TOOMBS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS Courtroom A

March 17, 2020 5:30 PM

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

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

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**Call to Order:** Chairman Sikes called the March 17, 2020 meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

**Invocation:** Commissioner Cason gave the invocation.

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

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

**Approval of Minutes** Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the **February 18, 2020** Regular Board Meeting held on February 18, 2020.

**Regular Board Meeting:**

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded Vice-Chairman Nobles to approve the Minutes of the February 18, 2020. Regular Board Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Development Authority** **Michele Johnson** announced the Chamber, with the concerns of the COVID-19 **Report:** Virus, we have postponed all of our events and gathering. We are open and are going to do everything we can do for our Business Community. On the Development Authority side, we have not slowed down; we are activity working on a couple of prospects. We have a manufacturing company that produce high- end plumbing fixtures that have shown interest and are looking for a corporate headquarters location. There was a great committee meeting on our upcoming Census. We are using the social media to encourage everyone to complete their Census paperwork.

Commissioner Rollins stated that he was in an Economic Development class in Tifton. The instructor gave Toombs County as a Premier County when communities come together and she used the Chicken of the Sea as an example and I know you were a part of that and I am very proud of that. Michele agreed and said that sometimes we take things for granted because we are here and other communities may not do as well.

**Department Reports:** **Chris Keene**, Public Works Director, as everyone knows we have had rain, rain, and more rain; in fact we have had 18.3 inches of rain since January 1st. We have had crews working overtime to get the roads repaired where the bad spots were. The last two weekends we have worked both Friday and Saturday because we have had a break in the rain. We have run three grader crews trying to correct the springs that have appeared. We have a major wash on Jeff Webber Road and we have had a contractor working on that. Alex Hardwick Road and there is a contractor working on that. He does not think everything will be perfect for the next thirty to sixty days, but we are making progress.

Commissioner Rollins thanked the men that are working six days of week because two of the roads that were repaired were in his district.

Commissioner Dixon asked for an update on the bridge on Green-Tippett Road. Manager Jones said that the rain had slowed the process of replacing the bridge. The initial finish date was March 30th and they have been delayed to the rain.

**Lynn Moore**, EMA Director stated that there was a wreck on Hwy US 1 this morning south of the John Deere Operation. There were two tractor trailers, one going north and the other going south, collided and landed in Rocky Creek; it took from 5:30 AM until 9:30 AM to clear that wreck. On March 6th, Chairman Sikes signed a State of Emergency, which will hopefully give us some funds towards the contract work we have hired to repair some of our road damage due to the rain. Next, we have the State of Emergency Declaration of Public Health that the Governor has done. We are closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation in consultation with the Department of Public Health. We have a local health emergency plan in place if we have to act on it. GEMA and FEMA will send supplies and if we do not use, it will be on-hand. The conference that was scheduled in the third week in April has been cancelled; there were 900 people registered. Dora will be in our office and we will help anyone that is stranded; we will be glad to rescue them.

**Public Participation:** **James Dixon**, 126 Pine Ridge Drive, Lyons, GA stated he was present at the meeting for Robbie White working on a Citizen Issue/Resolution. We are all aware of what is going on in Virginia for the past few months on gun control. The week of January 20th it had because apparent that the citizens response to the Governor in Virginia Legislature, has a lot to do with the failure of his agenda. It will not be long before Georgia is confronted with the same agenda. We would like for Toombs to be a Second Amendment Sanctuary County.

**Rodney White**, 2585 GA Hwy. 56 West, stated he had found the petition on line. This Ordinance was established by a legal team back in the early 2003 or 2004 for a county in Texas, since then over 300 Counties has supported this Ordinance. Mr. White has had forty-three people from this county that has signed a petition; he is still working on getting more signatures.

**Consideration of Declaring** Manager Jones stated that this fire truck is located at one of our volunteer **a** **1984 Pierce Fire Truck** stations. This truck has an issue with the water pump and transmission problems;

**as Obsolete Property and** additionally ISO recommends replacement for fire apparatus every twenty years **Dispose of by Bid:** and this is a 1984 truck. We would like the board to declare this as obsolete property and dispose of it by bid.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to declare a 1984 Pierce Fire Truck as obsolete property and dispose of by bid. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Approval** Manager Jones stated the office had received ten companies interested in the **of Bid Acceptance for Right** proposal for the Right of Way Mowing of 71.8 miles of mowing. In your packet **of Way Mowing for Project** you have the bid tabulation for the proposed mowing. The lowest bid was from **No. 2020-PW-ROWMOW-** K & A Mowing out of Blackshear Georgia. They were the low bid of $ 165 per **001:** mile; four cutting during the year. They currently cut for Brantley and Pierce County. All of their references spoke highly of their work. We would like for the board to approve this contract with K & A Mowing for one year, four cuttings, seventy seven miles of road; total cost will be $ 47,388; paid out of the Operating Expense of the Road Department.

Vice-Chairman Nobles asked if the county would mow the rest of the roads in the county. Manager Jones stated that there were 110 miles of right of way that needs to be cut and 71.8 miles would be done through this Contract with K & A Mowing and the county would cut the remaining 38.2 miles of right of way.

Vice-Chairman Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the contract with K & A Mowing for one year, four cuttings of seventy seven miles of road; total cost will be $ 47,388; paid out of the Operating Expense of the Road Department. Motion carried unanimously.

**County Manager Report:** Manager Jones stated that we are only two months through the year but our

**Financial Report:** operating expenses are under budget for the year. SPLOST and LOST collections were flat for the month of February. We are concerned with the impact that the COVID-19 virus may have on our county’s economy.

**Other Miscellaneous** Valerie DeLoach in our office was the 2020 Wellness Warrior. She has done  **Items:**  extremely well in the program and we are very proud we finally had a winner out of our office. We appreciate the work the men in our Road Department has done to restore our dirt roads. As Lynn stated it may be as soon as six months before we see the FEMA reimbursement or it may take as long as six years. We have contracted with three contractors to get our roads back in shape.

**Standing Committee**

**Reports:**

**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 6:14 PM.

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David Sikes, Chairman Helen Harris, County Clerk

**WORK SESSION**

**Work Session-Ten (10)** There were six Companies that responded to the Project No.

**Minutes after** 2020-BLDG-RBOWEN-001. This project is to propose Qualification to build a **Adjournment of** building on Bulldog Road to house the Public Defender’s Office and the County

**Regular Meeting:** Agent’sOffice that is now located in the Ross Building.TheCommissioners reviewed the information on each company that submitted their Qualification and discussed what their concept of what the building should look like. Each Commissioner and the Chairman will review the information submitted and meet at a later date to choose a company to continue with the plans.