any money associated with this request.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Carson to approve the Resolution naming Highway 15 as “The Traditions Highway”. Motion carried unanimously.

**County Manager Report: Financial Report:** Manager Jones stated that our financial report for the month of January is at 8 % and on budget. LOST collections were down again for the month of January this is some-what offset by the TAVT Tax but the difference is going to be that TAVT tax does not offset the property tax money and local options sales tax money does offset property tax money. This means that every time we have a reduction in the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST), it is going to be reflected in the lesser amount in your rollback on property tax.

**EMS Report:** EMS had 586 calls for the month of January and drove 13,285 miles for the month. **Presentation of Proposed** Manager Jones stated that he will let the landfill committee, Mr. Nobles and Mr. Dixon **New Hours for Landfill:** talkabout the new hours for landfill that we’re considering. We’re looking at changing some of the hours of the landfill in the month of April. This will be a trial run for 90 days to see if it is a benefit. We were trying set up the schedule where we can have the employees off every other weekend and still extend the hours of operation at the landfill. There will not be an additional cost to do this change. We talked to some of the commercial deliveries and they could bring more tonnage to us if we had extended hours. The Landfill Committee and Tommy Thompson was in favor of trying these new hours. I would like to turn this over to the landfill committee now and let them make their comments. Commissioner Nobles said that they had met with Tommy Thompson for a long lengthy meeting and Tommy has done the schedule and we looked at it and it is well worth it. Republic is hauling to Broadhurst in Jesup because we are not open later in the afternoon. Commissioner Dixon asked Tommy if the employees were happy with the new hours and Tommy said yes, they are happy about having every other Saturday off. Manager Jones said we would start on April 4th Monday through Thursday from 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM and Friday from 7:30 AM until 4:00 PM and Saturday from 8:00 AM TO 11:30 AM. We are going to run this for 90 days and then we will sit down and see if it has worked out like we thought it would. Chairman Tillery stated that we did not need a motion on this because it was internal.

**Other Miscellaneous Items:**

**Georgia Legislative on** In your packet, just for your information, the Tax Commissioners of Georgia are pushing **Abandonment of Mobile** some legislative changes on Mobile Homes and the abandonments of Mobile Homes. **Homes:**

**Amendment on the terms** In our last Board meeting we appointed Donnie Mann and Troy Reddick to the Board of **for the Board of Elections:** Elections for the terms of January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2017. We would like to do an amendment for the ending date. This is for a four year term, not a one year term so the ending date of their term should be December 31, 2019. Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to amend the ending date of Mr. Donnie Mann and Troy Reddick to be December 31, 2019 for the Board of Elections. Motion carried unanimously.

**Containers at the Landfill** We no longer use the containers that were used at one time to collect aluminum cans **That Collected Aluminum** at the landfill. We have some civic clubs interested in them. Chairman Tillery said we **Cans:** cannot give the containers to them but we could declare the containers surplus and allow bids to be placed on them.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to declare the containers at the landfill as surplus. Motion carried unanimously.

**Presentation of Options** Manager Jones presented the following four options:Option 1: Keep the Building – The  **on Pineland Building:** repairs would cost the county $ 200,000.00 Option 2: Sale the building. No Buyers, the building was built in 1966 and thus a 50 year old building. As such, other than the interior renovations that were funded by a CDBG, the entire infrastructure in the building would need to be replaced such as electrical, plumbing and phone lines. The back of the building, owned by the City of Vidalia School System, is crumbling and falling in. This will eventual affect the integrity of the part of the building owned by the county. If you did sale, the penalty on the CDBG would be the pro-rata of the $ 500,000.00 grant funds. The grant was awarded in September 17, 2004 but the building was not completely renovated until 2008. Using a 2008 date the penalty would be $ 325,000.00. If you use 2004, the penalty would be $ 225,000.00. Option 3: Demolish the Building - The cost of demolishing the building (and the CDBG penalty of $ 325,000.00) would cost $ 856,960.00. Option 4: Transfer the building to the City of Vidalia School System - Transfer to the School System and the School System assume the liability to Department of Community Affairs for the CDBG penalty. Total Cost to the School: $ 856,960.00.

The best option would be to give the building and land to the school. Dr. Wilcox has said that the school would assume the CDBG Grant penalty. Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to accept the fourth option assuming that the school system will accept the CDBG liability in the amount of $ 325,000.00 estimated penalty.

Manager Jones stated, we have to have a public hearing. The County’s Attorney, Howard Kaufold stated that we have to go through the statutory procedure; you have to give notice and have a Public Hearing on the site.

Chairman Tillery asked Commissioner Dixon if he would like to withdraw his motion and instead make a motion to draft a letter to the Vidalia City School Board saying these are our options, we are willing to consider transferring this parcel to you if you are willing to take the responsibility for CDBG penalties and the demolition of the building.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to withdraw their previous Motion and to make a motion to draft a letter to the Vidalia City School Board stating these are our options, we are willing to consider transferring this parcel to you if you are willing to take the responsibility for the CDBG penalties and the demolition of the building.

Pineland has a lease on that building until June 30, 2016. They have already found two potential places to move to and by the time we do all the proper procedures, the lease will be have expired and they will be moved out.

Chairman Tillery asked if there were any other comments or questions. There is a motion on the table to test the waters with a Vidalia School System concerning their interests assuming they will take the liabilities with the Pineland Building for exchange of the parcel into the Vidalia School System. Any further discussion? We have a motion and a second on the table; all of those in favor say aye, Motion that carried unanimously.

**Standing Committee Reports: Commissioner Comments:**

**Commissioner Dixon:** None tonight.

Co**mmissioner Cason:**  We have completed a lot of work and I thank you all for everything and we appreciate the citizens and their cooperation.

Co**mmissioner Nobles:** We have a lot of work going on and we have a lot more to accomplish, but I am enjoying every minute of it.

C**hairman Tillery:** Thanked the Citizens for staying to talk with us afterwards. We will have to slide out of here fairly quickly because we want to get to a spaghetti dinner that is being put on by SOAPS as a fund raiser. SOAPS is an organization that helps the county with a lot of stray animals, so please don’t get offended if we have to leave shortly.

**Adjournment:**  Chairman Tillery asked for a motion to adjourn if there are no other questions. Commissioner Nobles made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Dixon. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

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**Michael Blake Tillery, Chairman Helen Harris, County Clerk**