

June 16, 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.

**Call to Order:** Chairman Sikes called the June Regular Board 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. Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to accept the Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes  
May 19, 2020  
Regular Board Meeting:** Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on May 19, 2020  
Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the Minutes of the May 19, 2020 Regular Board Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Development Authority  
Reports:** **Michele Johnson** The Chamber had its first ribbon cutting since the COVID-19 pandemic this afternoon at 4:00 PM for Regenerative Medicine Associates, there was a good turn-out. We will have another ribbon cutting Thursday at 4:00 PM for El Centenario Tienda Mexicana located at 201 Michael Collins, Dr., Vidalia (behind Zaxby's). The next Chamber Board Meeting is Tuesday, June 23 at 8:00 AM. There will be a ribbon cutting for K & K Sales, LLC located at 126 S. State Street, Lyons on Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM. We will have staff members that will attend the Georgia Association of Chamber of Commerce (GACCE) Executive Leadership Conference, Jekyll Island on Tuesdays, July 7<sup>th</sup> – Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup>. The Development Authority continues to negotiate with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) on plans for the U.S. Highway 1 bypass project adjacent to the Toombs Corporate Center. Our prospect activity has remained steady. The Authority continues to work with several active projects. The next Development Authority Board Meeting will be Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at 12 Noon. This meeting is still restricted to just the board and staff but we do have a call in number so if there are any question, they can be asked. Commissioner Dixon asked for Michele to send the number so that they be a part of the meeting.

**Department Reports:** **Drew James**, EMS Director, for the month of April there were 561 calls for service and for last month, May, there were 626 calls for service. The months of March and April the service saw a fifteen percent decrease in our call volume along with our transports and the reason for that was the COVID-19 pandemic. We have seen an increase in call volume in the month of June; so far we are approaching the 700 mark. Regarding the ambulance that was approved back in the month of December that will replace Unit # 5501, unfortunately we have had the dominos effect concerning the pandemic with General Motors. The chassis was put into production at the first of March and was shut down as General Motors shifted to start working on ventilators. General Motors has given a production date of July 20<sup>th</sup>. Custom Body Works normally would not start on an Ambulance until the chassis is on their premises but they are reversing it where the box and module will be ready when that chassis hits

their lot. Instead of 90 to 120 days, this process will be cut down to about 60 days. We hope delivery will be the first week in September. Last week, Mr. Sharp from the Vidalia High School let us know their graduation would be held this Saturday at Buck Cravey Field. We will have a crew member on site for that event for possible heat related issues. Chairman Sikes spoke to Drew and said he was extremely proud to be a part of you guys and you are a part of our origination, as what we deem, as a horrific pandemic. It was unknown and you guys did your job and I am so proud to be a part of your life and your organization. You certainly make me proud and keep doing what you are doing. Manager James stated that he would pass that along to the staff. I make it simple to people, I tell them, "We are ready before, we are ready during and we are ready for what-ever the future holds, I keep it to that." We thank you for your support.

**Public Participation:** None

**Consideration of Approval of Resolution to Submit Application to Obtain EDA Public Works and Economic Development Facilities Cares Act Grant to Assist Creation of the Rural Entrepreneurship Center:** Manager Jones stated the Regional Commission is helping to formulate this grant. I will defer to Michele on this. Michele Johnson from the Chamber explained that the Chamber and the Development Authority is looking at a potential Entrepreneurship Center. During this pandemic, funds have been released by the Federal Government through the EDA Cares Act Funding, so we are going to submit our application. There is a five to one match on these funds. Basically the Authority does not have our SAMS number in place and it has been a while since we have applied for a Federal Grant so the Regional Commission said we could go under the counties information and then we can switch it over to the Development Authorities Credentials at some point. We are asking the County to partner up with us so that we can get the ball rolling.

Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the submission of an Application to obtain EDA Public Works and Economic Development Facilities Care Act Grant to assist creation of the Rural Entrepreneurship Center. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Approval for Authorizing the Chairman to Request Renewal of County's Speed Detection Device Permit:** Manager Jones stated this permit allows the Sheriff's office to have radar. It is issued through the Department of Public Safety. We are asking the board to authorize the Chairman to submit a letter for the renewal for these licenses allowing the Sheriff Department to use speed detention devices.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Nobles to approve the Chairman to submit a letter for the renewal of County's Speed Detection Device Permit. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Approval of Request for Approval of Speed Ordinance for Georgia Department of Transportation Approval:** Manager Jones stated there is a copy of a Resolution in your packet that is prepared by (GDOT) Georgia Department of Transportation. GDOT is the entity that establishes the speed limits on the highways in the State of Georgia. These are not only state route but also county routes. This resolution authorizes local law enforcement to enforce the speed limits that have been set. We are asking the board to pass this Resolution. The Resolution has to be periodically pass and the Department of Transportation has to approve as well.

Vice-Chairman Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the signing of the Speed Resolution for Georgia Department of Transportation. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Dixon stated that the commission had requested that US 1's speed limit through our county be raised from 55 miles per hour to 65 miles per

hour. Manager Jones stated that when they finish construction on the four lanes of US 1, it is up to GDOT to set the speed limit. But we have expressed what our desires are.

**Consideration of Approval of Emergency Repair of Lyons-Center Road:** Manager Jones stated in previous meetings where on Lyons Center Road near of the Landfill, the road was falling apart and we informed the board that emergency repairs needed to be made for that section of road. The proposal is in your packet. We did an addendum to the existing contract with Dykes Grassing. The total cost on that repair is \$ 297,822.85. The cause of the damage to the road is from trash trucks traveling this route going to the landfill. Given that this damage and deterioration is the result of the garbage trucks going to the landfill, management is requesting that the Board approve and to be paid with landfill funds.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Nobles to approve the addendum to the existing contract with Dykes Grassing for the Emergency Repair of Lyons-Center Road in the amount of \$ 297,822.85 and to be paid with Landfill funds. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Approval of Contract with Montgomery County for Reimbursement for Paving 300 feet of Roads in Toombs County:** Manager Jones stated last year Montgomery County asked us to participate by sending a letter of support as they applied for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to pave some roads in Montgomery County. Montgomery County is paving a road located in the Petross Community and this road extended into Toombs County by 300 feet. Montgomery County requested Toombs County to consider reimbursing them if they would include the Toombs County portion in the contract as a part of their contract, which they did. This is an agreement between Montgomery County and Toombs County to allow the Contractor to pave portion of that road and Toombs will reimburse Montgomery County for the additional 300 feet in our county. Toombs County's cost is \$ 51,249.49. The total project was \$ 349,029.14 and Montgomery County has already bid this out and ready to award the contract and proceed forward. If the board approves this agreement we would use SPLOST funds to pay for our share of this project. Management is requesting the Board to approve this agreement with Montgomery County.

Vice-Chairman Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the agreement to reimburse Montgomery County for paving approximately 300 feet of a road in Toombs County in the amount of \$ 51,249.49 and pay with SPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Approval of Phase 3 Full Design Services with Hussey Gay Bell:** Manager Jones stated this is phase 3; phase 1 was the feasibility study of the Courthouse and the Jail expansion; phase 2 was a schematic design; phase 3 where they will do the complete design services. This will provide a complete set of drawings and specs on Courthouse and the expansion on the Jail. The total price on this is \$ 1,965,300 which will be paid with a combination of General Fund which we have been saving on for the last ten years and SPLOST funds. This not only includes the design development but permitting and construction administration. They will be managing the construction project once it is under way. We are asking the board to approve the signing of this contract.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Nobles to approve the Phase 3 Full Design Services with Hussey Gay Bell in the amount of \$ 1,965,300 which will be paid with a combination of Reserve (General) Fund and SPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously.

**County Manager Report:** Manager Jones stated the LOST collections were down by .17 % from May of last year. For the overall LOST collections they were up 2.95 %. SPLOST collections were down very slightly that was not measurable (Two hundred dollars from last year). The M & O Budget expenses are still under budget, we are about 40% of the year complete.

**Other Miscellaneous Items:** None

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**Commissioners**

**Comments:**

**Adjournment:** Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to adjourn from the June's Regular Board Meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 P.M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**David Sikes, Chairman**

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Helen Harris, County Clerk**