

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

- PRESENT:** **DAVID SIKES, ALFRED CASON, WENDELL HUGH DIXON, DARRIEL NOBLES, BLAKE TILLERY, JOHN M. JONES AND HELEN HARRIS.**
- Call to Order:** Chairman Sikes called the May 21, 2019 meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.
- Invocation:** Commissioner Cason gave the invocation.
- Chairman Sikes announced that Tommy Rollins will not be present tonight, he has a family funeral. One of our formal Commissioners, Steve Brown passed away this past Sunday morning; viewing is tonight from 5 until 8 PM and his funeral is tomorrow at 12 noon. Please keep his family in your prayers.
- Approve Agenda:** Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the Agenda.
- Commissioner Dixon made a motion to amend the agenda to add the Toombs County Board of Education Bond Resolution and to add after public participation; seconded by Commissioner Nobles. Motion carried unanimously.
- Approval of Minutes
April 16, 2019
Regular Board Meeting:** Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on April 16, 2019.
- Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the Minutes of the April 16, 2019. Regular Board Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Development Authority
Report:** **Michele Johnson** stated the Chamber hosted the Showcasing Toombs-Montgomery Auction & Social on May 10th; thanks to everyone that participated. Board Montgomery Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 29th at 8:30 AM in the Chamber & Development Authority boardroom. Leadership Toombs-Montgomery (LTM) Reminder, the application deadline is May 31st. In the Youth Leadership, we had 61 applications, so this program is very strong and we are very happy about that. Development Authority's Regular Monthly Meeting will be Thursday, May 23 at 12 noon in the Chamber & Development Authority Boardroom. Existing Industry Visit with Allen Rice, Savannah Luggage Works (SLW) will be scheduled in June. Michele stated that she will communicate final details upon determination. The Revolving Loan Fund (RLF), funds are availability is being advertised.
- Department Reports:** **Drew James**, EMS Director, for the month of April there were 575 calls for service and 26,320 miles placed on the fleet of our ambulances. Our largest stand-by for the year was for the six events at the Onion Festival. There were less than twenty people that needed our assistance.
- Chairman Sikes read the Resolution for EMS week, May 19th through 25th, 2019.
- Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the EMS Resolution for the week of May 19th through 25th, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.
- Public Participation:** None
- Consideration of Toombs
County Board of Education
Bond Resolution:** Chairman Sikes asked for Superintendent Barry Waller to step forward. Mr. Waller stated there was an ESPLOST vote a few months back and had an 85% success rate for education. Raymond James Financial Services, who is handling our Bonds is here tonight, Tom Owens, is also here. Mr. Waller asked Tom Owens to speak on the behalf of the Board of Education. Mr. Owens

explained that the legal requirements which would be for the Board of Commissioners to approve a Tax Levy Resolution. The margin safety of this bond is there should be a payment of \$ 2,175,000; the Toombs County District SPLOST was a little over 2.4 million dollars, so the Board of Education has about one month cushion. The Bonds sold yesterday, for what is called a bond arbitrage yield at 1.69 percent. The bond is at a fixed bond rate for the life of the bond, this means we will not be exposed to variable rates. We feel like we will be complete done with the debt in five years.

Commissioner Nobles asked what was the total of the Bonds that were sold. Mr. Owens replied, it is a \$ 6,025,000 bond. Commissioner Nobles asked what amount was collected in the last twelve months from their ESPLOST? Mr. Owens replied, \$ 2,404,000.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the Resolution for the Board of Education. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Appointment of Celina Vasquez as Toombs County Safety Coordinator:

Manager Jones stated that the consideration of appointment of Celina Vasquez as Toombs County Safety Coordinator. In the packet you will find a copy of that Resolution. This is in conjunction with our Workmen's Compensation Insurance.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to appoint Celina Vasquez as Toombs County Safety Coordinator. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Public Defender Contract with Georgia Public Defender Council:

Manager Jones explained that this contract is for the Georgia Public Defender Council for providing public defender services in Superior Court. The Public Defender originally requested a two percent raise to match what the State has given state employees in the District Attorney's Office. In addition they wanted to create a full-time administrative position at a cost of \$ 69,000 which included all benefits. In discussions with the other County Managers, we negotiated the request to a two percent raise and funding a part-time administrative position without benefits. Toombs County share is an annual increase of \$ 7,124.20 over what we have paid in the past. All together that is a six percent increase in their budget. This will take effect July 1, 2019 if approved. We ask the Board to approve this contract as presented.

Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the Contract with the Public Defender in Superior Court as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Renewal of Mutual Aid Agreement between Toombs County Fire Department and City of Swainsboro Fire Department:

Manager Jones stated that this is a renewal of the Mutual Aid Agreement between Toombs County Fire Department and City of Swainsboro Fire Department. This agreement is if we are in need of support, and if they are available, they will assist and vice-versa. We ask the Board to approve this Mutual Aid Agreement.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles of the renewal of the Mutual Aid Agreement between Toombs County Fire Department and the City of Swainsboro Fire Department. Motion carried unanimously

Consideration of Health Insurance Proposal:

Manager Jones stated the consideration of approval of the Health Insurance proposal. There is a twelve page analysis in your packet for the health renewal proposal. The third page displays the quotes that we have acquired for the coming year. Aetna Insurance with a 16.3 increase; Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield through the ACCG pool had a 9.1 percent increase; Cigna Insurance declined in giving a quote; Humana quoted a 26.6 percent increase and United Health Care gave an increase of 29.9 percent. As you may recall, we created a health insurance advisory committee to help through the process of selecting a suitable insurance policy for the County employees and/or family coverage. They have presented a recommendation to give to the board for consideration.

Normally there was only one option for health insurance. On page four you will see the option the committee recommended has three options to choose from. One is a high deductible that is an HSA plan. This plan creates a saving account in which an employee can set aside funds for their health expense. In the event they do not use the funds, the funds would carry over to the follow year and the following years to come. At time of retirement, if the funds were not used, the funds collected is still their money and the employee could convert the funds into an IRA account. The second option is the Essential Plan which is similar to the plan we have now. The third option is a buy-up plan. This plan allows the employee to get lower deductions and lower co-pay's and would cost the employee \$ 19.03 per pay period. The bottom line to the county will not see any increase in cost on this plan. Based on the information given, we would like for the board to approve the three plan option with Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the Health Insurance Proposal. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Purchase of Trucks for Public Works:

Manager Jones stated that the Public Works Department is in need of three trucks. The lowest price was awarded through the State Contract at a cost of \$ 26,227 for each truck from Allan Vigil Ford in Morrow Georgia. We ask the board to approve the purchase of three F250, four-door, two-wheel drive work trucks for the Public Works Department which will be paid with SPLOST funds.

Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the purchase of three F250, four-door, two-wheel drive work trucks through a State Contract in the amount of \$ 26,277 from Allan Vigil Ford in Morrow Georgia and paid with SPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously

Consideration of Appointment to the Board of Assessors:

Manager Jones stated the consideration of appointment to the Board of Assessors. Gary Tapley resigned from the board due to a conflict with his current job. Otha Dixon has agreed to serve if the board so desires to finish out Gary Tapley's term on the Board of Assessors.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to appoint Otha Dixon to the Board of Assessors. Motion carried unanimously

Consideration of Proposal for Ambulance for EMS:

Manager Jones stated that there were bids accepted for a non-emergency unit for non-emergency transfers and stand-by at special events. There were two bids received, one from Foundation Ambulance Incorporated which submitted a bid of \$ 74,460 and Custom Truck and Body Works submitted a bid of \$ 69,990. Based on the bids received, we recommend the board to approve the purchase of one (1) Type II Ambulance from Custom Truck and Body Works in the amount of \$ 69,990 and to be paid with SPLOST funds. Director Drew James spoke about the types of ambulances. Mr. James said there were three types of ambulances, Type I, II & III. Type I Ambulance is the units that are presently being used that can handle critical care patients and/or multiple critical patients. Type II primarily would be used for non-emergency patients and standby special events, although it will be equipped to have the standards required by Advance Life Support.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the purchase of a Type II Ambulance in the amount of \$ 69,990 from Custom Trucks and Body Works and paid with SPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval for ROW Clearing:

Manager Jones stated this is consideration of approval for Right-of-Way clearing in the south end of the county. There are limbs that are not allowing a safe passage for some of the farming equipment that uses Old River Road and Vidalia-Cedar Crossing Road. We have received a bid from Kilgore Mulching & Tree Service to remove the limbs in the amount of \$ 13,500. If approved by the board, the invoice will be paid with SPLOST funds.

Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the bid from Kilgore Mulching & Tree Service in the amount of \$ 13,500 for clearing of the ROW on Old River Road and the Vidalia-Cedar Crossing Road from SR56 to US 1. The invoice will be paid with SPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously.

**Formal Presentation
of Proposed Alcohol
Ordinance:**

Manager Jones stated on November 6, 2018 ballot, the citizens of Toombs County voted to approve four items.

1. "Shall the governing authority of Toombs County, Georgia be authorized to issue licenses to sell distilled spirits for beverage purposes by the drink, such sales to be for consumption only on the premises?"
4,724 for and 3,520 against with a 57 % margin saying yes.
2. "Shall alcoholic beverages by the drink, for consumption on the premises only be allowed in private clubs in the unincorporated areas of Toombs County?"
4,672 for and 3,541 against with a 57 % margin saying yes.
3. "Shall the governing authority of Toombs County, Georgia be authorized to permit and regulate package sales by retailers of malt beverages and wine on Sundays between the hours of 12:30 P.M. and 11:30 P.M.?"
4,513 for and 3,862 against with a 54 % margin saying yes.
4. "Shall the governing authority of Toombs County, Georgia be authorized to permit and regulate Sunday sales of distilled spirits or alcoholic beverages for beverage purposes by the drink?"
4,458 for and 3,996 against with a 53 % margin saying yes.

Based on this, the board was authorized to prepare the Ordinances that would address these items. If the proposed Alcohol Ordinance is approved tonight, we then will hold a public hearing to hear comments from the public and based upon those comments will determine if we will be placing before the board a final approval of the Ordinance that will be effective July 1, 2019.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the proposed Alcohol Ordinance as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

County Manager Report:

Financial Report:

Manager Jones stated the M & O Budget expense are still under budget YTD. Our E-911 fees for the year are 12% above budget, hopefully this trend continues. April's LOST collection was up 1.49 % from last year. Despite our share decreased because of the LOST lawsuit, YTD 2019 collections are within \$ 400 of YTD 2018 collections. YTD SPLOST revenues are up by 4 %.

**Update on Johnson
Corner Road Project:**

The contractors have finished the road repair on Johnson Corner Road. There was an issue with the shoulders of the road that needed to be worked on but this project is complete now.

**Update on Long Range
Transportation Plan:**

Georgia Department of Transportation and HNTB will be having a meeting with the stakeholders at the Santa Claus Community Center on May 30th from 11:30 AM until 12:30 PM. This meeting is open to the public.

**Update on Toombs
County Comprehensive
Plan:**

The public meeting on the Toombs County Comprehensive Plan are completed for now and will resume sometime later this summer. The plan will be submitted in October.

**Update on Band III
TSPLOST Project:**

The Engineer is working on the plan for the Band III TSPLOST Project and should have the project out for bid before the October 29th let date.

**Other Miscellaneous
Items:**

Manager Jones thanked the Toombs County Courthouse employees for enduring the heat for the three weeks when the air conditioner was out of order, as some of you can tell it's a little cool in the Courtroom tonight but the air conditioner has been repaired and is working fine now. There was a couple of office that

really did suffer in the heat because it got extremely hot in some of the offices. He was really appreciative for the ones that were hanging in there like real troopers while they were working on the repair of the air conditioner.

Standing Committee Reports:

Commissioners Comments: None

Chairman Sikes stated that he would like to personally thank the guys for last month's meeting, he was not present for the meeting because he was invited to go to Washington DC to be a part of the Proposed Opportunity Zone Proposal and in a twenty-four hour notice, and the Commissioners took care of everything. He just wanted to thank each one of the Commissioners and the County Manager. Chairman Sikes stated, "It is wonderful to see that you have a team that is this strong that takes care of things."

Executive Session –

Personnel & Real Estate:

Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of personnel and real estate.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to go into executive session after a 5 minute break. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to come out of Executive Session.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to adjourn from the Executive Session. **There was no action taken as a result of executive session.**

Adjournment:

Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to adjourn from the Regular Board Meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 PM.

David Sikes, Chairman

Attest: _____
Helen Harris, County Clerk