

**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 March 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 Commissioner Nobles 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 Board Meeting held on February 15, 2021.

**February 16, 2021  
Regular Board Meeting:**

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Cason to approve the minutes from February 16, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.

**Development Authority  
Report:**

**Michele Johnson** stated on March 18<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:30 they will be hosting their 2021 Annual Meeting. The theme is Rodeos, Rhinestones, & Roses, so put on your boots and come spend some time with the Chamber. There will be a Ribbon Cutting on March 30<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM for a new restaurant Guacamole Mexican Restaurant, located at 664 NW Broad Street in Lyons. There will be a Ribbon Cutting on April 1<sup>st</sup> at 4:30 PM for a new restaurant, El Centenaria Restaurant, 201 Michael Collins Road, Vidalia, located behind Zaxby's in Vidalia. The next Chamber board meeting will be held on March 31 at 4:00 PM and will be held at Mary's M Square Design Firm in Vidalia. On April 15<sup>th</sup> they will partner with the Georgia Chamber of Commerce to host the first "Reimagine the new Georgia Economy Listening Tour"; this is the follow up on some of the demographic that we looked at a few years ago, how those trends are looking like now. This will cover the following counties: Toombs, Montgomery, Evans, Tattnall, Candler and Emanuel. In the Development Authority we have a meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup> at Noon. The meeting in April will be before the next Commissioner's Meeting, that date is April 15<sup>th</sup> at Noon. The work force strategy will be facilitated by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government on March 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. We are working on a work-force strategy project. DOT Foods submitted their annual report that included their job creation and investment goals. They are above their job goal by 126 percent. We appreciate them being a part of our community and the success that they have shown.

**Department Reports:**

**Drew James**, EMS Director stated the volumes of calls are beginning to return to our normal call volume. In February there were 594 calls and had 21,360 miles on our units. The department received a Grant from the Georgia EMS Association last November for a First Responder's class that was delayed due to COVID. We are proud to say we will be starting that class on March 27<sup>th</sup> and the class will be held at Station 8 of the Toombs County Fire Department. There are 27 enrolled that consist of Fire Fighters Local Law Enforcement. It comes at no cost to the participants and it is definitely a huge asset to assist our EMS crews on trauma or cardiac arrest calls.

Chairman Sikes welcomed and introduced our new District Attorney, Tripp Fitzner. District Attorney, Tripp Fitzner presented the Counties in which the Middle Judicial Circuit consists of and he noted Toombs County has 27.5 percent of the populations. He continued to describe the five offices (which include a satellite office in Lyons) and the staff in the offices. Because of COVID there is a backlog of over a thousand cases that need be adjudicated. With three additional Lawyers assigned into the Lyons office we are trying to get these cases processed and done. His plans to do community educational sessions for free to answer general questions the public may have.

**Public Participation:**

None

**Consideration of the  
Niederriter Lane:**

Manager Jones stated the required Public Hearing was held at 5:00 PM on the issue of closing Niederriter Lane. The Commission will either decide to close the road or leave the road as a county maintained road. Chairman Sikes asked if there was a motion.

There was no motion made therefore the road will remain in the county road system.

**Consideration of the  
Appointment of Sandra  
Williams to the Toombs  
County Board of Family  
and Children Services  
for the term July 1, 2020  
to June 30, 2025:**

Manager Jones stated in the Commissioners packet there is a copy of a letter received from Ashley Payne, County Director of the Toombs County Board of Family and Children Services (DFCS) requesting the re-appointment of Ms. Sandra Williams to the DFCS Board. Given Mrs. Williams qualification, previous serving on that board and County Director Ashley Payne's request and recommendation, management is recommending that the board re-appoint Ms. Williams to the DFCS board for the term July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020.

Vice-Chairman Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to appoint Sandra Williams to the Toombs County Board of Family and Children Services for the term July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of  
Appointment of Mary  
Moon to the Toombs  
County Library Board:**

Manager Jones stated there was a copy of the letter to the board from Regional Library Director, Cameron Asbell requesting that the Board appoint Ms. Mary Moon to the Toombs County Library Board. In her letter she refers to expanding the Library Board because of the proposed renovation and expansions. Mary Moon's commitment would be a three year commitment from March 2021 to March 2024 with an option of serving a second term. Based on the Director's request, management is recommending that the Board approve the appointment of Mary Moon to the Library Board for the term March 2021 to March 2024.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to appoint Mary Moon to the Toombs County Library Board with the terms of March 2021 to March 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of  
Approval of Toombs  
County Revolving Loan  
Application from Vidalia  
Motor Sports, LLC.:**

Manager Jones stated the proposal and loan application is in the packet for Vidalia Motor Sports, LLC. This is for a \$ 400,000 loan with a maximum rate of five percent; collateral is second position on real estate and first position on FF&E and the inventory as well as the personal guarantee of Jimmy Sharpe, Jr. They plan to create fourteen new jobs. This application was reviewed and approved by the Toombs County Development Authority Loan Fund Committee and the full Toombs County Development Authority Board at their called meeting held on February 25, 2021. We are waiting on a couple of thing from DCA for their approval. Upon approval from the DCA management recommends the board approve the application.

Commissioner Dixon stated he sat in on the meeting with the finance Committee and Development Authority Board and with them approving the loan, I would like to made a motion to approve the loan in the amount of \$ 400,000; contingent upon DCA approval and the receipt of the real estate appraisal with a minimum value of \$1.5 million or better and additionally a first on the FF&E and the inventory, to Vidalia Motor Sports, LLC. Commissioner Rollins seconded the motion as stated by Commissioner Dixon. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Approval of Reciprocal Easement Agreement with Meadows Healthcare Alliance, Inc. on Maple Drive:**

Manager Jones stated the County Attorney and himself negotiated with Meadows from their original request on parking spaces; each of us can share parking spaces and at any given time either party could ask the other to crease using the parking spaces on Maple Drive. Given that the County Attorney has reviewed this agreement and is satisfied, management is recommending the board to approve this Reciprocal Easement Agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Cason to approve the Reciprocal Easement Agreement with Meadows Healthcare Alliance, Inc. and authorize the Chairman to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Approval Probation Supervision and Rehabilitation Services for Superior Court with Middle Georgia Probation, LLC as to Content and Form:**

Manager Jones stated in the Commissioners packet you have a copy of this agreement as executed by Middle Georgia Probation LLC and Superior Court Senior Judge of Robert Reeves. As with the State Court Contract for probation services, the Board of Commissioners are approving only to content and form. Management recommends that the Board approve this contract as to content and form and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of Toombs County.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve Probation Supervision and Rehabilitation Services for Superior Court with Middle Georgia Probation, LLC as to content and form. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Approval of Fire Mutual Aid Agreement with the City of Swainsboro:**

Manager Jones stated the City of Swainsboro is updating this agreement with our County. It is basically in the same form as our previous agreement with no additional responsibilities nor reduction in the previous level of service. Management will be recommending the board accept this agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of Toombs County.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Cason to approve the Fire Mutual Aid Agreement with the City of Swainsboro and authorize the Chairman to sign on the behalf of Toombs County. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Approval of Striping Contract for striping 19 Roads/ Approximately 73 miles:**

Manager Jones stated this is the final specifically required project of the current Transportation Investment Act (TSPLOST) program; we are in the tenth year of that program. Mid-State Striping, Inc. was the low bid of \$ 216,628.50. The engineer, Hofstadter \$ 216,628.50 recommends that the lowest bid be accepted. Based on the engineer's recommendation, management is recommending the Board accept the low bid of \$ 216,628.50 from Mid-State Striping, Inc. to be accepted and this project will be paid with TSPLOST Funds.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Cason to approve the lowest bid, submitted by Mid-State Striping, Inc. in the amount of \$ 216,628.50 to stripe nineteen roads, approximately seventy three miles to be paid with TSPLOST Funds. Motion carried unanimously.

**County Manager Report**

**Financial Report:**

Manager Jones stated there was a copy of the notice from the ACCG Workmen's Comp Insurance fund of a return of insurance premium of \$ 29,763. This is due the results of premiums charges and actual claims paid As stated in the letter this is the fourth check in the last four years that this has happened. Sales tax continues to be up for the year compared to last year.

**Miscellaneous:**

A few things have changed since our last month's meeting; as everyone can see the demolition has begun. The GDOT building and Ross Bowen Building is no longer there and the dismantling of the EMA building will be completed by next week. The next twenty-four months there will be growth, not only will be the construction of the new courthouse but the expansion and renovation of the Detention Center. The Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) new building is near completion and expected to move in by March 25<sup>th</sup>. Once they move the old building will be torn down and the parking lot will be in its place. The EMS/EMA Building is coming along nicely. The Ross Bowen Complex, all permits are in and construction should start shortly.

**Standing Committee Reports**

**Commissioners Comments:** Chairman Sikes stated the trash issue was going to be address this year. We are going to take initiative to push "Make Toombs Beautiful"; all it takes is to find a trash can instead of throwing your trash on the side of the road.

Commissioner Dixon stated he was also getting a lot of complaint on trash as well. Every day I pick up trash in front of our house. We just need to make people aware to take care of our County.

**Adjournment:**

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

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

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Helen Harris, County Clerk