

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

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

**Call to Order:** Chairman Sikes called the January Meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

**Invocation:** Vice-Chairman McCormick gave the invocation.

**Approve Agenda:** Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the Agenda.

Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the January 16, 2018 Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:** Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the December 19, 2017 Regular Board Meeting.

**December 19, 2017  
Regular Board Meeting:**

Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the Minutes of the December 19, 2017 Regular Board Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:** Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the December 26, 2017 Called Board Meeting.

**December 26, 2017  
Called Board Meeting:**

Vice Chairman McCormick made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the Minutes of the December 26, 2017 Called Board Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Development Authority  
Report:**

Michelle Johnson announced the meeting for the Development Authority as such:  
Chamber: Toombs-Montgomery Chamber of Commerce Annual Membership Meeting – Vidalia Community Center- Thursday, February 1st, 5:30-7:30 PM.

Leadership Toombs-Montgomery-Economic Development – Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. This session offers an insight into the economics of our community today and a vision of tomorrow. It also presents an understanding of existing and new industry, and economic development efforts by local development authorities.

Toombs-Montgomery Youth Leadership – Putting Your Best Foot Forward – Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> – This session offers an understanding of proper etiquette for formal and informal settings. It also offers tips for polite conversation and presenting yourself effectively and successfully.

Leadership Toombs-Montgomery – Health – Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> – Understanding the challenges that face both the medical community and the delivery of social services in our community and how it affects you and your family.

Ribbon Cutting – Vidalia Veterinary Clinic, 303 West First St., Vidalia, GA – January 19<sup>th</sup>, 12 noon

Ribbon Cutting – Onion Inn, 2507 East First St., Vidalia – Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 4 PM

Ribbon Cutting –J Leigh Hair Studio, 106 East Meadows St, Vidalia, -Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 4 PM

Ribbon Cutting/Grand Opening – Salvation Army, Mose Coleman Dr., Vidalia – Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 11 AM

Grand Opening – Paul Thigpen Chevrolet, Buick, GMC, 100 Semco Dr., Vidalia – Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 4-6 PM

Development Authority – January 2018 Meeting – The regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon in the Chamber & Development Authority boardroom.

Michelle was proud to announce that the Chamber is working on a new website, brochure and relocation guide and map. The chamber will also become a Georgia Chamber Federation Member. This means that any business in Toombs and Montgomery County that has 10 or fewer full time employees that is a member of our local Chamber will receive a free membership in the Georgia Chamber. The Chamber will also be sponsor a health insurance program; this is a self insured level premium option for members with four employees or more. This will allow the members under the association to be treated as one large employer and enjoy the same cost benefit.

- Department Reports:** Drew James, EMS Director, stated there were 643 calls in December and traveled 31,858 miles. The year-to-date figures were 7,230 Calls. On January 2<sup>nd</sup> we placed a peak unit on board from Monday through Friday from the hours of 9 AM to 7 PM. When the weather warms up, we are going to set up at some businesses in town to show how to save a life with hand on CPR. We also will be doing blood pressure checks.
- Public Participation:** None
- Consideration of 2018 Beer and Wine Licenses:** Manager Jones explained there were six Beer and Wine Licenses for consideration. All six applicants have met all the requirements for their Beer and Wine Licenses to be issued, if the Commission approves. We recommend the board to approve these Beer and Wine Licenses as a whole.
- John's County Junction; Country Pantry dba Quick Fair; Benton Lee's Steakhouse; Charolais General Store; Jan's Mart; and Normantown Grocery:** Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman McCormick to approved John's County Junction, Country Pantry (dba: Quick Fair), Benton Lee's Steakhouse, Charolais General Store, Jan's Mart and Normantown Grocery for their 2018 Beer and Wine Licenses. Motion carried unanimously.
- Consideration of Committee Appointments:** Manager Jones announced that it is this time of the year that the Chairman appoints the Commissioners to their designated Committee's for the year.
- Chairman Sikes announced that the Landfill Committee would be Commissioner Dixon and Commissioner Nobles; the Public Safety Committee would be Commissioner Dixon and Commissioner McCormick; the Roads & Bridges would be Commissioner McCormick and Commissioner Cason; the Recreation Committee would be Commissioner Nobles and Commissioner Cason. Those are our four Committees and the appointments for the year 2018; Gentlemen, Thank you for serving.
- Consideration of Appointment of Randy Usher to Toombs County Board of Assessors for January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020:** Manager Jones stated Randy Usher has served on the board for a number of years. Randy's term expired on December 31, 2017 and the Board of Tax Assessors requested that we reappoint Randy Usher to the Board of Tax Assessors with his term beginning on January 1, 2018 and ending on December 31, 2020.
- Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to reappoint Randy Usher to the Toombs County Board of Tax Assessors, with his term beginning on January 1, 2018 and ending on December 31, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.
- Consideration of Re-Appointment of Willis NeSmith to Toombs County Hospital Authority for January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020:** Manager Jones stated the next item on the agenda is to consider the re-appointment of three members to the Toombs County Hospital Authority, with their terms beginning January 1, 2018 until December 31, 2020. In your packet you have a letter from the Toombs County Hospital Authority recommending these board members; these are board members whose term expired on December 31, 2017. The Authority is asking to reappoint these three board members. We would like to take one at a time for reappointment. The first being, Willis NeSmith to be reappointed to the Toombs County Hospital Authority Board, for the term of January 1, 2018 until December 31, 2020.
- Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to reappoint Willis NeSmith to the Toombs County Hospital Authority Board, with his term beginning on January 1, 2018 and ending on December 31, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

<p><b>Consideration of Re-Appointment of Reid McArthur to Toombs County Hospital Authority January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020:</b></p>	<p>Manager Jones stated the next item on the agenda is the re-appointment of Reid McArthur to the Toombs County Hospital Authority, serving with the term beginning January 1, 2018 until December 31, 2020.</p> <p>Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McCormick to re-appoint Reid McArthur to the Toombs County Hospital Authority Board, with Mr. McArthur's term beginning on January 1, 2018 and ending on December 31, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.</p>
<p><b>Consideration of Re-Appointment of Larry Threlkeld to Toombs County Hospital Authority January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020:</b></p>	<p>Manager Jones stated the next item is the consideration of the third member to be re-appointed is Larry Threlkeld to the Toombs County Hospital Authority, serving with the term beginning January 1, 2018 until December 31, 2020.</p> <p>Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McCormick to re-appoint Larry Threlkeld to the Toombs County Hospital Authority Board, with Mr. Threlkeld's term beginning on January 1, 2018 and ending on December 31, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.</p>
<p><b>Consideration of Approval of Bids for Grinder at Detention Center:</b></p>	<p>Manager Jones stated that in the packets there were a list of bids that was opened this previous week for a grinder at the detention center. This grinder connects between the sewer line at the jail and the city's sewer line. Periodically there are items that get deposited into the jails sewer line that clogs the city sewer line. The agreement with the City of Lyons is that the County will install the grinder and the City of Lyons will maintain it thereafter. Based on the engineer's recommendation (Hofstadter &amp; Associates) we would like for the board to approve Popco, as the lowest bidder and award them the contract in the amount of \$ 216,801 to install that grinder, paid with SPLOST funds.</p> <p>Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the lowest bid submitted by Popco and to award them the contract in the amount of \$ 216,801 to install the grinder and for the grinder to be paid with SPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously.</p>
<p><b>Consideration of approval For Repairs on Courtroom Bathrooms:</b></p>	<p>Manager Jones explained that the Courthouse has two bathrooms that have been out of order for some time now. We have received a quote for \$ 53,000 to replace the exposed pipe under the building. Mr. Bobby Kimball, who is also our HVAC consultant, has a group that is going to start replacing that pipe for \$ 6,100. We are requesting the board to approve the repair for \$ 6,100.</p> <p>Vice-Chairman McCormick made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the repairs on the courtroom bathrooms in the amount of \$ 6,100. Motion carried unanimously.</p>
<p><b>Consideration of Declaring various equipment as Obsolete Property and Authorizing the Sale of the same:</b></p>	<p>Manager Jones explained that the equipment was mostly from the Roads and Bridges Department. The new building that will house Roads and Bridges is almost complete. The equipment that is listed is no longer being used and there is no need to transport the obsolete equipment to the new location. We would like for the board to approve sale of the obsolete equipment through a seal bid.</p> <p>Vice Chairman McCormick made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to sell the obsolete property by seal bid. Motion carried unanimously.</p>
<p><b>Consideration of Presentation of On-Site Septic Tank Management Ordinance:</b></p>	<p>Manager Jones reminded everyone, in the last Commissioners Meeting that the Regional Commission had presented to us a new Environmental Conservation On-Site Sewage Management and Permit Ordinance that we needed to adopt. This is a requirement from the DCA for the County to continue to apply for LMIG and CDBG funds. There are only a few Counties around us that have not adopted this Ordinance. The Landfill Committee was in charge of this subject, so Manager Jones turned it over to the Landfill Committee. Commissioner Nobles spoke on the behalf of the decision that he and Commissioner Dixon was in favor in making a motion to go forward and</p>

have a hearing on it in February, at that time the commission can vote on the Ordinance.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman McCormick to go forward with the process in adopting an Ordinance and to have a hearing in the month of February. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Nobles added that if the Ordinance was passed, and he understood that the Regional Commission has asked the surrounding Counties and Cities to adopt this Ordinance so that everyone will be on the same page. Commissioner Nobles continued to say that he felt that the Ordinance was not a tight as it should be but that he was going with what the State recommended. If this Ordinance is approved, we are turning all decisions over to the Board of Health and once we have turned it over to them, we have no say so in their decision. The Board of Health is made up of seven members; four of those members are not controlled by the County Commissioners. You have to have the Mayor of the largest City in the County; you have the Toombs County School System Superintendent, the Chairman of the Toombs County Commissioners and a practicing physician on that Committee. There are only three members of that board that the County Commissioners appoint. We will not have any say so if we pass the Ordinance and Commissioner Nobles stated that he had no problem with that, he just wanted to make it clear that the Board of Health will have the final say so on any issues that may arise.

**County Manager Report:**

**Financial Report:**

Manager Jones had given a copy of the LOST in the packet for the year and it reflects that the local option sales tax is down 3.55 % for the year. We are preparing for the year-end audit and making the final adjustment on everything. We still have an issue on E-911 fees that are not generating sufficient funds to cover the cost of running a 911 department. We request that the Board approve the Budget Amendments No. 2 for 2018. This amendment allows us to balance each department's budget.

**2017 Budget**

**Amendment:**

Vice-Chairman McCormick made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the budget amendment No. 2 for the end of the year.

**Miscellaneous:**

The health challenge that was giving by the health coaches to not gain any weight during the holidays. There were one hundred dollar gift cards from Wal-Mart as prizes given to the follow employees, Cindy Brown, Doyle NeeSmith, Marilyn Heard, Anna Holcombe, and Greg Fields. These employees either maintained or lost weight during the Holidays. Our Health Coaches are doing a good job and will help keep our Health Insurance premium rates down when we request quotes for health insurance.

The Commission should be receiving an email about the Legislative Meeting in Atlanta. There are two dates, on is February 28<sup>th</sup> and the other is March 7<sup>th</sup>. Please let Helen know as soon as possible on which date will work for you to attend, so arrangements can be made for the meeting.

**Standing Committee**

**Reports:**

**Commissioners Comments:**

**Commissioner Nobles:**

Announced that he will be attending the Altamaha River Partnerships in Baxley Georgia at 10:30 in the morning to represent the County. Commissioner Nobles hopes everyone can avoid getting the flu that is in the area during this time of year.

**Commissioner McCormick:**

Vice-Chairman read the following announcement: Over the last seven years I have been honored to represent the residents of the largest geographical district in the county, District 4. I have also been honored to serve seven years as the Vice Chairman, during that time assisting three different Commission Chairmen in setting goals and developing programs for the entire county. Throughout these seven years we have continually developed sound fiscal policies which allowed the Commission to lower the millage rate on property taxes for four consecutive years and we have never allowed a tax increase during my tenure.

Together, we developed a road rating system for paving and maintenance which has accounted for more than \$10 million in infrastructure improvements. We were proactive in the purchase of an additional 440 acres for solid waste disposal which will allow another 30 years of capacity. We've implemented community enhancements with the remodeling of parks and recreation facilities across the county. Together we have adopted ordinances which have provided safety and promoted the social and financial integrity of our county residents. We have also collaborated with municipal officials in Vidalia, Lyons, and Santa Claus creating an atmosphere of cohesion that now serves as a model of cooperation within the state.

When I first ran for office in 2010 the school I serve as Headmaster, Vidalia Heritage Academy had only 100 students. We now we have over 400 with a full range of extracurricular and athletic events. While I have never shirked my responsibility in either of those places, it has certainly been difficult to get to all the countywide events when we had one a school activity every night of the week—and when those activities were the place where I made my living.

When I ran in 2010 I never intended to be a "lifer," one who simply stays in office term after term. I firmly believe there is a reason that the President of the United States can only serve two terms. I think we might be better off if that were true everywhere. However, there are some incredible people who have spent their lives in public service and I salute them. That being said, I wanted to officially announce that I will not be running for a third term this year. It is time. I am not ruling out serving in public office again in the future but this is the right time for me and my family. Announcing this now gives men and women the opportunity to explore their options, talk with their families, and search their hearts to see if they might want to seek this office.

Let me personally thank each of the Commission Members I have served with over these eight years. I will continue to pray for God's guidance over you, over us, even when I leave the Commission in December of this year. And to all the residents of District 4, thank you for believing in an outsider who moved here in 2006, thank you for trusting me with a wide variety of issues which affect your lives. I pray I have served you well.

**Chairman Sikes:**

It has been a pleasure serving with you Commissioner McCormick and we will continue to do so this year as well.

If there is no further business we will take a fifteen minute break and go into Executive Meeting to discuss Personnel. Chairman Sikes requested a motion to go into Executive Session after a short break.

Commissioner McCormick, seconded by Commissioner Dixon made a motion to break for fifteen minutes before going into Executive Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**Executive Session**

**Personnel:**

The Executive Session was called to order by Chairman Sikes at 6:50 PM

At 7:10 PM Chairman Sikes asked if there was a motion to adjourn from the Executive Session.

Commissioner McCormick, seconded by Commissioner Dixon made a motion to adjourn from the Executive Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Sikes open the floor back to the regular session. Chairman Sikes requested a motion on appointing a County Attorney for 2018.

Vice-Chairman McCormick, seconded by Commissioner Nobles made a motion to fill the Toombs County Attorney's position with Blake Tillery. Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment:**

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

Vice-Chairman McCormick made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to adjourn from the Regular Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM

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David Sikes, Chairman

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Helen Harris, County Clerk