TOOMBS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS Courtroom A

October 18, 2016 5:30 PM

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

**Call to Order:** Chairman Tillery called the October meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. Willie Haynes, Chief Tax Assessor passed away today. Willie served as our Tax Assessor since 2008 and has worked for the county for about eleven years. If the citizens will indulge me, Blake continued to say, that he would like to read the resolution that was adopted on behalf of the Commission in August of 2016. Tillery continued, once we realize that many times in our life we praise someone when they no longer can hear us, so we tried to have something thanking Willie for the joy he brought to our lives while he still could. Chairman Tillery read the resolution. Chairman Tillery asked for everyone to stand in a moment of silence and then asked Commissioner Cason to give the invocation.

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

**Approve Agenda:** Chairman Tillery asked for an approval of the October 18, 2016 Agenda.

Vice-Chairman McCormick made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the Agenda as printed. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**September 20, 2016** Board Meeting held on September 20, 2016.

**Regular Board Meeting:**

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the Minutes of the September 20, 2016 Regular Board Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**October 4, 2016 Special**  Chairman Tillery requested a motion to approve the minutes of the special

**Called Meeting To Reduce** called meeting to reduce the millage rate that was held on October 4, 2016.

**Millage Rate:**

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the Minutes of the October 4, 2016 Special Called Meeting to reduce the Millage rate as written. Motion carried unanimously.

County Manager Jones stated in the last meeting you asked me to do a comparison on the last four years of millage rate and comparison of neighboring counties. A slide was presented so that the audience could see the figures. Manager Jones explained the reduction of the millage rate over the past four years. Since 2012 the net millage rate has been reduced over 9 percent. Of the neighboring counties, Appling net millage rate is fourth-six percent higher; Candler is forty-nine percent higher; Emanuel seventy-three percent higher; Montgomery fifty-six higher; Tattnall seventy percent higher; Bullock is forty-one percent higher; Laurens is lower by eighteen and one half percent. Lauren is lower because they have a larger retail base which generates a large volume of dollars with sales tax and local option sales tax. LOST is a dollar for dollar reduction on property tax bill. Chairman Tillery asked if we were going to catch Laurens to reduce our millage rate further; what would we have to do? Manager Jones said, one of the things is to drive sales tax such as the new hotel in our county will help out. Increasing the tax base and increasing sales tax are activities that we need to encourage.

**Department Reports:** Chairman Tillery stated that he would like to recognize several of our Elective Officers in the audience, Tax Commissioner Williams, Sheriff Kight, Judge Smith, Judge O’Conner and Judge Threlkeld. Chairman Tillery continued by asking if there was any department heads that would like to give a report.

Drew James: EMS director give a report that their department was as busy as ever. In the month of September there was 628 calls for service; driving over 23,000 miles. For the year there have been over 5,500 calls and over 233,000 miles on the ambulances. This is an average of 617 calls per month and was short of 26,000 miles driven per month. In our last storm, Hurricane Matthews, our crew answered 57 calls in those elements so he announced he was beyond proud of the EMT’s and Paramedics and what they are doing for our community. Director James continued to say he did not want to break any HIPPA laws but the ambulance service had a sub cardiac arrests save in Toombs County about three or four days ago that was due to our crew. Again he stated how proud he was of the team at the Toombs / Montgomery with the Ambulance Service. Due to the high miles we place on our ambulance, of course there are needs for a new ambulance. Bids have been received for a new ambulance and that he will be meeting with the Public Safety Committee and reviewing our options. The specification of the new ambulance was for a remount where we would reuse the box which saves about 15 to 20% on the costs of the new ambulance and it will pass the safety inspection 100% from bumper to bumper. He and Manager Jones had been invited to attend the 3rd meeting of the high speed broad band Joint access for Georgia Committee. There were five State Senators and five State Representatives attending this meeting. The purpose of the committee is to see how broad band internet can serve our community from an EMS stand point. We see this being helpful because we could get to the patience and via camera, a physician or specialist could see the patient and could be assessed on the spot. At that very moment they could decide if the patient needs ER Care or possibly can they go to the urgent care and see a Physician and be treated there. This would help the overcrowding that we have today in the emergency room. Finally, our crew will be wearing pink shirts for the next couple of weeks to support the breast cancer awareness.

Chairman Tillery asked how much does a new ambulance cost. Director James stated roughly around $135,000. Commissioner Tillery then asked, how often are we going to an ambulance? Director James replied about one every year.

Sheriff Kight, Sheriff of Toombs County: E-911 had 466 and dispatch calls in September. Our jails situation, in September there was 155 arrested and booked, have 130 inmate population, and we average 114. We provide 12 inmate workers to the city of Lyons, the city of Vidalia, Lyons Fire department, and Lyons Recreational Department. In September we transported 71 inmates to the state, for drug abuse and mental health patients with 86 hours to do these transports. 45 inmates went to state probation detention centers and this took 253 hours to do the transports. Seven juveniles were transferred to a RYDC, which took 25 hours to accomplish that. The summary for September month was 364 hours and 8081 miles to do the transportations. The capacity of our jails has been running over 100 since January. The department of corrections is letting folks out really quick due to the lack of housing and shortly after they are released, they’re in trouble again and since they are on probation, they come back to our system and stay six months to a year before they can be moved. The state is not building any more prisons so it falls on the counties to house these inmates; this also applies to a mental health prisoner. The jail has 128 bed capacity and we average around 114 inmates. Commissioner Tillery asked, can we use all 128 beds? Sheriff Kight replied, we have to keep the females and males separated so the females have one cell that is not always full. Basically this is all Toombs County inmates. We do trade with other counties for various reasons when we, or they, need to house a prisoner somewhere besides the county where the alleged crime was committed. Vice-Chairman McCormick asked what the 155 arrests were made for. Sheriff Kight replied, drug related, DUI’s, thief, burglary, forgery, etc. Chairman Tillery commented that sheriff Kight controlled his budget better than anyone else that he had seen in 159 counties of Georgia. Thank you for giving a report tonight.

Judge O’Conner, Chief Magistrate Court: Judge O’Conner stated that they are one of the few courts and the United States that runs 24-7. The magistrate court works twenty four hours a day and seven days a week including the weekends and holidays. The primary reason is that the magistrate courts are responsible for signing for the majority of the arrest warrants in Toombs County. Are all the signs arrest warrants for Toombs County, City of Lyons, City of Vidalia, Georgia Bureau of Investigations, and Georgia State Patrol. In the year 2015 there were 1193 arrest warrants and in 2016 as of today there has been 926 arrest warrants signed. For search warrants there have been 51 in the year of 2015 and 46 so far for this year. Judge O’Connor explained that she had seen eight prior to the meeting. In 2015 there were 507 individual bond hearings, some of which are denied. As of this year they’ve had 356 bond hearings, that is on the criminal side of things, and on the civil side, their courts will see anything $15,000 or less lost in money. As a 2015 their 1794 cases and as of today, there had been 1141. The cases can be anywhere from a car or house repair that is gone wrong, broken contracts, or even a car accident. This concludes our report. Commissioner Tillery thanked Judge O’Conner for coming tonight.

Richard Brantley: Richard is reporting from Cedar Crossing and Marvin Yancey Fire Department. Mr. Brantley stated that they have started dive team in their part of the county. We have four RED1 certified divers. So far we have not cost the county a dime to start a dive team. All of the schooling and certification has been paid out of the individual pockets. Commissioner Tillery asked Richard to explain what equipment they have on hand. Mr. Brantley explained that they have full face mask, air tanks, and all the gear they need to do for a dive. It is about $30,000 worth of equipment and we have got it for $5000. Commissioner Tillery stated that the five regulators cost about $3000 each. Mr. Brantley replied yes and the face masks are also $3000 each. The tanks could be anywhere from $200 an up in price and all of this equipment was purchased for $5000. Chairman Tillery thanked Mr. Brantley for being wise with the money and thank you for starting this project for the County. Mr. Brantley stated that he appreciated Marvin Yancey and the EMA for giving them a trailer. We are all working together as one right now. The sheriff has really been helpful also. We are working under Cedar Crossing / Marvin Yancey volunteer fire department because; it has to be under a fire department, police department, or EMS. Commissioner Tillery wanted the citizens of Toombs County to know that we did not have a dive team so we have to wait for Jeff Davis or Wayne County if there’s emergency or an event that we need a dive team. Commissioner Tillery thanked Richard Brantley for giving a report on the dive team.

Kerry Alligood, Election and Registration Office: Mrs. Alligood stated that they had started their early voting this year. It started on November 17 and will continue until November 4th, from the hours of 8:30 until 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday and on Saturday October 29th from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM. Toombs County has 15,115 registered voters. This is the largest number we have had; usually it is around 13,000 voters. There has been 532 ballets sent out by mail and the office has received 294 back into the office. So far there have been 444 people in two days to do early voting. On an average there are 50 to 75, this year that people are really interested and there has been a very good turnout. Precincts have been reduced from 14 to 5 precincts. When the ballots were ordered for 14 precincts the cost was from $2400 to $2800. Now that we only have five precincts the cost was reduced to $1200 to $1800 per election. They department has lost a number of poll workers and would like for anyone that is interested to sign up for the day of elections to help with the election. Commissioner Tillery asked if they get paid for the day. Mrs. Alligood stated, yes, it is a paying job. The managers get paid $180, assistant managers get $155 and for the clerks, $120 for the day. This is a long day; we start at 6:00 AM and worked until 8:00 PM; bring your lunch because, once you are there, you don’t leave until the end of the day. I don’t think it is as bad as it sounds because I would not have the same ones as long as I have had them. We have sixty units and when we closed the nine precincts, we had extra units to use if one stopped operating properly. We’re going to have to replace some of the units; the average cost of one unit is $2000. Georgia is beginning to issue some from other states but there are not any available at this time; our county is on the waiting list. Use units are refurbished and certify so they cost less than the new ones. Chairman Tillery thanked Mrs. Alligood for her report.

Judge Larry Threlkeld, Probate Judge in Toombs County: Through the month of September of this year we have had 649 cases; 133 marriage license, 1805 birth certificates, 180 death certificates. For a comparison on firearms license, in the year 2015 we issued 715 licenses; at the end of September 2016, we have issued 652. At this point and time in October we are already over 700 and the month is not over yet. The probate office has a new program that is a mail-out program and the mail-outs allow the person to know when the license is about to expire. Renewal cost is $35.00 but if it is the first time getting a license, it is in the $70.00 range; this is to have the background check and fingerprinting done. Commissioner Dixon asked how many years are the firearms permit valid is for, Judge Threlkeld stated that is it was valid for five years. Chairman Tillery asked if we could reduce the fee for the permit. Judge Threlkeld said, no, the State sets the fee. Birth certificates cost $25.00, but if you would like to buy additional copies at that time, they are only $5.00 each for any additional copies you may need.

Tommy Rollins, Member of the Land use Committee: Mr. Rollins passed out a Memorandum to the Commissioners and then stated, “I am thrilled with this reaction so far, I know why you’re here tonight; you are here to hear my report. I hope everyone realizes that listening to these reports (and I’m guilty of not attending these meetings myself), I believe I’m only been to two in the past year myself. Our county takes care of a lot of business, for a lot of people and some people do not have a clue of what goes on and I am thankful for them being here for that and now with that being said gentlemen, I will read my report that you have in your hand.”

The memorandum reads as followed: Date: 10-18-2016, To: Toombs County Commission, From: Toombs County Land use committee, Re: Land Use Proposal Draft

We, the Toombs County Land use committee, appointed in July 2015, would like to report to you that the committee has been meeting for the past fifteen (15) months to formulate a draft document of a comprehensive land use plan for the unincorporated land of Toombs County as we were asked to do.

After compiling a draft document, the polling parts of ordinances from similar rural Counties including Turner (Ashburn), Coffee (Douglas), Stephens (Toccoa), Colquitt (Moultrie), and Bulloch (Statesboro), we held five (5) public hearings in various parts of the county as instructed. We received feedback from the public ranging from comments such as “we think something needs to be done, just not sure exactly what” to others voicing a resounding “NO – do nothing at all”.

Considering the results of the public meetings, we offer to the Toombs County commission that this proposal land use plan draft, as currently written, is too politically charged to consider. Instead, we suggest that our committee continues to investigate a land use plan that will help our community manage undesirable land uses were public comment shows there is a consensus, such as private landfills, adult entertainment, etc. but take the comprehensive plan off the table. Any further proposals by this committee will be re-presented to the public for public comment.

We believe this scaled down; more focus effort is needed in order to protect property owners in Toombs County from unsuitable uses that we have observed in nearby counties. Our desire is to establish a land use plan designed to protect property owners, not harm them, and we will await your instructions.

Sincerely, Toombs County Land Use Committee (Harry Moses-Chairman, Tommy Rollins, Ben Sanders, Mike McKinley, Ricky Mitchell-Members)

Chairman Tillery asked, so at this point it is the suggestion of the committee that the comprehensive plan, of the committee be tossed? Tommy Rollins replied, yes, we think we need to look at issues such as landfills and the other areas; this is where we got a lot of positive comments. Chairman Tillery stated, Tommy, thanks for taking the bullets you took. I see some smiles on some of the people’s faces so I hope that they note that this was never a done deal and it was really open for public comment. Thanks Mr. Zorn for organizing your group and I want to thank everyone for being here. Tommy, is the committee planning to meet again? Tommy Rollins replied, if you tell us to meet again, we will meet again and go forward. Chairman Tillery asked, is it just about the landfill and adult entertainment? Mr. Rollins replied, more or less, we think the Commission should make that decision. Mr. Rollins wanted it known that he told the people at the public meetings that he would come and give a report and he felt like he had done that and done it justly. Then he stated, that’s pretty much where we are at. Commissioner Dixon thanked Tommy and the committee members from going out and meeting with the public and finding out what the public wanted to do. Commissioner McCormick added, and you reporting back to us on exactly what was being said. Mr. Rollins said he appreciated that and with that being said, “I’ve got a little more work to be done today so I’m going to excuse myself from the meeting.”

Alvin Hitchcock, Toombs County Building and Maintenance Department: Four years ago there were twenty (20) buildings; seventy (70) HVAC unites systems in our county. Today, because of the closing of the voting precincts and Pineland health building, we have sixteen (16) buildings and fifty (50) HVAC systems. The maintenance department has been called to the Department of Family and Children’s Services building numerous times for roof leaks. For the last three or four years the roof has been patched several times. The last time our department was over there the plywood was getting soggy underneath it. We have gotten a couple of the bids and they are in your packet; one is for singles and the other one is from metal. Chairman Tillery asked Alvin that in previous reports, we felt like we needed a D6 cranked up and run through the building. Mr. Hitchcock replied, that’s close to it. Our department changes ceiling tile often, then the cleaning people at the cleanup after the repair or patch that has been done. Commissioner Tillery asked, is it the same building that the grass is going through the concrete wall? Mr. Hitchcock replied, yes it is but since then there has been improvements on that but the roof will not last much longer. With each rain there is a different leak every time. The bids you have is only on the newest part of the building, the older has a metal roof on it but it is old as well. The two bids are for $18,000 and $18,800, which does not include the plywood that may be need for repair. County Manager Jones added that four years ago we had a company to give us a quote on renovating that building and it was for $612,000. We felt it was not worth renovating given that cost on an old building. We asked, what size the building do you need; we never got a response to that question. This is not a reflection on DFACS and DFACS workers, they do a great job and have a heavy caseload and they are short on staff and funding. Also, at that time DFACS was getting smaller; if anyone quit their position, their position was being replaced in Atlanta Georgia. About two years ago they went with “Georgia One”, Georgia One was where everyone would work from home on a laptop and the caseload would be swapped around to different counties. Well, that lasted for about three or four months before they discovered that would not work. The local offices are now hiring more people and are working with state properties and ordering a new building. State properties division has come down to our county and taken pictures and is aware of the problem. We do have an issue with an old building and we don’t want to put good money after bad. We are going to reach a point where something has to be done. Nothing to vote on tonight, but over the next couple of months we need to address this buildings problem. Chairman Tillery said to Mr. Hitchcock, I’m more concerned with the AC in this building. Mr. Hitchcock replied, it seems to be running good knock on wood. Commissioner Tillery asked is this the original A/C that was installed in 1964. I know the belts and contacts have been replaced but how often does this occur. Mr. Hitchcock replied about every six to eight months. Chairman Tillery stated that it is almost $750,000 to replace the unit. Mr. Hitchcock continued to say that he has housekeeping and all the grass cutting in the county, we trimmed hedges and we have a prison crew that picks up trash. I’ve been with the County for about thirty something years and I appreciate working with all of you.

Larry Moore, Toombs Director of Toombs Recreational Department. He began thanking everyone for allowing him to be the director of such a great and growing Recreational Department. When he started there was only twelve (12) T-Ball participants; not even enough to make the team. In the year 2014 the participation almost doubled in size. There were thirty two (32) players in football, ages seven and eight; fourteen football players, ages 9 to 14; thirteen (13) cheerleaders; and forth (40) soccer players. In the year 2015 there were eighty-five (85) in football and forty (40) in cheerleading. In the year 2016 there was ninety five (95) football players and 25 cheerleaders. In 2016 we had a Toombs Jamboree and the seven and eight year olds won 1st place. Basketball participation has increased to eighty four (84) in the year 2016. Mr. Moore went on to say how proud he was for the teams and thanked Mr. Jones for the remodeling that is going on at Toombs Central. Inmates has done all of the labor free, the only cost was for the materials being used. Mr. Moore gave a slide show of the before and after pictures of the construction at Toombs Central football field. The old press box has been torn down and will be replaced with steel beams. Again, thank you for everything.

Manager Jones explained the next slides that were presented. This is of the Cedar Crossing Community Center and the improvement that have been made. Again, labor was supplied by inmates and we paid for the materials.

The next set of slides is of Gray’s Landing; before and after. The play-ground new swing and play slides equipment was donated by David Sikes. The park renovations should be completed in three weeks. DNR paid a portion of the expense.

County Manager John Jones, spoke for the Roads and Bridges Department: “In 2014 we began a plan to improve the unpaved road system in the County. We developed a crew to allow them to go and improve the drainage. Sixty seven (67) miles of the 360 miles of dirt roads were worked on. Through the TSPLOST funds, we re-surfaced Old Donald, Anderson Road and Mt. Mariah Road, re-surfaced and widen the Marvin Church Road, Laura Dixon Road, and Old River Road. There will be two inches added to each side.”

Manager Jones briefly discussed the preliminary ten-year plan for the paved roads in Toombs County. A more detailed presentation will be made later in his report.

Commissioner Dixon asked Manager Jones to tell the cost of paving a road. Manager Jones said, “That would be about one million dollars per mile.”

**Development Authority** Mr. Bill Mitchell came forward thanked the commission for allowing them a few **Report:** minutes during such a busy night. There will be a ribbon cutting at the Bird’s Nest” in Lyons on October 27th at 4:00 PM and November 15th for Gaston Crue Lifestyle and Interiors at 4:00 PM and then we will follow it with the Chamber Connection. On that night the members and the general public are invited to see what the business does and how it operates; that is part of the Chambers benefits of membership. Our leadership programs are in full session now. Our adult leadership program, Toombs / Montgomery, has the education session on the 10th of November and the Toombs / Montgomery Youth Leadership which involves all the schools in Toombs County will have their government session on November 15th. That is always interesting because they see government in work and you will be proud of the participation that we have in our Youth group. The next regular Authority meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 20th at 12:00 PM in the Chamber and Development Authority Boardroom. We have invited and accepted Greg Riekhof as the new General Manager at the Chicken of the Sea International. He invited the chamber out to the plant to discuss some of the things he’s going to do as a General Manager. In lieu of an industry visit for October, the Authority will be hosting a meeting with Richard Smith, Toombs County Schools, and Garrett Wilcox, Vidalia City Schools on behalf of the Great Promise Partnership initial and David Yarbrough, STC to receive updates on local workforce development efforts. Project “Byrd”, the staff responded to an initial RFI for “Byrd” on October 6th. Project manufactures swimming pools and accessories. Jobs and investment numbers are unknown at this time. Project “Sovereign”, we went to Atlanta on Oct 17th to meet with two German Companies that may be interested in the Spec Building. We are competing with Crisp County (Cordele) and Peach County (Macon). The German Company produces auto aftermarket parts and projects a twenty five million investment and 108 jobs at the new South East location.

Commissioner Dixon asked Mr. Mitchell, what about DOT Foods, are they coming along on their expansion. Mr. Mitchell replied, they have added the 50,000 foot freezer which will increase the employment over the next five years. DOT has promised ten jobs per year, for the next five years. The good news is that Tumi, Traine, DOT Foods, Chicken of the Sea, US Pets have be established for quite a few years and have held their own or expanded.

Commissioner Dixon asked how many employees did DOT Foods employee. Mr. Mitchell replied about 300 employees.

Chairman Tillery said at one time we had a company that wanted to take culled onions and do something with them like converting them into glucose and fuel. Mr. Mitchell explained that they can do the process not only with onions but coal and wood pulp. But they need a larger building an access to the railroad. We have we have found some property on the east side of town that will see them. Chairman Tillery thanked Mr. Mitchell for his report.

**City of Lyons Report:** Jason Hall said that he appreciate the commission and Manager Jones for having me tonight at the meeting. Jason Hall spoke about the Lyons waste water treatment plant. The background of this project is the city operates and maintains two wastewater plants; three – 250,000 gallon water tanks, four wells, sixteen lift stations. We started with approximately 1,983 water customers and 1,940 sewer customers with approximately 300 commercial customers. Our largest reside in the Lyons Industrial Park off of Hwy 1; these accounts are 9.6% of total revenue. The operations of this infrastructure are funded by our user fees. Just a note, currently the City of Lyons provides water to its resident customers for one fifth of a cent per gallon. Compare that with a bottle of 12 ounces of water that cost $1.20. The city of Lyons is split geographically by the Central Georgia Railroad. We have two plants, that east water plant, which treats water on the north side of the railroad tracks. The north water treatment plant that handles the industrial park was designed in 1983-1984 to treat three quarters of a million gallons of waste water per day.

The main focus of discussion tonight will be the treatment of waste water and the proposed modifications in the north wastewater plant. There was a slide that showed the total projection of the project equal the $13,000,000; the north plant equaled $7,000,000; $500,000, an initial investment prior to funding. Also, the slide showed that the plant was designed for 0.75 million gallons per day; permit to discharge .67 million gallons a day, and the historical flows was 0.89 million gallons per day.

In the growth of the industrial park, and 2013 we asked our engineers to provide us with some options so that we could treat 1.1 million gallons of waste water per day. Then over the next two years the City Council review those options. Just recently, the City Council made a move for financing in the amount of $ 13,000,000 for the modification Project. $ 7,000,000 of that loan will be used at the North plant. Over the next five years the council decided to only increase their customers’ rates by approximately twenty eight percent over the span of five years. The water and sewer rates in the city of Lyons before 2015 have not changed for nine years. At the end of the five year span the water and sewer rates in Lyons will still be in the sixth lowest rates in the region. In January of this year the council authorized $ 500,000 to be used for preparing the documents required to receive the loans from the Georgia Environmental Financial Authority. The city council is very concerned for the current health of the residential, commercial and industrial customers that it serves. The City Council is concerned with future expansions and the cost of doing those expansions. The council would like to sit down with the commission as a whole and to discuss the future. Thank you for your time tonight.

Commissioner Dixon asked if Chicken of the Sea was still using the spray field that was several hundred acres of land. Mr. Hall replied, yes they do. We have to be available to treat one hundred percent of their sewer, 365 days of the year, whether they send it to us or not. Commissioner Tillery thanked Mr. Hall for investigating the water usage because we need that for future growth in our industrial park.

**Public Participation:** Chairman Tillery asked if anyone from the audience wishes to speak, please give your name and address and please limit your comments to 1 to 2 minutes, if possible, so everyone wishing to speak may do so.

Randall Clark, 595 Sam Beasley Road, South end of the County. Mr. Clark addresses the commission and asked for his commissioner was. Vice-Chairman McCormick spoke up and said that he was the commissioner for that area of the County. Mr. Randall continued with a statement saying I agree something needs to be done but there was too much in the proposal. It hurts the person that owns one-half to one acre of land. Also the farmer does not want to lose ten feet of the pasture land to put up a fence. I do not support the proposed zoning but I do agree to sit down with a committee and get something done. Chairman Tillery explained that the land use Committee just reported they weren’t moving forward on a Comprehensive land use but perhaps on landfills, adult entertainment and other areas of concern consensus. Mr. Clark stated he was willing to work on those areas.

Paul Kordzikowski, 257 Akins Circle, Lyons, GA. Mr. Akins asked for clarity on what happened with the land use Committee Report. Chairman Tillery stated, we have nothing to consider, there’s nothing before us to consider. Mr. Akins asked, “The committee’s report wasn’t something to consider?” Chairman Tillery explained that the committee could have said, 1) move forward, that would be something to consider; 2) they could have said to consider the first ten pages or 3) but there is not anything in the report for us to consider therefore we are not moving forward, the issue is considered dead. Even though the proposal is dead, the committee did ask if they could address landfills and adult entertainment and I will tell you, it took them 15 months to where they are today, they also said that any proposal would be put forward to the public for comment. I hope this answers some of your questions.

James Thompson, Hwy. 15, Center Community: “Thank you for listening to the will of the people; you get a good job on that. For twenty years the DFACS building has been an engineer nightmare, there’s no hope for the building. I do wish you would fix the large pot hole at the voter registration building. Thank You.” Chairman Tillery thanked Mr. Thompson.

Tony Zorn, 659 Ben McClendon Road: Mr. Zorn stated that he had not come to any of the Commissioners meeting, “I appreciate what you do they has been good stewardship and some of the things I have heard, just the consensus among you guys for making sure you do everything to keep the cost down and you are trying to represent the citizens and that part of it, I really appreciate, “but that's where the at-a-boy-stops”. You want the land use proposal, but you went about it the wrong way. You could have taken the $5000 that was allotted to this committee that was formed and you as much as you can claim, there was bare minimum notification. There is four fifths of the community of the unincorporated area that still does not know nothing of this. My phone, because I have been more vocal about it, has blown up. The last couple of weeks and its only been at the most that I have known about it. I’ll tell you fellows, I can speak and say that I was one of a hundred folks that would stand up there and tell you what want I’m fixing to tell you, I speak with the voice for what I thought was positive was thousands from this community. They do not want zoning period. What the people want and have no problem with, even our past Chairman had made reference to, if you wanted to deal with specific issues that seems to be a concern to everybody, that truly after some of us has contacted legal counsel and representation and ask then and what is going on. I can find just as many folks that says we've got the protection we need for all these things that seem to be a concern to everyone. Everything from landfill to a junk yard, to an adult night club and I haven't seen any of you looking up Highway US 1 where it has been widened. Do you see any outbreaks of all these problems that everyone is so concerned about that we need to protect ourselves from? Then the committee, let me say this, I appreciate these guys, I know every one of them and some of them very personally, I like these guys, but after they presented these plans these Fellows hurt my feelings and made me be ugly to them in a way I don’t like to be towards them, in regards to this. You put them on Christmas card list because they took some big bullets for you fellows and I'll be honest Blake, the way this was done had the appearance, I'm not going to imply impropriety, but that it was sneaky and underhanded and that was wrong. You could have been much more fiduciary in your responsibility and spending money, take that $5000 and when you sent the tax bill notice out to everyone, and state that you're considering zoning for the County of Toombs and a promise you that everyone that open their tax bill, they don't listen to Zack Fowler and Zack is too busy and Zack don’t have time to run around here and cover all these meetings. There are people walking in here now that has just had the bare minimum of what they thought about zoning. I will to solve this problem right now, you could have been much better stewards if you had done that to get the word out then the way it was gone. Then there was two weeks for public comment and they will basically two days apart. These guys took the blunt of it and it even known what was in their proposal. When they got challenged on some of the issues they didn’t even know. If you are going to present something like that, that is going to take the peace of mind from the citizens like that which lives in the unincorporated areas, the promise you guys you've taken the peace of mind from the committee. It sure has mine. Life experiences has taught me that any time a political body such as yourself that is meeting in deciding such as yourself, that has such a large magnitude and import on us little guys, they don't feel comfortable about it until they get an assurance that things are going the way they are. The I haven't had a peace of mind because I don't want to have to worry about -- I got a little the land out there that I want to give to my grand babies and the majority of the folks that I've heard in here is major complaint, it’s my land and unpaid taxes on it and I don't want anybody to do my thinking on it for me. And a lot of the perception that this has come across this fellows that you think that the little guy needs you need to do their thinking for them. You should have started from the premise in perception do we need zoning at all and this is just what I've told you all and I'm sorry if this offends you about the appearance of impropriety, but if a starting with the precept of the principle of the premise that we just need to discuss, do the citizens of County want zoning at all, period, stop, and put that in a tax bill and I guarantee they would have seen it and then discuss how restrictions are we going to make that. Are we going to address the specific issues and a promise you, when these Fellows started getting their heat, these five Fellows at the meeting, the motivation on why we were doing this and what your motivation were , it morphed and changed from meeting the meeting. In the second meeting which was the only one I was at, I was told by one of the voice- tress of the committee members, well this is going to happen, you can just guarantee this is going to happen if you like it are not. He wasn't necessary implying that it was going to happen with this commission that he was guarantee that it was going to happen. No I disagree; no it does not have to happen. My point to you is that there is a lot better way you could have done this and again he could have upset and riled some of your constituents like it has. I'm going to shorten up my statement and make this statement. I appreciate you guys and what you do, I'm truly do and I understand Blake you not going to be on the committee and I have watched what you do her and its country going to town you going to be in Atlanta and you will have to face these issues. Commissioner Tillery stated that he'd much rather be here. Mr. Zorn replied - that is your choice, that is your choice, believe me. But all I'm telling you is this is not the way it to do it. If you want to go ahead and deal with this, what I'm saying, what I'm asking and I've hear is basically what you have said as you explain, parliament procedure, about how it's done you usually don’t respond or give us an answer that you in an essence and I want to give you a chance to say it again, you have calmed my nerves you basically has saying what you-all as the commission, not the committee, have taken this off the board table as we understood it to hindered and it’s done and will not be considered, is that what I understood you to say. Chairman Tillery said he was going to break parliament procedure for just a moment and talk with you Mr. Zorn. The Committee brought no report, so if the committee does it bring a report a look down at the eyes of my Commissioners again; do you intend to bring in a report to our own commission without the committee? Each of the Commissioners replied out loud, no. Chairman Tillery stated thank you for the constructive feedback about the tax bill that was a very easy and wise idea and thank you for the constructive feedback. Mr. Zorn stated that would have been a few couple of a hundred and that would have not had to convene these guys and upset them and their neighbors; these people are businessmen, one of those guys businesses got threatened with this. One of these fellows cut my timber and if that the worlds view of some of these folks, I'll be honest with you, I try to do business with folks that see things like I do, and going to help enhance things my way of life, not going to run contrary to that. I know you were asked not to come to the meetings but we elected you and you should have been responsible to bring this to the public. Please don't take anything I've said to the anybody else, especially the five committee members and john you either, it's been rough ride for all of everybody that I'm going back to my grand babies and go back to my little world and I'm still going to be more active than I have been but I appreciate you've given us a peace of mind.” Chairman Tillery thanked him again for his constructive feedback.

Archie Kirklen, 592 John Dasher Road: “The reason we're here is because of political apathy and we are not active in our community and we are not active at these Commissioners meeting. This is the first one I've attended. If we want to know what our government is doing somebody needs to be at these meetings and before we find out from the neighbor that we're going to have to move our dog pen 200 feet back off to property line. Folks this situation is not defused, this situation timer has just been reset. If we remain political activists have someone at these meetings to take part and notify our friends and family of all they can, we're going to be in our same situation we're in later on down the road. I want to encourage everyone to be more involved in their local government. Get your family and friends more involved and let us try to figure out was going on before we start selling tee shirts and making signs.” Commissioner Tillery thanked Mr. Kirklen.

Joe Nelson, Harden Chapel Road, across from Tommy Williams’s lake that they put in: “I can tell you this, I move here twenty-one (21) years ago. I walked in with my plans in my hand and said I wanted to build a house and I was told it’s your house; go build it, Thank God. I left the Glynn County because of this same issue. You do this to the people of this county, they are ruined. I have listened to this stuff, you-all appointed this committee to go out and do this for a year and you paid them to do it. Tonight you should get rid of that Committee, that way the zoning thing is over with.” Chairman Tillery said, thank you Mr. Nelson.

Chairman Tillery asks if there was anyone else that would like to step forward, no one else came forward.

**Consideration of Initial** Chairman Tillery stated the next item on the agenda was the consideration of

**Request To close Colon** the initial request to close Colon Galbreath road. Manager Jones stated that

**Galbreath Road:** this road is located on the south side of Santa Claus. Chairman Tillery interrupted and said, hold on a minute, we need to take a recess for every one that is shuffling out of this court room and they want to go Home, we are going to finish the agenda and you're welcome to stay but I want to give the other people a chance to clear out.

After the recess Manager Jones continued to describe the road that Mr. Galbreath wanted to close and the steps in order to close a dirt road. Our policy has been in effect since 2011. Any group of citizens may request in writing for a roads to be closed. They have to identify the road and indicate it is the entire road or portion of it. Is not recommended that they consult the property owners along side of the road that it is requested that they do and they must have this in writing in our office ten days prior to the regular Commissioners meeting, which Mr. Galbreath was in compliance with doing so. Once the letter is received, we have to request the impact statements from the Board of Education Bus Route Coordinator, the Road Department Supervisor, the Director of EMS, the Code Enforcement Officer, and then we share this with the Commission. We do not have all of these impact statements so there's no action to be taken on it. Chairman Tillery asked which impact letters where we missing. Manager Jones responded that we did not have the impact statement from the Board of Education Bus Route Coordinator and the EMS Director. By the November meeting we should have all the impact statements and then the Commission would decide whether or not the road meets substantial public purpose. This does not abandon or close the road, is only allows us to continue with the next step, which is when we notify all adjacent land owners (there are four of them); place signs on the affective road which notifies the public of a potential closing of the road, and the Public Hearing; advertise in the local newspaper for two weeks of Public Hearing for comments and / or objections. Then in the following regular Commissioners meeting the board will decide to move forward or not. The earliest we could vote on it is in the December regular meeting. We need to table this until next month.

**County Manager Report**

**Financial Report:** Manager Jones explained that we are 75% through the year and the maintenance and operating budget was at 74.9%. So we're as close as we can be on budget.

EMS Report: Mr. Drew James gave the EMS report earlier in the meeting.

**CDBG Application** Manager Jones explained that the CDBG application was awarded. We have

**Results:** been applying for the past two years for this project, paving of Deer Run Road, Oscar Cruz and Pendleton Creek Road. A copy was presented that outlined the service area. Basically a CDBG grant is up to a half of a million dollars. It has to impact low or moderate income homes. Pendleton Creek there were 97 rooftops that it would affect; this is a sub-division that sets off of Georgia Highway 152. The other project is Deer Run and Oscar Cruz Roads, there are 26 houses affected. All of the work will be done in the year 2017. Mr. Nobles has worked really hard on getting the Grant done where we can get these roads paved. It's going to be around $800,000 for the budget, we will have to match with $300,000 out of SPLOST to be able to do the project. Hopefully by the end of 2017 that project will be completed. This is Federal money so there is a lot of red tape and that's why it takes so long to complete the project. November 3 is the Public Presentation of the award.

**Update on Paving of Ezra** Manager gave an update on Ezra Taylor and Glenn James Road. Ezra Taylor has

**Taylor road and Glenn**  the final layer of asphalt added and the striping will be done next and for

**James Road:** grassing on the side of the road. The covert we were waiting for, Little Rocky Creek is finally completed on Glenn James Road.

**Update on Resurfacing of** The resurfacing of Old Donald Anderson, Mt. Moriah Road, Providence

**Old Donald Anderson, Mt.** Church, Lauren Dixon, Marvin Church, and Old River Road. Old River Road was

**Moriah Rd, Providence** horrific! The Barnhardt Group came in this past year and given a valuation on

**Church, Laura Dixon,** all the paved roads. This company took soil samples, evaluated all the roads,

**Marvin Church and Old** and classified them all into categories, that as functional, arterial collectors,

**River Roads:** residential, local and then by the lane miles. We have 167 miles of a collector roads, 104 miles of that our arterial roads, and sixty-four are residential Roads. The pavement condition index and the goal is to get our system up a rating of eighty; our rating is at 71. Altogether it would take an estimated replacement cost of all of our paved roads, it would be $148,000,000. Chairman Tillery stated just for the reference the county runs on $9.3 million a year. The Barnhardt Group came up with a ten year plan to be able to get that total paved roads up to the PCI rating of 80. We have done some changes to our roads since they gave their report, so we need for them to come back and update their report. The initial projection was over the next ten years. We would spend $20,000,000. We have the annual Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant or approximately $600,000 that is available. With LMIG we are formulating a ten-year long-term plan. That is exciting to us, particularly with David Sikes coming to the board because of his expertise. The goal is that at the end of the day to have the best road system in the state of Georgia. Chairman Tillery asked if we rebuilt a road, does it lower the cost of paving the road and if so by how much. Manager Jones stated that it would reduce it significantly because you have done all of the civil engineering. For example, Bud Jordan Road we have enabled to improve that road and the base had already been built and you have the drainage structure in place. The issue always comes back to having sufficient Right-of-Way. If we have a sixty foot right-of-way we can make a lot of improvements on a road. Manager Jones said it cuts the cost almost in half when we rebuild a road.

Chairman Tillery asked Mr. Manager do we have any further topics.

**Update on Renovation** This overview was done during the Slide show, earlier in the meeting.

**of Gray’s Landing:**

**Update on Renovation of** This overview was done during Larry Moore’s Department Report along with

**Toombs Central** a slide show, earlier in the meeting.

**Recreation** The Recreation Department was presented in the meeting earlier.

**Department:**

**Other Miscellaneous Items:**

**Consideration of Agreement** Manager Jones stated the Board shall act on the consideration for the

**for Engineering Services for** Engineering Service for the CDBG fiscal year 2016. Deer Run, Oscar Cruz and on

**CDBG FY 2016 Project-** Pendleton Creek Road. We awarded ALGA out of Alma Georgia to be the

**Paving of Deer Run, Oscar** administrator of thatthis project and we awarded Hofstadter and Associates, **Cruz, and Pendleton** Inc. to be engineer, last year and that award is good for two years. The contract

**Creek Rds.:** is in the packet information we need permission from the board to authorize the Chairman to sign the contract for Hofstadter and Associates, Inc. to be the Engineer for the CDBG.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the Chairman to sign the contract with Hofstadter and Associates, Inc. to be the Engineer for the CDBG. Motion carried unanimously.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**Commissioners Comments:**

**Commissioner Nobles:** It’s been a long day. That’s it.

**Commissioner Cason:** It was good to see our public talk about what we needed and thank you Brother Chairman for seeing the folk’s side and seeing what we need and hopefully our people will come back and see what we think.

**Commissioner Dixon:** I would like congratulate Drew James in his new position. We have a lot of good people working with EMS and a lot of them commented on you and had a lot of confidence in you. They all said they would help you in any way they can.

**Vice-Chairman McCormick:** I also echo the sentiments of Commissioner Dixon said but also would like to make a shout-out to our Roads Department. After the hurricane for what all they did do, and Mr. Jones as well, for being proactive and having the teams ready and ready to work around the clock for whatever we needed, I really appreciate the work they get it that particular time. I think it shows again, as you look around, what happened in the county and the cities, the people when they do pull together, they can do a lot of great stuff. Just to watch that happen, with all the people all over the county, working with a lot of those people that were evacuees, coming up here was just great, and I am very proud of our county. And again I echo Commissioner Cason for the citizens that came tonight to see what we do and how we do it and to voice their opinion. This is democracy; this is what you get to do. None of us up here is perfect in any way, shape, fashion, or form. But we do try to make decisions and hope they see that, when we make a decision, that represent morality and dignity for everyone and we tried to bring that out to everyone. So I am very, very grateful for that and to work with these guys as well.

**Chairman Tillery:** Thank you for that Commissioner McCormick. Drew, Congratulations. I’m glad to see Drew James at that rural broad band meeting, thanks for going out there. It is very interesting on how they think medicine is going to go, that you-all will be, the front line deliverers and people will not go to the ER. I believe the County Manager said that from the floor, that it is great to have the ability to bring back the cardiac EKG reading from McNatt Falls, but if you’re driving towards Mount Vernon and all you can do with your cell phone is throw it somebody, that shows that the dichotomy of what we are working with. I appreciate Drew James for getting involved and being here tonight. Thanks for the Commissioners for lowering the Millage rate once again this year. As the County Manager pointed out that as a little over 9% reduction since three of us came on board, Mr. Cason came on board afterwards and McCormick. That is the only part of the tax bill that we have control cover. I appreciate you remembering it’s not ours money it’s everybody else’s. Mr. Manager we had a comment about a pothole at the election office, if we can figure out what to do there, we need to address that. Correct me if I’m wrong Jerry, we do not have any ability but to pour coal in a pothole, we don’t have any machinery to fix that. Jerry Bellflower from the Road Department replied, “That’s about it.” Chairman Tillery asked if there was anything we could do more, except hire a contractor. Mr. Bellflower replied, “We have a small packer that we use occasionally.” Mr. Bellflower said he would go over there the next morning and see what could be done. Commissioner Tillery thanked Jason from the City of Lyons. The City of Vidalia, the City of Dublin, City of McRae, as you know my District has become a larger in the last few months and my areas and Long County and Wayne County had been hit incredibly hard by hurricane Matthews. The county doesn’t have what you would call a knuckle truck that picks up branches. But the City of McRae, Vidalia, Lyons and Dublin, the combined number of six knuckle trucks to go down there the Sunday after the storm to help clean up the debris. Please if you see any of these people from these areas; thank them for what they did.

Gentlemen, you have a lot of work ahead of you. As you heard from the Sheriff tonight, you are going to have to deal with several building issues and the next two years. You’re going to have to deal with this building; you’re going to have to deal with the jail, with at DFCS building. Also you will have some bright spots; I was very encouraged that the people of Cedar Crossing took their money to invest in the dive team. Mr. Manager if there’s any that there anything else that we can do to help them, like equipment etc. Manager Jones stated that we’ve agued to contributed $2,500 for the purchase of equipment. Chairman Tillery stated that he really appreciated the money and training that they had achieved on their own.

**Adjournment:** Thank you again for coming out tonight, so proud to see our people come out and with that I entertain a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Chairman McCormick to adjourn. Chairman Tillery stated there is no further discussion and all is in favor say aye. Approved, motion carried. We stand adjourn until the third Tuesday of November at 5:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM.

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Michael Blake Tillery, Chairman Helen Harris, County Clerk