

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 November 18, 2019 meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.
- Invocation:** Commissioner Cason gave the Invocation.
- Approve Agenda:** Chairman Sikes asked for approval of the Agenda.
- Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Dixon to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Approval of Minutes
September 17, 2019
Regular Board Meeting:** Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on September 17, 2019.
- Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the Minutes of the October 15, 2019 Regular Board Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Development Authority** **Michele Johnson** stated the Chamber Calendar was as followed: the Chamber Board will have their Annual Board Retreat on December 3rd. The Chamber will host the Leadership Toombs/Montgomery Government Session on December 4. On December 12th there will be a Toombs/Montgomery Youth Leadership - Health Care and Law Enforcement. The Development Authority Regular Monthly Meeting will be held November 21st at 12 noon in the Chamber and Development Authority Board Room. December 10th - Leadership Screven to Toombs County; Michele will be reaching out for help with that meeting. Michele wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.
- Department Reports:** **Sheriff Kight:** Recognize Wallace Thompson for his thirty years of service. Wallace started working for the Sheriff's Department on September 1, 1989. Sheriff Kight gave a little background about Wallace. Wallace started with the County's Sheriff Department, being hired by Sheriff Charles Durst, as a dispatcher and four years later he became a deputy. Sheriff Durst realized that this man would make a good deputy and I totally agree that he made a very good choice. Sheriff Kight stated, "Wallace is one that we can always depend on him being there. Wallace lost his wife in May of last year but he has come back very strong, raising his young son and I cannot speak highly enough of how proud I am of Wallace." A plaque was presented to Wallace for thirty years of dedication and faithful service to Toombs County Sheriff's Office from September 1989 to September 2019.
- After Wallace received his plaque, he spoke and stated that his job was not easy sometime but he looked forward to coming to work every day to protect the citizen and another reason is that he has a good boss and he likes to make the Sheriff look good. We have a good County Manager, Chairman and Commissioners, all the people that work for the County; we are all like one large family. Wallace concluded by saying, "I appreciate this award, Thanks Sheriff."
- Sheriff Kight asked Zack Fowler to please step forward. Sheriff Kight continued with, "Zack, you have called me so many times trying to get that story. It may be night time or nine in the morning; but I've tried to go deer hunting one time this year and guess who called me when I was in the deer stand, you guessed it, Zack Fowler." I asked Zack why he was calling me so early and he replied, "I've got to get this story out." Sheriff Kight said, Zack, I will have to say, we have been very fortunate to have you in our County for all of these years. Zack has been a great friend of mine. He has worked closely with me and has done a great job at reporting the news correctly. I hate to hear that you are leaving us but I thought this would be the best time to present to you; from the office of the Sheriff of Toombs County. It is a token and on the back of this token, it has a flag with the words with commitment, integrity and professionalism written on it. I really appreciate you working with

me and our office and with that, I would like for you to take this token with you.” Zack thanked the Sheriff and said he appreciated the token.

Zack Fowler stated, “It was an honor to work with Sheriff Kight and with the Deputies, such as the Wallace Thompson; responders, EMS, Fireman, Police Officers and our Teachers; they are dedicated people with a calling. I think we are in the same boat because they keep our community safe and to all of our Government Authorities as well. I believe that Kathy Hilt and I keep our little light shining under our little bush quite well. It has been an honor and privilege to live back in my hometown and serve our community and I hope the future owners of the station will maintain that same spirit and keep everybody informed as best as they can. Thank you for the honor.”

Lynn Moore, EMA Director: We have finished out the year and have completed our contractual responsibilities to Plant Hatch. We appreciate the ones that came to our drill. It was noticed by FEMA that we had the support of our politicians and it showed that our office had the support needed if there was an event that needed to be addressed. We did not finish our Hazardous Medication Plan, but this was not anything we did. The office in Baxley Georgia had an employee quit and they got behind on doing all of their work. They talked to FEMA and got an extension and should be completed in the first part of the New Year. We know we have a challenge coming up next year preparing for the relocation of the EMA Building.

Public Participation:

None

Consideration of Approval of 2020 Alcohol License:

- Sanjay Patel dba Pop’s General Store,
- Ma Socorro Rodriguez- Dba Fruteria,
- Dennis Sport Shop

Manager Jones stated, all three of the license applicants are renewals of their existing license; Pop’s General Store, Fruteria and Dennis Sport Shop. We would ask for the board to approve all three of these.

Vice-Chairman Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rollins to approve all three license applications, Sanjay Patel dba Pop’s General Store, Ma Socorro Rodriguez dba Fruteria and Dennis Sport Shop. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of Request to Purchase 26 Tasers for Sheriff’s Office:

Manager Jones stated the Sheriff has requested the County to purchase twenty-six Tasers for his officers. The total cost for the tasers will be \$ 42,030 and SPLOST funds will be used to pay for the purchase if approved. Commissioner Nobles asked what was the life expectancy of the Tasers. Sheriff Kight stated five to six years. The reason we are asking for new Tasers is because our Tasers are obsolete and we cannot get parts for the ones we have now. Commissioner Nobles asked why is it cheaper to finance rather than purchase upfront. Manager Jones stated as the sheriffs has stated, the payback is almost of the life of the Taser so this will be a part of our budget cycle to pay for the Tasers because by the time you pay them off, that five to six year shelf life will be done and it will be time to replace them again. These Tasers are very valuable to our law enforcement.

Vice-Chairman Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to purchase the twenty-six Tasers in the amount of \$ 42,030 and pay with SPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of Release & Hold Harmless for City of Lyons:

Manager Jones stated that the County’s Attorney has prepared for us to give to the City of Lyons a Release & Hold Harmless Agreement with the city concerning their responsibilities under the County’s Animal Control Agreement with Lyons.

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve of the Release & Hold Harmless for City of Lyons. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of Repair

Manager Jones stated the loader control valve needed to be replaced in the landfill compactor. The total cost of repair is \$ 7,452.36 and will be paid with Landfill funds.

to Landfill Compactor:

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the repair of the landfill compactor in the amount of \$ 7,452.36 and to pay the invoice from the Landfill funds. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of
Approval of Bid for
TIA Band III Projects:**

Manager Jones stated the next item was the consideration of approval of the Bid for TIA Band III projects. The board needs to formally approve the lowest bid in the amount of \$ 1,155 636.75 from East Coast Asphalt, LLC. This is three of four projects; they have already started the work on New Normantown Road and on Lyons Center Road. They will start shortly on Five Points Road. We are asking the Board to ratify the lowest bid from East Coast Asphalt. This will be paid by SPLOST funds.

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Dixon to ratify the lowest bid from East Coast Asphalt, LLC for TIA Band III project in the amount of \$ 1,155,636.75; paid with SPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of
Approval of Bids
for Geotech Study
at Courthouse Site:**

Manager Jones stated the Architects have requested a Geotech Study at the Courthouse for the existing site. They will be looking for compactions (as far as building a building on it). We are asking the board to approve the bid from Whitaker Laboratory, Inc. in the amount of \$ 6,950. If the Board approves the bid, we will give them notice to proceed and they should be completed in thirty days. SPLOST funds will be used to pay for the study.

Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the bid on the Geotech Study from Whitaker Laboratory, Inc. in the amount of \$ 6,950; to be paid with SPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration for the
Approval of Purchase
of 5 Acres of Land –
Bulldog Road:**

Manager Jones stated the next item was the consideration for the approval of purchase of five acres of land on Bulldog Road. We have been in negotiations with MBL Ventures, LLLP to purchase property to build the future site of Ross Bowen Building as we move forward with the Courthouse project. The cost of purchasing these five acres of land is \$ 85,000. We are asking the Board to approve this purchase and authorize the Chairman to sign the contract and all of the necessary documents for the closing. If approved SPLOST funds will be used to purchase the five acres.

Vice-Chairman Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the purchase of five acres from MBL Ventures, LLLP on Bulldog Road in the amount of \$ 85,000. The Chairman is authorized to sign the contract and all the necessary documents for closing procedures. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of
Approval of Repair
to Landfill D6 Bulldozer:**

Manager Jones stated the landfill bulldozer D6, is a \$ 350,000 dollar bulldozer and it is time to replace the final drive. We are asking the board to approve the repair cost quoted from Yancey Brothers in the amount of \$ 30,792.35 and pay with Landfill funds.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve Yancey Brothers to repair on the Landfill Bulldozer D6 in the amount of \$ 30,792.35. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of
Approval of Statewide
Mutual Aid and
Assistance Agreement:**

Manager Jones stated in your packet you have the agreement with GEMA and Homeland Security that we periodically sign. This agreement allows us to help other agencies if they ask for our help, and if we ask for help in turn they will give us aid. We ask the Board to approve the Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement. If requested, the County will provide aid only under the circumstance that providing such aid does not put Toombs County at risk in performing our duties for our citizens.

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Dixon to approve the Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

**County Manager Report
Financial Report:**

Manager Jones stated in your packet you have the financial statement for the year. Maintenance & Operations Expenses are 5% under budget for the year. EMS is anticipated to break even this year; E-911 will probably have the lowest deficit in a number of years and the last two years for example it has been over \$ 200,000 and we are expecting it to be \$ 140,000. We appreciate our State Representative, our Senator, and our Governor for creating the E-911 authority to handle the collection of the fees and distributing the fees correctly to each County.

**Establishment of
Speed Limit Zones:**

(Nothing was discussed on this issue.)

**Other miscellaneous
Items:**

GDOT has another Stakeholders Meeting on November 21, 2019 at 10:30 AM at the Durden's Cabin. This is a continuation of their transportation plan that they are planning for the County and the Cities.

The Census is coming up in 2020 and it is very important to all of us. Michele and the Chamber are working on getting everyone counted. We have had several training sessions and we have another meeting in the near future.

We had our annual review with CHP (Wellness Program Company), we have been very pleased with the results that we have had.

**Standing Committee Reports:
Commissioners**

Comments:

None

Chairman Sikes announce that he wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**Executive Session –
Personnel & Real Estate:**

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

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

**Executive Session
Adjournment:**

Chairman Sikes 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.

Adjournment:

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

Vice-Chairman Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

David Sikes, Chairman

Attest: _____
Helen Harris, County Clerk