

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 January Regular Board Meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.
- Invocation:** Vice-Chairman Cason gave the Invocation.
- Approve Agenda:** Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the Agenda.
- Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Cason to accept the Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Appointment of the Vice-Chairman:** Chairman Sikes appointed Commissioner Alfred Cason to be the Vice-Chairman for the year of 2021.
- Approval of Minutes: December 15, 2020 Regular Board Meeting:** Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on December 15, 2020.
- Vice-Chairman Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the minutes from December 15, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.
- Approval of Minutes: December 17, 2020 Called Board Meeting:** Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the Minutes for the Called Board Meeting held on December 17, 2020.
- Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Cason to approve the minutes from December 17, 2020 Called Board Meeting.
- Development Authority Report:** **Michele Johnson** stated the Chamber will be having one Ribbon Cutting and Opening held on Thursday the 21st at 4:00 PM. There are four businesses at one time; those are Farmers Insurance, J. Leigh Hair Studio, Georgia Peach Clothing and Edward Jones; located at 201 East First Street in Vidalia. The next Chamber board meeting will be held on January 26th at 8:00 AM in our board room. Please save the date March 18th for our Annual Meeting. In the Development Authority meeting we have a meeting this Thursday at Noon. We are working on a work-force strategy project. The sponsors are the Chicken of the Sea, DOT Foods, Georgia Power, Meadows Health, Plant Hatch and Trane Technologies. Robin Builders are going through their punch list now and should be moving their location out to US 1 very shortly. Chicken of the Sea celebrated their tenth year anniversary and the three hundred acre spray field is now all theirs so this has been placed on the tax role in December.
- Department Reports:** **Drew James**, EMS Director, recapped the year, in December there were 667 calls for service, the total for the Department was 7571 calls for the year 2020; compared to the year 2019 which had 7152. For reference in the year 2009 the Department answered 5200 calls. The Department has been awarded a First Responder Class Grant and by March the 1st we hope to have that class operating. Commissioner Dixon asked how much exposure the Department has with COVID-19 patients. Mr. James responded approximately five or six patients, per our twenty-four shifts, that are positive for COVID-19. Our trucks usually have had their transfers going to Macon, Savannah and Augusta; now we have

been going as far as Tallassee and Gainesville. The strain on our Hospital system is real.

Public Participation:

None

Consideration of 2021 Alcohol License:

Manager Jones stated there were six applicants; all of them are renewals. They are all in compliance with our Ordinance and Management is recommending they all be approved.

-Jani's Mart:

-Normantown Grocery:

-Big Ma's:

-Frank's Country

Junctions:

-John's Country

Junctions:

-Benton Lee's

Steakhouse:

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the Alcohol License for Jani's Mart, Normantown Grocery, Big Ma's, Frank's Country Junctions, John's Country Junctions and Benton Lee's Steakhouse for the year of 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Committee Appointments:

Manager Jones stated the Chairman will now appoint the board members to various committees. Manager Jones turned it over to Chairman Sikes to make his appointments. Chairman Sikes made the following committee appointments: Roads and Bridges would be Darriel Nobles and Alfred Cason; Recreation would be Alfred Cason and Wendell Dixon; Landfill will be Darriel Nobles and Tommy Rollins; Public Safety will be Alfred Cason and Wendell Dixon; Finance and Accounting will be Wendell Dixon and Tommy Rollins; Policy and Procedures will be Tommy Rollins and Darriel Nobles. Those are our six Committees and the appointments for the year 2021.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the Committee Appointments as read by Chairman Sikes. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of Appointment to the Toombs County Library Board:

Manager Jones stated in the packet was a copy of a letter from Cameron Asbell, Regional Library Director, who is requesting the Board to appoint Rebekah Arnold to the Toombs County Library Board.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the appointment Rebekah Arnold to the Toombs County Library Board. Mrs. Arnold's term will be from January 01, 2021 until December 31, 2023 Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of the Appointments to the Toombs County Hospital Board:

Manager Jones received a letter from the Toombs County Hospital Board requesting the Board to re-appoint Willis NeSmith, Reid McArthur and Larry Threlkeld to the Toombs County Hospital Board. These are normally three-year appointments. Management is asking for the Board to follow this recommendation and re-appoint all three candidates.

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the re-appointment of Willis NeSmith, Reid McArthur and Larry Threlkeld to the Toombs County Hospital Board. Their term will begin January 1, 2021 and end December 31, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Appointments to the Board of Assessors:

Manager Jones stated there were two members whose terms are expiring, Mike Holland and Randy Usher. The terms are to be a minimum of three to six years. In order to stagger these terms where there will be no more than one board member whose term is expiring in the same year. Management is asking that the Board to re-appoint Mike Holland to a term beginning January 1, 2021 and

ending December 31, 2026 and re-appoint Randy Usher to term beginning January 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2024.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Cason to approve the re-appointment of Mike Holland to a term beginning January 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2026 and re-appoint Randy Usher to term beginning January 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2024. to the Toombs County Board of Assessors. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration for
Bids for Ambulance:**

Manager Jones stated there was only one bid turned into the office for the Remount of the Ambulance. This bid was from Custom Truck and Body Works for \$ 146,747. Management will be requesting that the Board to accept the bid of \$146,747 from Custom Truck & Body Works to pay with SPLOST funds.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Cason to accept the bid of \$146,747.00 from Custom Truck & Body Works and pay with SPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of
Inter-Governmental
Agreement with the City
of Lyons – EMA Building**

This agreements memorializes our agreement with the City of Lyons whereby the county will give the EMA building to the City of Lyons who will remove the building and re-install the building inside the city limits of Lyons (currently planned at the Lyons Fire Station). In return the City of Lyons will allow the County to house a fire/rescue truck in the building and have the “jaws of life” on this fire/rescue truck. This agreement is for 25 years. The agreements state that the building is valued at \$500,000. The cost to the City of Lyons to remove the building, install a new roof and re-install the building is \$390,000.00. Should the city fail to provide adequate space to the county during the terms of this agreement the city would owe the county according to the terms found in the contract. The city is required to give the county a 365 days’ notice for early termination. Management will be asking the Board to approve this agreement.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the twenty-five year agreement with the City of Lyons. This agreement is to remove the EMA building located at 321 NW Broad Street and re-install the building inside the City Limits of Lyons and house a fire/rescue truck with the Jaws of Life on such vehicle. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of
Ratifying the Purchase
of a 1995 Fire Truck:**

Manager Jones stated the ratifying the purchase of a 1995 International Fire Truck. This truck is for the proposed new fire station on the Vidalia-Cedar Crossing Road. Management is asking the Board to ratify the purchase of such Fire Truck in the amount of 10,239.62 and for the purchased to be paid by the Fire Department’s Budget Funds.

Vice-Chairman Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rollins to Ratify the purchase of a 1995 Fire Truck for the proposed new fire station on the Vidalia-Cedar Crossing Road and pay with Fire Department’s Budget funds. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of 2020
Budget Amendments:**

Manager Jones stated the budget amendments are necessary to adjust various line items that were under budget and moving them to line items that were over budgeted. This will allow the departments to finish with a balanced budget at the end of the year. This is a process that we do each year. Management is asking the Board to approve the listed adjustments.

Commission Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the year end budget amendments. Motion carried unanimously.

County Manager Report: Manager Jones stated our M & O Expenses will be under budget for the year 2020. Half of that is from the timing of our 2020 LMIG funds received and LMIG monies paid out. Revenues seem to be up and as everyone knows we received funds from the CARES ACT. For the Year SPLOST was up approximately 17 %; we had the one-time SPLOST increase of approximately \$120,000. Removing the one time impact, SPLOST was still up approximately 10% for 2020 compared to 2019. Landfill revenues were up 16% and operating expenses were close to budget. The year 2021 has a lot of unknown factors due to the COVID-19. Construction costs are being affected because we received word that the steel on the construction of the courthouse has gone up about \$ 250,000. By the end of the week we should have the Ross Bowen Building Contract ready to sign and begin construction. We have a tentative move in date for EMS / EMA for the month of August and September of this year.

An update on the expansion of US 1 By-Pass, GDOT has 95 % of the land acquisitions has taken place and they are in the final field plan review as far as the engineering design planning.

Montgomery County is renewing their agreement for EMS Coverage for the coming year, based on the changes that CPI from Medicare services as part of their contract.

Standing Committee Reports

Commissioners Comments: Chairman Sikes stated there were concerns for the amount of trash being thrown out on the side of our roads. It is just people throwing trash out of their vehicle. We were going to do a clean day/earth day; this was cancelled due to COVID-19. We did have the prisoners to do some of the clean-up along the sides of our roads but they are still not allowed to come out due to COVID-19. Chairman Sikes stated he had asked the County Manager to get someone to pick up some of the key areas in the county where it is bad on some stretches of the road to get someone to pick up these areas; we are in the process of that. We are doing something pro-active and once the prison systems allow their prisoners to start working on the trash pickup, they will be back in full force. There is a fine if you are throwing trash out and we are just asking the public to be more aware of this and keep our road ways clean.

Commissioner Nobles and I will be voting on when the ACCG Annual meeting should happen. There is discussion that it should be put off until August or September. CDC is saying that with the vaccines and mask we will have in place, we should have a handle on the virus and can once again meet. If this does not hold true, then of course there will be virtual meetings held.

Commissioner Dixon thanked everyone for their prayers, text, phone calls and cards while Elaine and he was sick last month.

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

David Sikes, Chairman

Attest: _____
Helen Harris, County Clerk