

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

Call to Order: Chairman Sikes called the March 19, 2019 meeting to order at 5:33 P.M.

Invocation: Commissioner Cason gave the invocation.

Chairman Sikes announced that he would like to welcome some of our Local Dignitaries that are here tonight: Lyons City Manager, Jason Hall; Lyons Councilman, Ben Mitchell and John Moore; Lyons Chief of Police, Wesley Walker; Toombs County School Superintendent, Barry Waller; Lyons Downtown Merchant Association, Dorsey and Kip Heart. Very glad to see you here tonight and we appreciate what you do for our community.

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

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

**Approval of Minutes
February 19, 2019
Regular Board Meeting:** Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on February 19, 2019.

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

**Development Authority
Report:** **Michele Johnson** stated the Chambers calendar had the Georgia Association of Chamber of Commerce Executive (GACCE) Staff Development Conference on March 21st and 22nd of March in Grovetown. There will be a Chamber Board Meeting on Tuesday the 26th of March at 8:30 AM in the Chamber and Development Authority Boardroom. The Chamber is hosting a small workshop, Spectrum Advantage Series, will be held Tuesday, March 26th from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM at the Onion Inn. (This is Taylor Insurance Services discussing the benefits of membership with their company.) Ribbon Cutting for Toombs Outdoors will be held Friday, April 5th, 2019 at 11:00 AM., 751 South State Street in Lyons. Leadership Toombs-Montgomery Graduation will be held Friday, April 12th. Earth Day Event will be held on April 22, 2019. This event will include e-cycling and shred-cycling. The Development Authority will hold their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, March 21st at 12 noon in the Chamber and Development Authority Boardroom. We will be visiting the Port of Savannah on Thursday, March 28, 2019.

Department Reports: Chairman Sikes asked **Cheryl Poppell** with the 4-H Exchange Office to come forward. Cheryl Poppell came forward and introduced two members of the Extension Office, Mallorie Talvan who is 4-H Garden Assistant and Mrs. Elaine Hamlin who is the Extension Secretary. Mrs. Poppell then introduced Carlie Morgan and ask her to explain the 4-H program and the competition held at Rock Eagle. Ms. Morgan explained the District Project Achievement at Rock Eagle. There were students ranging from seventh to the twelfth grade in the audience tonight that attended the District Project Achievement at Rock Eagle. Ms. Riya Patel came forward and told that her project was on "Safety on Texting and Driving". Ms. Patel stated that it was a great privilege to be among the forty-four participants in the competition. This competition helps the students with public speaking. After Ms. Patel spoke, each student from the 4-H Club of Toombs County stood and gave their names and the projects they were involved in. Each of the Commissioners was presented with a small gift for their appreciation and the support that has been given.

Drew James, EMS Director, for the month of February there were 530 calls for service and 23,362 miles placed on the fleet of our ambulances. March 1st and 2nd the Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) course was taught to six individuals of our staff which will be passed along to the other members of our staff. Chairman Sikes asked how the new suspension on the new ambulance compares to how the other ambulance rides. Drew stated that he had nothing but compliments from the patients and the medics. It was something defiantly that needed to be included to the future purchases.

Public Participation:

None

Presentation of Petition to Close Green-Tippett Road and Required Impact Statements:

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 by the County. According to the Georgia State Code 32-7-2 and county policy, a citizen or group of citizens that wishes to abandon a road or a section of a road, the following steps must be taken. Impact statement must be received from Toombs County Board of Education Transportation Director, Toombs County Road Supervisor, EMS Director, and Code Enforcement. In the packet there are copies received from each of those departments. Base on these facts, the board has to make a decision on whether to proceed forward or not. If the board decides to proceed forward, a motion will be made that the road no longer serves a public purpose and then we move to the next step. Chairman Sikes address the audience and asked if the signatures on the petition were all of the landowners on that road. Mr. Lewis Tippett responded to Chairman Sikes, that it was all of the landowners on that road.

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to proceed to the next step and for the public hearing to be held prior to the next Commissioners Meeting held on April 16, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Rate Adjustment by Republic Services:

Manager Jones stated the next item was discussion on Republic Services Contract. The Contract with Republic Services allows them to request a rate increase based on the CPI water, sewer and trash collection. You have a copy of their request; it is up to the board to grant their request or deny.

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve a zero increase to Republic Services. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Bids for a Grass Tractor and Mower:

Manager Jones stated that in the packets you have seen the bids given for a new tractor and mower. Lasseter Tractor was the lowest bid at the amount of \$ 56,600. This is for a John Deere 5090E CAB/MFDW Tractor and a Brown 472 – seven foot Rotary Cutter; if approved the purchase will be paid with SPLOST funds.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the purchase of the John Deere 5090E CAB/MFDW Tractor and Brown 472 – seven foot Rotary Cutter from Lasseter Tractor in the amount of \$ 56,600; paid with SPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Bids for a High-Trac Bulldozer for the Landfill:

Manager Jones stated that the Landfill needed an additional Bulldozer. Caterpillar has the only high-trac bulldozer built. We are recommending the Caterpillar D6 and we received two quotes, one for the bulldozer and the other has an option to have a maintenance agreement added to the price. The total cost is \$ 317,134 from Caterpillar and this includes the maintenance agreement. If the purchase is approved it will be paid with Landfill funds.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the purchase of the Caterpillar D6 Cat High-trac bulldozer with the maintenance agreement in the amount of \$317,134 from Caterpillar and will be paid with Landfill Funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Resolution Requesting Sales Tax Information from Georgia Department of Revenue:

Manager Jones explained that the Georgia Legislature approved a bill allowing local governments to inquire as to the receipt of sales tax information. In order to receive the information the Board must pass a resolution assigning a designated person to request the records. Manager Jones asked the board to appoint him as that designated person to receive information from the Georgia Department of Revenue.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the Chairman to sign the Resolution assigning Manager John Jones to be the designated person to request Sales Tax Information from Georgia Department of Revenue. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Participation with Montgomery County on Montgomery County CDBG Application:

Manager Jones stated that for three years in a row, Montgomery County is requesting that we provide a Letter of Intent to accompany their CDBG application whereby Toombs County would participate in the bidding of a paving contract. Toombs County has a total of 489 feet on two separate roads, Largo Drive and Ashley Drive, which we would agree to participate with Montgomery County. Toombs County would only be responsible for the separate addendum for the two roads in Toombs County and Toombs County has the exclusive right to reject the bids for this addendum.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to participate with Montgomery County on the Montgomery County CDBG Application. Motion carried unanimously.

**County Manager Report:
Financial Report:**

Manager Jones stated the LOST was up by 5 percent from this time last year.

Miscellaneous:

The auditors have completed their field work at our office and have collected the information to report on the 2018 audit. We should have the results of the audit some time in June.

Standing Committee Reports:

Presentation by Hussey Gay Bell on Final Feasibility Study on the Toombs County Courthouse and Detention/Sheriff's Office:

Chairman Sikes stated there was some exciting news that the commission has been working on for four years. Mayor Ronnie Dixon has just come in time to hear the presentation from Hussey Gay Bell. Chairman Sikes asked for a representative of Hussey Gay Bell to come forward and give their report.

Mr. Eric Johnson from Hussey Gay Bell Architect stated, just for a recap, the Commission wanted to hire an architectural firm to look at what you have here at the Courthouse and the Jail; what you need and then look at some options and come back with some recommendations. After working with the staff for nine months, I can't express how professional your staff has been and we really appreciate their time they have given us.

Mr. Johnson stated that the facility evaluations performed by a team of engineers and architects resulted in a determination that the courthouse has reached the end of its useful life. It has been determined that it is not suited for the County's current needs and cannot be easily expanded for the future. Infrastructure items such as the mechanical and electrical systems all need to be replaced and/or upgraded. Site circulation and parking is an issue to be resolved and the building is not in line with the project vision. It is the recommendation of the study that the Courthouse be replaced.

While the Jail does not have sufficient beds to accommodate current or future needs, it is acceptable enough condition to remain useful to the County. Some major systems should be repaired or replaced, and additional space should be

considered in phase construction to accommodate the current and future bed needs of the County.

The Sheriff's Administration Building is similar to the Jail. The Administration Building is in acceptable enough condition to remain useful to the County. Like the Jail, some major systems should be repaired or replaced. Additional space for dispatch, training, storage and staff growth should be considered in phased construction to accommodate current and future needs.

Based upon the evaluations and the projections of current and future needs, we explored seven (7) different options or concepts. These seven concepts are included in the Final Feasibility Study.

Concept (six) seems to be the best option. This would be to build a new Courthouse with a corridor for the jail to the Courthouse on the ground level, with an annex building for administration. After the construction was complete and everyone relocated, the old Courthouse would be torn down and replaced with a green space that identifies the landmark for Toombs County. This is the most efficient cost of resolving the problem at the estimated cost of \$ 39.5 million.

Commissioners Comments: None

Adjournment: Chairman Sikes asked if there was a motion for adjournment for the Regular Board Meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 PM.

David Sikes, Chairman

Attest: _____
Helen Harris, County Clerk