TOOMBS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS Courtroom A

November 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 November Regular Board Meeting to order at 5:31 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 Regular **October 20, 2020** Board Meeting held on October 20, 2020.

**Regular Board Meeting:** Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the minutes from October 20, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.

**Development Authority Michele Johnson** stated there were two Ribbon Cutting events. The first

**Report:** will be for the Bargain Bucket, 1805 Commerce Dr., Vidalia – Wednesday, November 18th at 4:00 PM. The second will be for The Ront Way, 204 NE Main St., Vidalia – Thursday, November 19th at 4:00 PM. The Chamber’s board meeting will be held Tuesday, November 24th at 8:00 AM. The Chambers Thanksgiving Holidays will be Thursday, November 25th and Friday, November 26th. On the Development Authority Report, Dot Foods Update: An Annual Report is required per the Economic Development Agreement 2016. The 2019 Annual Report demonstrates job creation of 399 against their goal of 294. Project “Blacktop”, “Parallel” and “Spitfire” is still ongoing; Project “Cowboy” is on hold at this time. Spec Building # 4, TCC, Lyons, the construction contract was executed on October 27th. Toombs County Revolving Loan Fund (RLF), the funds was recently advertised and an application is outstanding. The Development Authority Board Meeting will be held Thursday, November 19th at 12 Noon. The Development Authority’s Thanksgiving Holidays will be Thursday, November 25th and Friday, November 26th.

**Department Reports: Carey Alligood,** Elections Supervisor, stated her office had just finished the mandatory hand count of all the absentee ballots. Toombs County numbers came to be the same as they were before; our numbers agree with the report turned into the state which was 10,963 registered voters. It seems like the public has a lot of questions about the elections and the Commissioners and Chairman have done very well at answering their question and trying to help me from being flooded with phone calls and since they don’t do elections they are limited on the information they can give. Although I appreciate them trying to help, I am requesting everyone to call our office and I will address any issues or questions someone may have. Carey continued to clarify the process during an elections, on election day when the machines are set-up in the precincts and they open up the scanners, they print out a tape that would show there is zero votes casted in that machine. With each ballot that is cast and scanned, the machine begins to tally those votes. Once election night is over, another report is ran to show the total votes cast and how many votes each candidate received from that precinct. Those reports and memory card is brought to me at the Voters Registration’s office in a secure box. Once they are received into the Voter Registration’s Office, the information is uploaded on a dedicated line to the state on the States secure website. Once on the States website, the uploaded information is checked to insure it matches our tapes. If there were any problems at that point, we would notify the Secretary of State. For the provisional ballot; a letter is sent to let them know if their ballot was accepted or rejected. In this letter, if rejected, the person is given the reason it was rejected so they have time to correct the error so that their vote can be counted. Another issue that was brought to her attention was that back in March and April of this year, the State mailed out absence ballots if the voter was over the age of sixty- five or has a physical disability. Once those were sent, people checked a box that stated they were either (or both) over the age of sixty-five and/or have a physical disability and this placed them on a roll over list. Once they checked those boxes, they would receive the mail in ballots for the rest of the year. Carey stated that she was proud to see two representatives from the Democratic Party and two representatives from the Republican Parties to watch the hand counted. They were given a copy of the rules and the guidelines so that they knew what we were doing. Also, employees that worked in the courthouse that the public has placed trust in to doing your property taxes, the assessment of your property and the ones that handle the court processes were chosen to do the hand count. Carey ensured the Commission that she would answer any questions or emails that she received to give the public reassurance that the Voters Registration Office is taking every precaution to secure the voting process is done properly. Chairman Sikes stated that this Commission is extremely thankful that we have Carey on our team.

**Drew James**, Director of EMS, there were 622 calls in the month of October. Mr. James stated that it was an honor to promote Brock Williams to Lieutenant. Brock joined the EMS team in October of 2016; he quickly climbed the ranks to become a highly respected and dedicated paramedic. He is a graduate of Southeastern Tech advanced EMT and Paramedic Program. Mr. James called Brock Williams to the podium and Judge Threlkeld to the podium to do the oath.

**Public Participation:** None

**Consideration of Approval** Manager Jones explained that a lease between Toombs County and McLendon

**of Lease of Building at 298** Extras, Inc. for the old Lyons Elementary School located at 298 North Lexington

**North Lexington Street**  Street for temporary housing for UGA County Extension Services and GDOT

**for Temporary Offices:** housing until we get their building built. The Lease has a termination of June 30th with a right to extend for an additional three months if needed. We will be asking the Board to approve this lease and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rollins to approve the Lease for the building located at 298 North Lexington Street and for the Chairman to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Approval** Manager Jones stated this Resolution is for the adoption of the Toombs County

**of Resolution Authorizing** Hazard Mitigation Plan that EMA prepares with the help of the Regional

**the Adoption of the** Commission. Management is recommending the Board to approve this

**Toombs County Hazard** Resolution and authorize the Chairman to sign.

**Mitigation Plan:**

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rollins to authorize the Chairman to sign the Toombs County Mitigation Plan. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of** Manager Jones stated in the Commissioners packet was a letter from Ashley

**Re-Appointment of** Payne, Toombs County Board of Family and Children Service’s Director,

**Clarence Pittman to** requesting the re-appointment Mr. Clarence Pittman to the DFCS Board. His

**the Toombs County** appointment will be July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2025. Management recommends

**Board of Family and** Mr. Clarence Pittman to be re-appointed to the Toombs County DFCS Board.

**Children Services:**

Vice-Chairman Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to re-appoint Clarence Pittman to the Toombs County Board of Family and Children Services with the terms of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of** Manager Jones stated in the Commissioners packet was a copy of the letter from

**Appointment to the** Brett Manning, Executive Director of the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional

**Regional Council of** Commission regarding an appointment of the third member on the Regional

**The Heart of Georgia** Council. Currently John Jones, County Manager, serves as the county’s third

**Regional Commission:** member. The Board will need to make this appointment.

Vice-Chairman Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon for John Jones to continue to serve on the Regional Council of The Heart of Georgia Regional Commission as the third member. Motion carried unanimously.

**County Manager Report** SPLOST was slightly up 0.79% from a year ago. Last Friday morning at the ACCG **Financial Report:** district meeting, state officials were very cautious regarding the overall economy and growth for Georgia as we move into the future. They indicated a concern we could see slowing down of economic activity throughout the state. The basic impression was that we should move forward with a great deal of caution as we go forward. M & O Budget are under budget on our expenses for 2020. Revenue will be close to budget for 2020.

**Present 2021 Proposed** No discussion was presented on this issue.

**Budget:**

**Other miscellaneous** The monthly Wellness Program shows a strong participation among our **Items:**  employees. Enclosed in the packet are the outstanding Workers Comp claims for your review.

**Standing Committee Reports**

**Commissioners Comments:** Commissioner Dixon stated he appreciated for all the support during the election and he was looking forward to the next four years.

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

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David Sikes, Chairman Helen Harris, County Clerk