

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

- PRESENT:** DAVID SIKES, JEFF McCORMICK, ALFRED CASON, WENDELL HUGH DIXON, DARRIEL NOBLES, BLAKE TILLERY, JOHN M. JONES AND HELEN HARRIS
- Call to Order:** Chairman Sikes called the August Meeting to order at 5:42 P.M. Chairman Sikes stated that the Courtrooms were still holding Court and he apologized for the short notice of the relocation of the Commissioners Meeting to the Train Depot.
- Invocation:** Vice-Chairman McCormick gave the invocation.
- Approve Agenda:** Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the Agenda.
- Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to amend the agenda to include an Executive Meeting directly following the Regular Board Meeting to discuss Personnel matters. Motion carried unanimously.
- Approval of Minutes August 21, 2018 Regular Regular Board Meeting:** Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the August 21, 2018 Regular Board Meeting.
- Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman McCormick to approve the Minutes of the August 21, 2018 Regular Board Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimous.
- Approval of Minutes September 7, 2018 Called Board Meeting:** Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the September 7, 2018 Called Board Meeting.
- Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the Minutes of the September 7, 2018 Called Board Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimous.
- Development Authority Report:** Michele Johnson stated she appreciated everyone that took time out of their busy schedule to attend the Community Economic Development Orientation Program (CEDOP), held in Atlanta on September 10-11, 2018. Thank you Manager Jones, Chairman Sikes, Commissioner Dixon and the in-coming Commissioner Rollins for your attendance. **Leadership Toombs-Montgomery:** the new class had orientation on August 30th & 31st. The next session, Agribusiness is scheduled for September 21st. **Toombs-Montgomery Youth Leadership,** the new youth leadership class had orientation on September 6th; the next session is scheduled for October 18th and will be held in Montgomery County. **Sears of Vidalia Ribbon Cutting** will be held on September 21st at 11:00 AM. **Rocky Creek Lodge Ribbon Cutting** will be held on October 4th at 4:00 PM. **Chamber Spectrum Benefits (CSB) Update:** Implemented in April 2018; the plan allows member businesses to leverage the overall buying power of the Chamber when purchasing health insurance and other employee benefits. Annualized savings for businesses is a total of \$ 213,521 or \$ 2,320 per employee per year. **Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education (GPEE) Minigrant Award:** The Chamber has been notified that it will be awarded a \$ 3,000 Fall 2018 GPEE mini-grant. Funds will be used for a workforce development initiative at Coastal Plains High School. A formal press release is forth-coming. **September 2018 Meeting** will be held September 25th at 8:00 AM at the Chamber & Development Authority Boardroom. **Development Authority: Georgia Economic Developers Association (GEDA) Annual Conference:** Representing Toombs County at the GEDA Annual Conference on September 19th – 21st in Savannah, GA will be Michele Johnson, Pollyann Martin and Bill Mitchell. **South Georgia Railroad Coalition:** Toombs County will host meeting of the South Georgia Railroad Coalition at the Southeastern Technical College (STC) Economic Development Center (EDC) on Monday, October 1st at 2:00 PM. Representatives from fifteen Counties, Three Regional Commissioners, the Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDECD), the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), the Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) and the Georgia Legislature are expected to participate. **September 2018 Meeting** will be held on September 27th, 2018 at noon, Chamber & Development Authority Boardroom.
- Department Reports:** Drew James, EMS Director, stated there were 590 calls for service in the month of August and 30,450 miles were placed on the fleet of ambulances. We are about 90 day out from receiving our new Ambulance. The month of October is Breast Cancer

awareness month. Our staff members are asked to make a small donation and by doing this, it gives them the right to wear their Pink Shirts on duty, as well as off duty. The department has raised about \$ 1,500 in the past four years. All proceeds will be going to the Meadows Cancer Center. On October 27th, 2018 will be Safety Days at Lowes of Vidalia. All of the Toombs County Responders will be present; on this day there will be two crews on site to do Hands-on CPR training as well as doing Blood Pressure Screenings. This event will be from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM in the parking lot of Lowes.

- Public Participation:** There was one guest Kennedy Joiner, that Chairman Sikes ask for her to introduce herself and explain her career. Ms. Russell stated she was in College with a field of study in Communications and was representing The Advance Newspaper, on coverage of the Commissioners Meeting.
- Presentation by Nuclear Regulatory Commission:** The Presentation by Nuclear Regulatory Commission was postponed due to a drill that was being held.
- Consideration of Proposed Millage Rate for the Toombs County Board of Education:** Manager Jones stated that the Board would need to levy the proposed fourteen percent mill tax on behalf of the Toombs County Board of Education; the authority to levy a local tax on the unincorporated citizens of Toombs County lies with the Board of Commissioners. The Board must make a motion and approve to levy the tax so that it can be billed and collected.
- Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman McCormick to approve the fourteen percent mill tax for the Toombs County Board of Education. Motion carried unanimous.
- Consideration of New Engine for 2011 CAT D6 Dozier at Landfill:** Manager Jones stated this machine is seven years old, with 7,400 hours. Originally everyone thought there was an issue with the turbo, but it has been diagnosed with the head is in need of repair. The quotes we received were for the head on the block to be repaired, in the amount of \$ 29,486. The re-manufactured engine was \$ 32,782. A new engine was in the amount of \$ 34,489.09. The cost of a new D6 Dozier is \$ 325,414. Considering the three options, Manager Jones requested the Board to ratify the repair by purchasing a new engine at a cost of \$ 34,489.09, which is less than eleven percent of the cost of a new D6 machine. If ratified by the board, we will use Landfill Funds to pay for the repair.
- Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman McCormick to ratify the repair of the D6 Dozier at the Landfill and approve the purchase of a new engine in the amount of \$ 34,489.09 and pay from the Landfill Funds. Motion carried unanimous.
- Consideration of Final Drive Repair for 2015 John Deere Dozier at Landfill:** Manager Jones stated that this machine is three years old and has 1,800 hours on it. Originally it was thought that the wiring harness has issues, but there was some type of intrusion into the system that caused the problem with the final drive. We have received a quote from John Deere for this repair in the amount of \$ 19,213.65. If ratified by the Board, Landfill Funds will be use to pay for the repair.
- Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to ratify the repair cost and pay John Deere for the repairs in the amount of \$ 19,213.65. The invoice will be paid with Landfill funds. Motion carried unanimous.
- Consideration of Contract Addendum to Georgia Department of Transportation Contract on Widening Lyons-Center Road:** Manger Jones stated that Toombs County applied for and received a Federal Grant for highway safety improvement. The 2016 GDOT safety report concluded that the Lyons-Center Road was rated the number one corridor in the unincorporated area for accidents with a severity rating of seventy-five; in 2016, there were fourteen collisions reported. The contract calls for a two foot widening of Lyons Center Road from Ezra Taylor Road to George Morris Road. This is a project that was competitively bid and awarded by GDOT. The contract was awarded to Dykes Grassing who has done numerous projects in Toombs County and we have been very pleased with their work. GDOT will manage and disperse the federal funds for this project. A copy of the Pre-Construction Meeting was placed in the packet. We have received a proposal to extend the same terms and pricing of this project to complete the widening from Ezra Taylor Road to the City Limits of Lyons and from George Morris Road to the Montgomery County line. This contract will be between the contractor and the county. Basically, the cost for this project would be \$1,97,291.70 that includes everything as presented in the

GDOT contract with the exceptions of striping the edge lines. If approved by the Board, SPLOST funds will pay for the contract.

Vice-Chairman McCormick made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the addendum to Georgia Department of Transportation Contract on Widening Lyons-Center Road to include the road way from George Morris to the Montgomery County Line and from Ezra Taylor Road to the City Limits of Lyons, Georgia. The additional stretch of road will be paid in the amount of \$ 197,291.70 with SPLOST funds and the work will be done by Dykes Grassing. Motion carried unanimous.

**Consideration of
Proposals for Front-
End Loader for
Public Works:**

Manager Jones stated the current front end loader that is being used at the Public Works Department is very old and is in need of replacement. Considering four bids we received, (Two) from John Deere in the amount of \$ 139,100; Model 524K-II and \$ 157,475; Model 544K-II, JCB in the amount of \$ 151,000; Model 427, and Cat; Model 926M in the amount of \$ 160,800. Manager Jones compared the specifications and prices and recommended the purchase of the JCB Model 427. If approved by the Board SPLOST funds will pay for this purchase with a six weeks delivery time.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the purchase of a front-end loader for the Public Works Department, in the amount of \$ 151,000: Model 427 from Low County JCB and will be paid with SPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimous.

**County Manager Report
Financial Report:**

Manager Jones reported the M & O Budget is in good shape. Currently we are at eight percent under budget for Operating Expenses. August LOST collections was up by 4.35 % from August of last year. The Year-To-Date LOST Tax is down 1.69 compared to last year. SPLOST shows an increase from the prior year; year-to-date we are 2 % ahead in SPLOST Collections from the year 2017.

Road Projects Up-Date:

A pre-construction meeting on August 30th for the CDBG grant project was held. This project is the paving of Pendleton Creek Road and Deer Run Road; the estimated start date is the second week of October 2018.

Bud Jordan Road has been completed. Manager Jones stated that he and Chairman Sikes looking at the road and is very pleased with the outcome of the 3.61 miles that was paved.

Manager Jones stated the on Annie Jane Road has prepared a test run on using a matting material and placing GAB on the matting. We are looking at possibly using on some of the clay hills throughout the county. The matting is designed to keep the rock from settling into the road and disappearing. We inspected this Friday and were very pleased with it.

**Other Miscellaneous
Items:**

Manager Jones stated there were two of the five claims for FEMA reimbursements that we have received, which was received from the damages occurred during Hurricane Irma, you have a copy of each of these claims. This was for road damage and debris removal. We had previously received personnel cost reimbursement.

Cindy Burton that works in the Clerk of Court's Office has been selected as our our summer 2018 Wellness Warrior. Her accomplishments will be posted in the Lobby of the Courthouse soon.

Standing Committee Reports

Commissioners Comments: None

Executive Session:

Chairman Sikes there will be a 15 minute break so that we may go into Executive Session.

After the break, Chairman Sikes asked if there was a motion to go into the Executive Session.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to go into Executive Session for Personnel discussion. Motion carried unanimous.

Chairman Sikes called the Executive Session to order at 6:35 P.M.

After the Board discussed personnel issues, Chairman Sikes asked if there were a motion to adjourn the Executive Session.

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

Chairman Sikes open the floor back to the Regular Board Meeting.

Chairman Sikes announced that after discussion on personnel matters, there were no Motion necessary. Chairman Sikes asked if there were any other discussion.

Manager Jones opens the discussion about the CDBG application for next year. To qualify for this grant, there should be low income houses and a number of rooftops on the roads that are being considered. Emanuel Circle off of Hwy 292 or North part of Vidalia or Victory Circle could be considered for the grant. Chairman Sikes appointed Commissioner Nobles and Commissioner Cason to research and suggest which roads should be considered for the CDBG next year.

Chairman Nobles reminded everyone to attend the Ninth District Meeting that will be held at the Durden Cabin on Oct. 24th starting at 4:00 PM with the Dinner being prepared by Tree House Restaurant.

Adjournment:

Chairman Sikes asked if there was a motion to adjourn the Regular Commissioners Meeting.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to adjourn the September 18, 2018 Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Chairman, David Sikes

Attest: _____
Helen Harris, County Clerk