

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

PRESENT: **ALFRED CASON, WENDELL HUGH DIXON, DARRIEL NOBLES, TOMMY ROLLINS, BLAKE TILLERY, JOHN M. JONES AND HELEN HARRIS.**

Call to Order: Vice-Chairman Dixon called the April 18, 2019 meeting to order at 5:31 P.M. Commissioner Cason gave the invocation.

Vice-Chairman Dixon asked for everyone to keep Steve Brown in our prayers. Steve was one of our past Commissioners and under Hospice Care, battling cancer. We ask that you keep Steve and his family in your prayers. Barry Brown that worked with our Sheriff's Department as Chief Deputy and helped set up the E911 system. Barry is also battling cancer. Please keep both of these men in your prayers; they are very special men to our County.

Invocation: Vice-Chairman Dixon asked Commission Cason to give the Invocation.

Approve Agenda: Vice-Chairman Dixon asked for a motion to approve the Agenda.

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

**Approval of Minutes
March 19, 2019
Regular Board Meeting:** Vice-Chairman Dixon asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on March 19, 2019.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the Minutes of the March 19, 2019 Regular Board Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Development Authority
Report:** **Michele Johnson** announced that a member of the Chamber's Board Member came with her tonight, Mr. Terry Thompson from the Temples Company. The Chambers Calendar has a Ribbon Cutting for Zen en on Wednesday, April 17th at 4:00 PM, 111 Oxley Dr., Lyons, GA. Groundbreaking Ceremony for Farmers Insurance, Allen Morris Agency will be held Thursday, April 18th at 4:00 PM, 201 East First St., Vidalia, GA. The Chamber will be celebrating Earth Day with an event, April 22nd. The event will include e-cycling and shred-cycling. Special thanks to the Board of Commissioners of Montgomery County and Toombs County for their sponsorship. The Regular monthly meeting will be held Tuesday, April 23rd at 8:00 AM in the Chamber and Development Authority Boardroom. "The Chamber Wants Your Booty" Showcasing Toombs-Montgomery Auction & Social will be held on Friday, May 10, at the Vidalia Community Center. Ribbon Cutting for Savannah Vascular Institute will be held on Monday, May 13th at 4:00 PM., 104 Charles Andrew Dr., Suite 124, Vidalia, GA. Ribbon Cutting for All Clean Cleaning & Restoration will be held on Tuesday, May 14th at 11:00 AM., 704 North St. West, Vidalia, GA. Leadership Toombs-Montgomery – Nomination will be accepted between March 1st and May 15th and may be submitted by firm, organization or individual. UGA SBDA Survey, The University of Georgia Small Business Development Center is partnering with the Chamber in an effort to better understand current challenges and opportunities facing business. To this end, an anonymous survey has been made available to Chamber members with a particular focus of business owners and business managers. The finding from this survey will help shape future services of the Chamber and the SBDC.

For the Development Authority the regular monthly meeting will be held Thursday, April 18th at 12 noon in the Chamber & Development Authority boardroom. Georgia Economic Developers Association (GEDA) Spring Workshop will be May 15th – 17th, Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, GA. Thanks to everyone that participated in the community visit to the Port of Savannah on Thursday, March 28th. The Authority hopes to host a regional economic

development meeting in Toombs County in May. Georgia Power will facilitate. It will be an opportunity for ED organizations to network, benchmark best practices and explore potential partnership opportunities. Southeast Georgia Project Managers Tour – Staff is still working with the Georgia Chamber to explore the idea of a Southeast Georgia Project Managers Tour in Fall 2019.

Department Reports:

Drew James, EMS Director, for the month of March there were 626 calls for service and 28,131 miles placed on the fleet of our ambulances. Our community outreach was on March 23rd was at the Uvalda Farm Festival, we taught about 150 hands on CPR as well as blood pressure screening. We had three medical emergencies on site that our service handled. We are preparing for the coverage needed for the Onion Festival the last week of April.

Public Participation:

Ashley Paine, the new County Director for the Department Family and Children Services came forward to introduce herself. Ms. Paine stated that there were seventy-five children in foster care in Toombs County. Three children have been adopted last month and two children so far this month. There are usually thirty-five to forty intakes per month, which is reports of child abuse or neglect; so far this month we have twenty-two. The Department service just under seven thousand in the County through food stamps and Medicaid and process about two hundred twenty per month for intake for food stamps and Medicaid. Commissioner Nobles asked, "How many employees did the Toombs County DFCS have?" Ms. Paine replied, "For the PCSI, which is the Child Protection Services, there are two supervisors and two workers and currently advertising for three more workers. The requirement for these positions would be a four year bachelor degree. If you know of anyone interested in applying, please refer them to our website to apply for the job. We have two front desk employees and three OFI, which is food stamps and Medicaid workers." Commissioner Nobles asked, "Your foster children come from Toombs County or other Counties as well? The seventy-five are from Toombs County only, we do have seventeen children for other Counties that are being housed in foster home that are in Toombs County but we are not in charge of the supervision of those children. Vice-Chairman Dixon thanked Ms. Paine for introducing herself and for the work DFCS Department does in Toombs County.

Public Participation:

Ricky Mitchell, during the break between the Public Hearing and the Regular Board Meeting, I spoke with Mike Holland and Matt Oxley on the phone and they own 54 acres at the intersection of Hwy. 15 South and Green-Tippett Road. Both men asked for me to speak on their behalf and they are adamantly opposed to the closing of Green-Tippett Road.

Michelle Thompson, 592 Green Tippett Road, Ricky Mitchell stated that Mr. Holland and Mr. Oxley owned a half a mile down Green-Tippett Road, we believe that it is only about two hundred yards. Their access to their land is from Hwy. 15 and not from Green-Tippett Road.

Consideration of Proposed Closing of Green-Tippett Road:

Manager Jones stated that he had received a petition for the landowners on Green-Tippett Road requesting the Green-Tippett road be closed and abandoned. We continued with the process and received impact statement from Toombs County Board of Education Transportation Director, Toombs County Road Supervisor, EMS Director, and Code Enforcement. In our last month's meeting the board voted to proceed to the next step. All of the land owners adjacent to the road were notified. Signs were placed on both ends of the roads advertising the public hearing to receive comments from the public on the proposed closing. This afternoon we had the public hearing and several came forward and spoke. As discussed in the public hearing, the federal government has invested about \$ 233,000 to GDOT for the beginning stages of repairing the bridge on Green-Tippett Road, this is not the total cost, there are additional fees that have not been recorded for this project and if the road is closed the county will be responsible for the reimbursement to GDOT because the Federal Government will request GDOT to reimburse the cost thus far. Based on these facts, the board has

to make a decision on whether to close the road and refund GDOT or not to close the road. If the board makes a motion to close the road, it will be that the road no longer serves as public purpose and the county will have to reimburse \$ 233,000 plus funds to GDOT.

Commissioner Rollins stated, I am not making a motion; after all the information that has been given to us through the public hearings as of our last meeting, I left the last month's meeting agreeing with the people that was living on that road because no one spoke against the road being closed, maybe we needed to close the road. Since that time, there have been other issues that have arrived. Some of the residence have come forward and asked that the road not be closed for various reasons. My biggest concern and my reason for not making a motion is because after receiving the information from GDOT on the \$ 233,000 to \$ 250,000 reimbursement that the county would have to absorb. Although this road is located in my district I cannot, in true form, be in favor in closing that road at this time.

Vice-Chairman Dixon asked if there was anyone else that would like to make a comment or would anyone that would like to make a motion. Due to the lack of motion, Green Tippet Road will remain as a county maintained road.

Consideration of Resolution Calling for Counties in Heart of Georgia Altamaha Service Delivery Region to Establish a Regional Roundtable and Propose Renewal of One-Cent TSLOST: Manager Jones stated the Regional Commission is requesting to establish the Regional Roundtable to consider the renewal of the TSLOST, one-cent tax. Each County is given two representatives to serve at that roundtable; by default, one is the Chairman of the Commission and one Mayor. The mayor is selected by the mayors of the county and the cities have met and Mayor Willis NeeSmith has been selected to fill the second seat. This Resolution does not impose the tax nor does it recommend the tax, it just establishes the members that will be on the Roundtable for discussion about the renewal or not.

Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the Chairman to sign the Resolution calling for Counties in the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Service Delivery Region to establish a Regional Roundtable for discussion on the proposed renewal and the one-cent sales tax for the purpose of funding transportation infrastructure improvements in the region. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Ratification for Emergency Repair on Johnson-Corner Road: Manager Jones stated there were three pipes under a section of Johnson-Corner Road that needed replacing immediately due to a safety issue. Under our policy, we proceeded under § 1-2-9 Road Construction Contracts in our Financial Policies Manual. McLendon Enterprises has quoted \$ 77,734 to do the necessary repairs and should be completed in two weeks. We are asking for the board to ratify this invoice for the emergency repair; if approved it will be paid with SPLOST funds.

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to ratify the emergency repair needed on Johnson-Corner Road. The repair will be done by McLendon Enterprises in the amount of \$ 77,734 and will be paid with SPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentation of Proposed Alcohol Ordinance: Manager Jones stated that in November 2018, a Referendum was approved by the voters to change the Alcohol Policies. We are trying to blend the two cities and the County Ordinance and have this new Alcohol Ordinance in place by July 1st. There is not a need for any motion to be made at this meeting. Please review the proposed Ordinance in your packet. The document has been color coded; green is our existing ordinance and the red is the proposed addition to the Ordinance.

County Manager Report: Financial Report: Manager Jones stated the first quarter has ended well for the financial status of our County. The first quarter of the Maintenance and Operation expenses are four percent under budget, Revenue for the first quarter are within our

expectation. The landfill revenues are three percent over budget and expenses are eight percent under budget through first quarter. EMS revenue is under budget by one percent and expenses are one percent under budget. The most exciting news that for the first time in a very long time, E911 revenues were up, over budget by eleven percent with the expense under budget by twelve percent, producing a positive cash flow of \$ 22,000. In the past E-911 has cost the County approximately a quarter of a million dollars per year that has to come from the general fund.

**Other Miscellaneous
Items:**

Update on some of the roads, Dykes Grassing is starting work on Blaxton Road and finishing up. Deer Run and Oscar Cruz that is part of our CDBG project is completed. We have replaced all of the fire station signs adjacent to each Fire Station throughout the county.

Manger Jones asked everyone to put on their calendars the dedication of US1 in memory of SGT Dustin Wright who lost his life in line of duty in Niger, Africa on October 4, 2017. The presentation will be held at the Santa Claus Community Center at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, April 23, 2019.

Executive Session:

Vice-Chairman Dixon asked for a motion to go into Executive Session.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to go into Executive Session after a ten minute recess to discuss real estate. Motion carried unanimously.

**Executive Session
Adjournment:**

Vice-Chairman Dixon asked if there was a motion to adjourn from the executive session.

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to adjourn from the executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

There was no action taken as a result of executive session.

**Standing Committee
Reports:**

Commissioners Comments: None

Adjournment:

Vice-Chairman Dixon asked if there was a motion for adjournment for the Regular Board Meeting.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 PM.

Wendell Dixon, Vice-Chairman

Attest: _____
Helen Harris, County Clerk