TOOMBS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS Courtroom A

June 21, 2016 5:30 PM

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

Called to Order: Chairman Tillery called the Called Meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

Invocation: Commissioner Cason gave the invocation.

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

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Tillery requested a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular

May 17, 2016 Regular Board Meeting held on May 17, 2016. Commission Dixon spoke and stated that

Board Meeting: on the Regular Board Meeting, on the last page, the motion had “Commission Dixon Nobles” as making the motion, which was incorrect. He requested the County Clerk to check the notes and make the necessary correction and present the minutes in the next regular board meeting for approval.

May 26, 2016 Called Chairman Tillery requested a motion to approve the minutes of the Called

Board Meeting: Board Meeting held on May 26, 2016. It was called to the attention of the board by Vice-Chairman McCormick that there is a mistake in the Called Board Minutes that needed to be addressed. Vice-Chairman McCormick stated that he gave the invocation but was not listed as being present on the list of attendees and that his name needed to be added.

Vice-Chairman McCormick made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon for the County Clerk to correct the minutes in both the Regular Board Meeting and the Called Board Meeting and present them to the board for approval in the next Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Participation: NONE

Development Authority Chairman Tillery asked if there was a report from the Development Authority.

Report: Mr. Mitchell stated typically summer time was slower, but we have had some activity on a couple of request and we have closed the deal with the expansion of Dot Foods. They are beginning to hire employees now. Leadership Adults and Youth the candidates have been nominated and approved. Their names will be released in early July. On September 15th, there will be our business expo at Hawk’s Point. On August the 24th we will be in Atlanta with the GSA, Greater Savannah Regional Authority, for a reception and presentation to the States Developers.

Chairman Tillery asked if there were any questions for Mr. Mitchell. Commissioner Dixon asked, what is the latest on Tumi? Mr. Mitchell replied that Samsonite Luggage has bought them out. Samsonite executives were here a couple of week ago to see what property was here for possible expansion.

Department Reports: Chairman Tillery stated that a State Court Case with a jury will be held at the Vidalia Municipal building in Vidalia the last week in July. The City of Vidalia has allowed us to use their space because we have run out of space here at the Court House. Manager Jones stated that he will be discussing the moving of a mobile class room building up here from the Toombs County High School later in this meeting.

Chairman Tillery asked Attorney Howard Kaufold if he had anything he wanted to share with the board. Mr. Kaufold stated he wanted to share with the board that we got an opinion from the Court of Appeals, today, in the Montgomery County case in regards of the insurance premium tax. The Court of Appeals reversed Judge Reeves decision and said that the use of the insurance premium tax was allowed for the conveniences centers if it was factually, established that it was used for the primaries benefit for citizens of the unincorporated area. This is the legal position at this point in time. They may take it up to Supreme Court we would just have to see.

Chairman Tillery asked Fuzzy (William Swain) about the past weekend with all of the bad weather that we had. Fuzzy replied there were about 16 roads that had trees cleared from them by Roads and Bridges and may others volunteers and other Departments has cleared. Chairman Tillery said he appreciated all the work that the Roads and Bridges Department had done for the County.

Consideration of Manager Jones stated there is a consideration of request of purchase of two

Request of Purchase used fire brush trucks; one used 1987 International 3,000 gallon fire truck

of two used Fire Brush and various fire truck repairs. You have a list of the itemized items. Total

Trucks, one used 1987 cost is $ 57,804. All of this will be paid out of the general fund with the

International 3,000 gallon exception of the 1987 international fire truck 3000 gallon tank and it will be

Fire Truck and various Fire paid out of the SPLOST funds in the amount of $ 23,950. This is for everyone in

Truck repairs. our Fire Departments. The fire truck is going to Marvin Yancey, Toombs is getting one of the brush trucks and Cedar Crossing is getting one of the brush trucks and then the repairs are on some of the other fire trucks we have.

Commission Dixon made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman McCormick to approve $ 33,854. to be paid out of the general funds and $ 23,950 to be paid out of the SPLOST funds for a grand total of $ 57,804. expenditures. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval Manager Jones stated that this is for the consideration of approval to transfer

To Transfer the Former the former Oxford Building and property at 901 North Street West, Vidalia, Ga.

Oxford Building and to the City of Vidalia School System. In the earlier called meeting that was held and Property at 901 North at five o’clock, we reviewed public comments on this transfer from the public

Street West, Vidalia, hearing on June 15, 2014. We did not receive any public comments at

Georgia to the City of the public hearing. In the packet you have a history of the four different

Vidalia School System: options on that building and property. One option was to keep the building, one was to sell the building another option was to demolish the building and the fourth option was to transfer to the Vidalia School System. The repairs were going to be over $200,000. To sell the building, we would still have to pay off the CDBG Grand, which would be in the range of $ 225,000 to $ 325,000. To demolish that building the cost would have been approximately ten to fifteen dollars per square foot and in that building is a 35,000 square foot building that would have been over $ 300,000. The transfer to the City of Vidalia School System was decided to be the best option. The City of Vidalia School System would be responsible for paying for the CDBG Grand Penalty and the demolishing of the existing building. In your packet you have a copy of the letter that was sent to Pineland Behavioral informing them we would not be renewing the lease that expires at the end of June 30th of this year. Pineland Behavioral has found another location to move to and should be moved from that building by the first week of July. Manager Jones stated that he has talked to Dr. Wilcox and they are okay with them staying until the first week of July as far as moved out. Also in your packet you have a copy of the letter I have sent to Dr. Wilcox explaining the conditions, if they accepted the building and one of those conditions was assuming the existing liabilities of the Community Development Block Grant and also accepting the condition of the building. You also have a letter where Dr. Wilcox replied, dated March 25, 2016, in which they accepted those conditions. Based on this information, I recommend the board to approve the transfer of that building to the City of Vidalia School System, under the conditions they accept as is and also assume the responsibility of any liability associate with the CDBG as identified in his March 25th letter.

Vice-Chairman McCormick made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the transfer of that building to the City of Vidalia School System contingent upon them assuming the liabilities of the penalty for the CDBG with the Department of Community Affairs. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of declaring Manager Jones stated the next item is the consideration of declaring the

the following property as following property as surplus to be disposed at the discretion of the County

surplus to be disposed at Manager. There are some office chairs that we have replaced in the Tax

the discretion of the county Commissioners office and there are two tables with drawers from the EMS

manager: Building. We need the board to declare these items as surplus and let us

Office Chairs from the Tax dispose of them the best way we can. They are such insignificant value that it

Commissioners Office; Two is not worth taking bids on.

tables with drawers from

EMS Building: Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to declare the Chairs and Table with drawers as surplus and to allow the County Manager to dispose of them as he see fit. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Property Manager Jones stated the consideration of the Property and Casualty Insurance

and Casualty Insurance coverage. In your packet you have a copy of the booklet that was presented by Coverage: Brian Bishop Insurance Company. On the very last page of this booklet it outlines all the pricing. The total pricing is $ 178,835. This is for the liability insurance, general liability insurance, commercial insurance, liability on our vehicles, the volunteer fire fighters and the fire department employees. We had budgeted a little more than that for the year, so we are in good shape are far as that is concerned. We need for the board to approve this insurance proposal presented to you.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman McCormick to approve the insurance coverage in the amount of $ 178,835. Motion carried unanimously.

County Manager Report:

Financial Report: Manager Jones stated that there is a copy of the financials in your packet. Expense wise we are still on budget with everything. Local Option Sales Tax collections were up for the month, which is the first time for this year; they were up 4.62 percent. For the year we are about five percent down on Local Option Sales Tax.

EMS Report: Manager Jones stated that there were 580 calls for the month and the ambulance service had traveled 13,000 miles. For the year we have had 3,052 calls and have had 83,635 miles traveled.

Other Miscellaneous Manager Jones said, as we discussed earlier in the meeting, we are going to

Items: have State Court Jury Trial at the Vidalia Municipal Annex building in Vidalia because of scheduling of courts here, we just didn’t have room for it here. We have acquired a mobile class room for the Toombs County Board of Education out there at the high school. We have contacted a contractor who will move it to the East side of the Courthouse. We will be renovating that structure for meetings space, court room space, and storage space. Manager Jones went on to say that he did not have a date of when they could relocate and install the building.

The prison crew from the Department of Corrections is working at South at the Toombs Center Recreational Department.

Two weeks ago we met with the USDA officials and they are closing the Montgomery Office and will be moving it to Toombs County into the Ross Bowen building. Beginning Monday morning that office will be serving Toombs, Montgomery and Treutlen County farmers. Manager Jones stated that he will be bringing some figures on the renovations needed for those offices. We did not have a lot of notice on the move. They have a lot of farmers that will be signing-up for programs in the next few weeks so they asked that we do not start the renovations until July 15th.

Commissioner Dixon asked if we would be getting any more funds for the two counties that will reside in the Bowen Building. Manager Jones stated that we renewed that lease last year and had raised the rent because it was much lower than the market price on it and we renewed it for three years, because of the plans here at the Courthouse. We will be putting out a request for qualification for an architecture about the Courthouse. The next step would be that they would come back and would do a feasibility study for us.

Chairman Tillery states, so, we are moving a mobile home on the side of the Courthouse. Manager stated, we were given that modular classroom; we just have to pay for the moving and setting up of that structure.

There was a lengthy discussion on the feasibility of remodeling the Ross Building and the expense of moving the Mobile class room along with the expense of setting up the mobile class room building with security coverage, power installed and to have access for the handicap. Would the building be connected to the Courthouse and if not, then what would be the expense of making an entrants to the building.

Other questions and answers that were asked:

Is this our only option? Manager Jones did not know of another option.

What is the cost to make this mobile unit useable? Approx. $10,000.

Do we have an anticipation of how long the unit will be there? Unknown

What other building do we have that we could utilize?

* We have the EMA building that is used for EMA.
* We have the Ross Bowen which houses: District Attorney, County Extension service, USDA and Soil Conservation Services.
* We have the Board of Elections which there space is needed by them when they have their elections.
* We have the old Board of Health building which has the Public Defender office down stairs, Veterans Affairs and Juvenile Justice upstairs.

Manager Jones stated, “We really do not have any buildings that have free space available.”

* Are there any other offices that could be moved into that building?

Manager Jones stated, “Possible the Commissioner’s office but is the space of the Commissioner’s office large enough to hold a court room setting?”

Vice-Chairman McCormick asked if we were voting on this building tonight.

Manager Jones replied that it has been brought up in other meeting and unless it was decided tonight to stop and not to proceed. This is why it is being discussed in this meeting.

Vice-Chairman McCormick asked how many times a year do we have to go off-site to hold court. Manager Jones replied about 6 to 8 times a year. Vice-Chairman McCormick stated, and then is it feasible to move that portable class room in for just 6 to 8 times a year to hold these court cases? Manager Jones explained that the building was also going to be used for storage as well. Manager Jones stated, we are running out of space to store our records and we have record retention requirements that must be met.

Chairman Tillery asked if there were any motion. Hearing none, are there any other report you have Mr. Manager. Manager Jones replied, None.

Standing Committee Reports:

Commissioners Comments:

Commissioner Nobles: We appreciate the Road Crew. We appreciate what you do and please keep plenty of water on hand; it’s so hot out there.

Commissioner Cason: I certainly want to thank the road crew because the weather was terrible and I appreciate them clearing the roads for our citizens.

Commissioner Dixon: I want to thank Fuzzy (William Swain), Jerry and their crew for getting out on the weekend and clearing the roads. We appreciate you for that.

Vice-Chairman McCormick: Ditto, Thank you so much.

Chairman Tillery: I need a motion to go into executive session to discuss litigation.

Adjournment:

Vice-Chairman McCormick made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to go into executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

We will take a short break before we go into executive session.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Attest: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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