TOOMBS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS Normantown Fire Department

May 16, 2017 5:30 PM

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

Call to Order: Chairman Sikes called the May meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

Invocation: Commissioner Cason gave the invocation.

Approve Agenda: Chairman Sikes asked if there was a motion to accept the Agenda.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to accept the Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve Minutes from the Regular Board April 18, 2017 Regular Meeting that was held on April 18, 2017.

Board Meeting:

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the Minutes of the April 18, 2017 Regular Board Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Development Authority Mr. Bill Mitchell stated the Leadership Toombs-Montgomery’s deadline to turn in Report: nomination was yesterday May 15th. Debbie Evans will send nominees their application via mail. The Toombs-Montgomery Youth Leadership’s deadline to turn in applications is Friday, May 19, 2017. The Toombs County Development Authority next

meeting will be Thursday, May 18, 2017. There will be two Ribbon Cuttings; Meadows Regional Medical Center – Cancer Center which will be held on Wednesday, May 17, 2017 at 4:00 PM and Million Pines Community Bank – New office space will be held on Tuesday, June 6, 2017 at 4:30 PM (downtown Vidalia on Church Street). They have asked for everyone to come and join their after-hours celebration. The four solar companies that has been interested in our area; the one that has been working with our county the longest has replied to us and stated that they were not going to put an application in because they felt they needed sixty-five percent tax abatement for twenty five years as opposed the fifty percent we had presented to them. We have not heard from the other companies. The German company that had interest in our spec building, we have heard but not gotten official word that they are going to locate that operation with a sister company in Kentucky that has been there a number of years. Savannah Luggage is expanding that will be a six year expansion. There is one more expansion that is being worked on, detail will come later.

Department Reports: Sheriff Kight stated that there was an average of 121 jail population for the month of April. As of today we have 111 inmates housed. Our call volume is about the same, maybe up a little bit. There are 35 on probation parole in jail. One of our concerns is that we have been told by the Georgia Sheriff’s Association that our jailors were not going to be able to transport prisoners but we will need certified officers to do that. This is because the jailors have no arrest powers once they leave from the jail. John and I have been working on a plan to implement the change.

Commissioner Dixon told Sheriff Kight that they were in a class on law enforcements with commissioner from all over the state of Georgia and we were bragging on how well we get along with you but you don’t hear that everywhere. A lot of the commissioners the other counties don’t get along with their Sheriff like we do and Commissioner Dixon stated that he just want to Thank Sheriff Kight for what he does and for keeping us addressed on everything.

Director Drew James reported that the month of April they received 624 calls for service and traveled 27,800 miles. We were the sole provider for emergency services for the Onion Festival in April. We ending up with about thirty patients and transported a total of four. Most calls from the onion festival were heat related. The update on our remount in North Carolina, it is getting the final coat of paint first thing in the morning. In about three or four weeks it should be rolling into Toombs County. We have been researching a way to keep the mileages down on our main ambulances. There are three types of ambulances. We are looking at type II ambulance for transfer that would be used as a non emergency transfer. By adding one of these vehicles to our fleet, we would save the wear and tear on our Type I ambulances. This new unit would still be 100 percent advanced life support capability with a paramedic on board. In the event they had a need for the life support equipment, it would be there for their use. In the month of April, we had 90 transports to a high level of care facility. This unit would be used to make transports to Savannah, Macon and Augusta for example. The third week of May is the National Week for EMS. We plan to have an EMS luncheon and ceremony award on May 25, contributed 2017 at the Durden’s Cabin in Partin’s Park. We would like to extend an invitation to all of the Commission. We are going to have a special tribute for one of our dear’s friend that we lost in January of this year, Mr. Howard Hill. Director James told Sheriff Kight that he also would like to thank him for the support they provide to the ambulance service. As Commissioner Dixon was saying, we go to regional meeting and hear some horror stories as well.

Chairman Sikes asked the advantages of having a Type II ambulance. Director James stated from an economical view, it uses less fuel and then the cost of a new ambulance will be between $ 130,000 to $ 140,000 and the Type II runs in the price range of $80,000 to $ 90,000. Basically we are not wearing and tearing our bigger trucks up on the interstates.

Manager Jones asked Director James to explain how much it takes to outfit an ambulance. For a new ambulance it would take $ 180,000 to $ 190,000. Stretchers cost about $ 20,000 and the cardiac monitor is about $ 20,000; then the supplies that are needed on the truck will be added to the trucks from the on-hand stock items.

Commissioner Cason commended on what a good job their crew did on the coverage of the African Methodist Church Conference in Vidalia. The Bishop asked Commissioner Cason to pass that along.

Public Participation: Ron Milligan, 698 Van Lewis, Lyons, GA, District 3 of Toombs County. Mr. Milligan felt there was some confusion on the last public hearing; and the article of closing of Colson Lane. Most of the confusion comes from the word closing but in reality the term that should have been used is identified as Title 32 chapter 7 in the official Georgia code annotated, is abandonment. Under Title 32 means to close permanently to the public. Mr. Milligan continues to discuss the abandonment request; he stated that his family respectfully request that if the commission chooses to pull from the table the request and consideration of closure or abandonment of Colson Lane that you will give favorable consideration to the action due to the fact that Colson Lane serves no substantial public purpose, will not restrict access or extinguish previously recorded private easement and demonstrates prudent fiscal management.

Gail Durden, 2173 Hwy 86 West, Lyons, GA. I am one of the owners that join Colson Lane. What does abandonment mean? Chairman Sikes requested the County Attorney to comment. Attorney Howard Kaufold replied that if the road is abandoned, then it is no longer a part of the County Road System which means the County is not obligated, in fact, cannot be scrapped, ditches dug or any maintenance what so ever, in other words, will not be maintained by the County. Ms. Durden request that the road remain open and to be in the County Road System because at the end of Colson Lane she owns land that have a potential home site and would need access to her property.

Consideration of Manager Jones asked that the Board allow our Chairman to read and sign, the Proclamation of EMS Proclamation of EMS Week of May 21st – May 27th.

Week May 21st – 27th:

Chairman Sikes read the Proclamation of EMS Week and then asked for a Motion to approve the Proclamation of EMS Week May 21st – May 27th and for his signature of the Proclamation of EMS as read.

Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the Proclamation of EMS Week May 21st – May 27th and for the Chairman to sign the Proclamation of EMS Week. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Manager Jones stated the next item was the request to close Colson Lane.

Request to Close

Colson Lane: Chairman Sikes ask if there was a motion to Close Colson Lane.

No Motion was given on the Consideration of Request to Close Colson Lane.

Consideration of Re- This re-appointment of John Raymond Turner to the WIOA Board will be for a period of

Appointment of John two years term. The Commission appoints three members to this board that covers

Raymond Turner to the regional commission entire district. Dr. Barry Dotson and Mac Jordon are the other

WIOA Board: two people that serve on this board. Mr. Turner has served since 2014. The Federal Work Investment Act created this board in August of 1998 and it went in effect in Georgia on July of 2000. It is under the Georgia Department of Economical Development Work Force Division. The Governor appoints the State’s Workforce Investment Board to aid and planning, development of Georgia’s overall workforce

System. The regional commission recommends that we re-appointment Mr. Turner to that board for a two year term.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to re-appoint John Raymond Turner to the WIOA Board for the term of two years. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Manager Jones stated the improvements at the Health Department. The signage

Building Improvements from Lee Signs and Graphics in the amount of $ 7,104 is needed for the Health at Health Department: Department entrance and identified the Health Department from Highway 292. This will be paid from the SPLOST funds.

Also the parking lot of the Health Department will be seal coated and stripped in the next couple of weeks. In the previous weeks we had seal coated the Cedar Crossing Community Center Parking lot and walking trail. Today they were to stripe that area.

Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the signage from Lee Signs and Graphics in the amount of $ 7,104 and the invoice to be paid with SPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously.

County Manager Report

Financial Report: Manager Jones stated that we are through April of the year and currently on our M&O Budget we are four percent under budget on operating expenses. Both EMS and the Landfill are showing positive gain over the expenditures for the year. E-911 is showing a loss. This is typical across the state of Georgia. ACCG has been trying over the last couple of years to do something about the E-911 situation because every county that has an E-911 systems are not operating positive. We have to take funds from their General Funds to make it work. There was a bill created this year that would help fund E-911 operations. This bill proposed creating a board that would be appointed by Local County Officials that would oversee E-911 to ensure that we were getting all of our fees from the telecommunication groups. The House of Representative and Senate passed this bill but the Governor vetoed the bill. The Governor is willing to set down with the participants and stakeholders in this to come up with another solution that would be acceptable to him.

Up-Date TSPLOST/LMIG Manager Jones updated the commission on the 2015-2016 projects. In the year of Projects: 2016 we combined TSPLOST Band II & LMIG projects into one. This was resurfacing Old Donald Anderson Road, resurfacing Mt. Mariah Church Road, resurfacing and widening Providence Church Road, Laura Dixon Road and Marvin Church Road. The LMIG project was resurfacing and widening of Old River Road. In addition to that, because we packaged that together and under Budget, we were able to resurface Liege Gay Road. There projects are completed and done.

The Community Development Block Grant that we were awarded in 2016 that is partial pavement of Deer Run, Oscar Cruz Road and Pendleton Creek. CDBG is maximum five hundred thousand dollar Federal Grant that is administrated by the Department of Community Affairs. Once you receive an award you have to set out a year, so it is basically every other year you can apply if you get it. We believe this project will be completed before year end.

Other Miscellaneous Manager continued to say that the Sheriff had stepped out of the meeting but he items: wanted to state for the record that it is a privilege and honor to work with him and his department. He is doing a really good job on managing the financial affairs and looking out for the tax payers of Toombs County. And as you have already reiterated before, we don’t have the problems that a lot of other County have.

We are one of six Counties that was recognized by Georgia Trend as a County of Distinction. Only two of the six counties were rural counties; Toombs and Oglethorpe County. This will be featured in the June’s issue of Georgia Trend’s Magazine.

Commissioner Dixon asked Manager Jones if he has heard anything about the time frames for implementing the four lane of Highway US1. The widening of US1 is a four year project. In December of 2018 they plan to let those contracts out. The bypass between Lyons and Vidalia is schedule to let in December of 2019.

Standing Committee: None

Report:

Commisssioners Commissioner Nobles was appreciative that we met in Normantown this month.

Comments:

Commissioner Cason stated that he enjoyed working with the public and thank you for being patient

Commissioner Dixon said he was glad they could meet in Normantown but next time he was going to ask Commissioner Nobles to bring gnat spray.

Chairman Sikes: Commissioner McCormick could not be with us tonight. He is the Head Master of Vidalia Heritage Academy and they are having their Graduation Exercise tonight.

Chairman Sikes continued to say, “We have some really neat stuff going on in our County. In the fall we will meet in Cedar Crossing so that we can reach out to all four corners of the County. Earlier this week I made a Proclamation for it being National Nursing Home week. What they have asked of the Community is that you visit someone in the Nursing Home. If you know someone that works there, please tell them great job.

Please pray for the fire fighters in South Georgia. As you know, there is around 190,000 acres that have been burnt in this fire.”

Adjournment: Chairman Sikes ask for a Motion to adjourn the Regular Commissioners Meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 PM

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**David Sikes, Chairman Helen Harris, County Clerk**