

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

PRESENT: DAVID SIKES, ALFRED CASON, WENDELL HUGH DIXON, TOMMY ROLLINS, BLAKE TILLERY, JOHN M. JONES AND HELEN HARRIS.

Call to Order: Chairman Sikes called the May Regular Board Meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

Invocation: Commissioner Cason gave the Invocation.

Chairman Sikes stated that Vice-Chairman Nobles would not be present at this meeting. He had surgery last Friday and I've heard that everything is going very well. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

Approve Agenda: Chairman Sikes asked for the Agenda to be amended to add an executive session about real estate.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to amend the agenda to add an executive session about real estate. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes
April 21, 2020
Regular Board Meeting:** Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on April 21, 2020.

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the Minutes of the April 21, 2020 Regular Board Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes
May 11, 2020
Called Board Meeting:** Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the Called Board Meeting held on May 11, 2020.

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the Minutes of the May 11, 2020 Called Board Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Development Authority: **Michele Johnson** It has been an interesting time and we have had to shuffle some things around. Hopefully things are looking up. We are now in what we call our recovery period where we can start planning for the list of events that we have postponed until the fall. The next Chamber Board Meeting will be Tuesday, May 26th at 8:00 AM. The 2020 census update, these numbers were as of yesterday, the national self-response is 59.5 percent; Georgia is at 55.6 percent; Toombs County is at 46.1 percent; the City of Lyons is at 42.9 percent; City of Vidalia is 61.5 percent and the City of Santa Claus is at 55 percent. Please encourage everyone to complete their census. There are three or four projects in the works.

Department Reports: **Sheriff Kight** wanted to thank his staff for what they have done during this time; they have worked very hard to help keep us safe and to keep the virus out of the jail. Sheriff Kight thanked his deputies for what they have done.

**Employee Recognition
Ms. Johnnie Branch
- Sheriff's Department:** Chairman Sikes asked Sheriff Kight to take the floor again for recognition for Ms. Johnnie Branch. I cannot think of a finer man to do this recognition. Sheriff Kight asked if Ms. Johnnie would come up to the front. Sheriff Kight showed the plaque and explained that it was for your service from the County Commissioners. He continued to describe when he first met Ms. Johnny; in 1998

when I was running for Sheriff and she was Sheriff Durst's secretary, and she was scared and I was too. She didn't know much about me and I didn't know much about her, I wasn't scared of her, I was scared the job I had stepped into; but the good Lord helped us through. We started talking about changes and updating the office and adding some computers; she said, "Well I will tell you I don't know anything about computers but I can run that typewriter". I told her if you can run that typewriter, then you could run that computer. She takes care of the sheriff and that is a part of her job as Secretary Clerk, she covers me very well. If you come up there and ask for Junior, you get scolded. If you come up there and asked for Alvie, you'll get scolded. She would tell them, you are talking about the Sheriff and I appreciate you for that Ms. Johnnie. Ms. Johnnie has been a pleasure to work with for 22 years of her 24 years of service. We've seen a lot of ups and downs, but it has been a pleasure to work with her. She told me she loved to come to work and when you get an employee that loves to come to work and loves to do the job, you have got a good employee. Ms. Johnnie has always been early, no matter what. You don't have to worry about her calling in sick and not showing up for work; she's going to be there. That was something I could trust that everything in that front office was going to be right and if it wasn't, she was going let me know where we could resolve the problem. She has been so nice to work with and so pleasant you know it's when you work with an employee for 22 years she's almost like a mama to me. We have shared a lot of sweet memories. It is an honor for me to give her this plaque and we're also going do something else on the 29th of the month for her and we would like for you to join us. Sheriff Kight read the plaque to Ms. Johnnie. Ms. Johnnie you have been a pleasure to work with. It is an honor to read and give you this plaque that the Toombs County Board of Commissioner has presented to you.

Ms. Johnnie spoke and said that it has been a pleasure to work for the Sheriffs. I did not know what a misdemeanor was, I did not know what a felony was, but it didn't take me long to find out. I can truly say to each of you I appreciate the opportunity that each of you has given me to serve this county. I have enjoyed working with Patsy and all of the good deputies that I have worked with and for all that they have done for me. I appreciate my family that has supported me, there are so many things that I appreciate about this job. I hope I don't call and say I'm lonesome; do you have any thing I can do? I am hoping this will be a rest time and that I can spend some time my son and his family, my granddaughter and my daughter-in-law, that is like a daughter to me. I love each one of you.

Employee Recognition
Mr. William "Fuzzy" Swain
Public Works:

Commissioner Sikes stated, I would like to call Fuzzy Swain to the floor. Now, I know he is not here and I know he would but with this COVID-19 virus going around. I would like to say I have Known Fuzzy since the late 1990's through Sikes Brothers. We would be working over here in Toombs County and my Dad would say while we would be working on a driveway or a dirt road, he would say I can get this ditch fixed, don't worry. Then I would see this man come around and his name was Fuzzy. I remember asking my Dad, is that his real name and my dad looked toward the sky and said, it just as well be, he always keeps a beard. I have always gotten a kick out of that. The man taught me a lot and he did a lot for us and it was one hundred percent legal. He took care of me when I was a young man and when I ran for Chairman; he took care of me then. He would see me on a dirt road and wink at people and say vote for that one, I like him and you should too. He had done a lot for me and he had taken a lot of butt chewing for all of us for the problems on the dirt roads. If nothing else, we have fond memories of him here tonight. Fuzzy thank you for all that you have done for us. Commissioners if you have any thing you would like to say, the floor is open.

Blake: Mr. Chairman thank you for this opportunity to say something about Fuzzy. There would be so many times when I set in your seat and we would get out to a dirt road that we had calls about and Fuzzy would already be there leaning over the hood of his truck talking to the property owner and by the time you got there, he would say, it's already handled. Toombs County is a better place because of Fuzzy Swain.

Mr. Dixon: I know I'm going to miss his fish fries too; he could cook some bream. He has always been there when we needed him and I am going to miss him.

John: When I came here we sat down with the staff and department heads, I told Fuzzy that I needed to talk to him. You know Fuzzy is one of those old construction guys. He would give you one of those look and you did not quite know how to play everything, you just want to see how things turned out. At that time he was ready to retire then but he wanted to see how this bright looking chairman that had gotten elected and what he was all about and he wanted to see what this old guy they named as County Manager was all about and if he liked it, he was going to stay and if he didn't, he was going on home. So the first talk I had with him as we sat down was, I said, "Fuzzy I'm going to tell you right now, I will never tell you how to fix a road because I don't know anything about fixing a road and could not even begin to tell you. If anything comes up, I will call you, we are going to sit down and talk about it and I'm always going to lead off with, what do you think and whatever you think is ninety-nine percent of the time that is what we are going with. I am not going to come in here and tell you how to run a road department, it's your road department and you have done it for a number of years. If there is an issue that comes up, you can call me and we will sit down and talk about it and figure it out and go forward with that." You could tell when you were talking to him; there was a twinkle in his eye that showed I might be able to work with these people. Fuzzy told me, "I promise you this John, I will never lie to you. Whatever I tell you, you can bank on it but I will never lie to you." That has been a wonderful and great relationship that we have had ever since. When I came here I was told about county government, there are two positions you've got to have filled with competent individuals. One is your County Clerk and the other is your road superintendent and I told Mr. Bobby Peacock that was over in Dodge County, he is the one that told me that, and he asked me after I had been over here a little while, well what do you have. I replied, I got a pretty good clerk and I have a pretty good road superintendent. He said, well you have got it made then; it's all a piece of cake after that. Fuzzy is one of those icons that you don't see around anymore. As Blake said, he has been tremendous for this county. We have gotten a tremendous amount of work done in which we would have not be able to accomplish if it had not been for Fuzzy Swain. There is one more story I would like to tell. We were talking about starting a little construction crew where we could do a lot of this work ourselves. Carl Hofstadter, our County Engineer, said Fuzzy can do it, you don't have to worry about anything, Fuzzy can do this. So I went to Fuzzy and said we are going to do this; Carl said you can do anything and I remember Fuzzy's words, he said, "Hofstadter talks to much." Toombs County has been very fortunate to have Fuzzy Swain for all these years, particularly these last six years. We certainly are going to miss him as the road superintendent and he will always be my friend. He will still be around and if we have a fish fry, he just may show up.

Commissioner Dixon: Remember when he had that old Ford 500 Galaxy, red and white, I think it was a '59 year model; well every year he wanted us to ride with him in the Lyons Parade that was a nice old car.

Commissioner Rollins: I didn't know Fuzzy very well until about twenty years ago. Anyway I got up one Saturday morning and it had rain about fifteen inches and the road was a mess. I called Hugh Charles and asked if the road could be fixed and he said yea-yea we will fix it one of these days; so that went on about six months. Finally I saw Fuzzy and asked him, did Hugh Charles say anything about that road over there by my house. After that on another Saturday morning I got up and heard heavy equipment, like a dump truck and a backhoe and they were digging out the pipe and replacing it, they build the road up about two feet and I have not had any problem since then with that road. I asked Fuzzy why they were working on the road and Fuzzy said when I told Hugh Charles that you were fussing about the road, he was afraid you were going to talk to the Chairman. Another funny story is that you know that we cut the timber at the landfill and we were parked by one of the trash piles and Fuzzy was the man that was going to take care of that. So Fuzzy called me up one day and said Mr. Tommy, I need for you to come by and check out these piles. I said, all you have to do is pile them up and take care of them. The next day he calls and asked if I was coming by, I told him I was in Sylvania, Georgia, he said, look come by and look at these piles for me. You know, all Fuzzy wanted was for me to do was stop by and say they look real good and then get out of the way.

Commissioner Cason: Fuzzy is a great man, he has an unusual personality; he knows how to meet people, he knows how to please people. I remember the first time I came on the board, I told him that I had heard a whole-a-lot about him and he replied, I've heard a whole-a-lot about you. We got off to a good start and he has always been a great colleague, I appreciate him for his work, his friendship, and his loyalty to the County. He has been with the County for forty-one years, here or not, he deserved to be spoken of. Commissioner Dixon stated that he wore a special tie in honor of Fuzzy tonight; Fuzzy is taking the shelter-at-home seriously so that he can stay healthy.

Both of these retirements represent quite the testimony of loyalty and dedication of service to the citizens of Toombs County. Toombs County has benefited greatly from the dedication of these outstanding civil servants. Between the two of them you have almost 65 years of service. "They just don't make'em like this anymore!"

Public Participation: None

Review of the 2020 Census for Toombs County: Manager Jones reminded everyone to talk to their friends, neighbors and family to get counted if they have not already done so. You can be counted with a phone call 1-844-330-2020 or online at www.my2020census.gov.

LET'S GET COUNTED! We also have early voting going on at this time. Please vote and get counted in our census.

Consideration of Approval of Two (2) Work Details from the Georgia Department of Corrections: Manager Jones stated this is an annual contract. One crew works at the landfill and the other works at Public Works. This contract is similar to our previous year with the exception of they have raised their price to \$ 98,636 for both crews. Last year the contract was for \$ 79,000; the Department of Corrections had not changed this rate since the Department of Correction Officers received salary increases and this rate changes will get it back to where the correct rate that would cover the Detail Officers annual salary; so basically we pay for the Correction Officers salary and benefits and we supply a van, the fuel and the equipment that we want them to use. We will get up to ten workers. They cut

the grass at the fire stations and around the bridges; they also pick up the trash at the landfill and on our right-a-ways. We will be asking the Board to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the contract.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the contract for two (2) work details from the Georgia Department of Corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval for New HAVC replacing Unit 60 at the Detention Center:

Manager Jones stated the HVAC unit # 60 at the Detention Center needed an emergency repair. This unit went completely down and we had Alexander Brothers to replace the unit with a new one. We are asking the board to approve \$ 7,200 for the new unit; paid with Jail Fund.

Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the purchase from Alexander Brothers for one (1) HVAC unit that will replace Unit 60 at the Detention Center for the cost of \$ 7,200. The purchase of the new unit will be paid from the Jail Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of Repair of Final Drive Hub on Landfill Compactor:

Manager Jones stated there was a proposal from Yancey Brothers for the repair of one of the compactors at the landfill. This compactor would cost \$ 750,000 if we purchased one to replace the one that is in need of repair. The quoted cost is \$ 37,626.51 for the repair of the final drive hub. We will ask the board to approve this quote and pay with landfill funds.

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the repair of the final drive hub on one of the compactor at the landfill. Yancey Brothers will do the repair for the amount of \$ 37,626.51; paid from landfill funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of Year Two of Three Year Contract with CHP for the Toombs County Wellness Program:

Manager Jones stated this will start the fifth year of Corporate Health Partners which manage the Toombs County Wellness Program. We are very pleased with the impact on the overall wellness program. Our employees have gotten healthier over the years and we have had fewer claims. We would like for the board to approve year two of three year contract with CHP and authorize the Chairman to sign the renewal.

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the two of three year contract with Corporate Health Partners for Toombs County Wellness Program. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Appointment of Pollyann Martin to four (4) year term to the Middle Georgia Coastal Unified Development Authority:

Manager Jones stated, we have been asked by Michele Johnson to re-appoint Pollyann Martin to the Middle Georgia Coastal Unified Development Authority. We ask the board to reappoint Pollyann Martin to the Middle Georgia Coastal Unified Development Authority. Pollyann's term will be July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2024.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to reappoint Pollyann Martin to the Middle Georgia Coastal Unified Development Authority. Pollyann's term will be July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

County Manager Report Financial Report:

Manager Jones stated LOST collections were down 0.09% for the month of April. LOST Collections were \$161,867 in April 2020 vs \$162,009 in April 2019. SPLOST Collections were \$176,144.31 in April 2020 vs \$176,767.61 in April 2019. M & O Expenses are still under budget.

Miscellaneous: Workman Compensation – We will be receiving a check for \$29,763 later this year from the ACCG Workman Compensation Insurance Funds. You have a copy of the letter announcing this in your packet.

Standing Committee Reports:

Commissioners

Comments:

**Executive Session-
Real Estate:** Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussion on Real Estate.

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion on Real Estate. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion on Real Estate. Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment from
Executive Meeting:** After the discussion over Real Estate, Chairman Sikes asked there was a motion to adjourn from the Executive Session.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rollins to adjourn from the Executive Session at 6:23 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Sikes open the doors back to the public and made the statement that there was no action taken on the Real Estate that required a motion.

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 6:25 PM.

David Sikes, Chairman

Attest: _____
Helen Harris, County Clerk