

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

PRESENT: **DAVID SIKES, ALFRED CASON, DARRIEL NOBLES, TOMMY ROLLINS, BLAKE TILLERY, JOHN M. JONES AND HELEN HARRIS.**

Call to Order: Chairman Sikes called December 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.

Vice-Chairman Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason 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 November 17, 2020.
November 17, 2020
Regular Board Meeting:

Vice-Chairman Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the minutes from November 17, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the Minutes for the Called Board Meeting held on November 25, 2020.
November 25, 2020
Called Board Meeting:

Vice-Chairman Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the minutes from November 25, 2020 Called Board Meeting.

Development Authority
Report:

Michele Johnson stated the Chamber will be closed for the following holidays: Christmas, December 23rd through the 25th and New Years Day, January 1st. Legislative Luncheon will be held on January 6th, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM. Toombs-Montgomery Youth Leadership “Professional Development” will be held on January 7th. Chamber Board Meeting will be January 26th at 8:00 AM held at the Chamber & Development Authority Boardroom. Save the date, Annual Membership Meeting will be held February 4th. Vibrant Community Project – Community Stakeholders have been making plans to relaunch the project in 2021. On the Development Authority, project “Blacktop”, “Parallel” and “Spitfire” is still ongoing. Project “Cowboy” is still on hold at this time. The new spec building should be completed by April 2021. Toombs County Revolving loan Fund (RLF) was recently advertised. The Board Meeting will be Thursday, December 17th at 12:00 Noon.

Chairman Sikes asked for **Cheryl Poppell** to step up to the podium. Chairman Sikes stated, Cheryl is very active with the 4-H club in our County. She won the William H. Booth Award for the South East District, as well as the entire State of Georgia. We are extremely proud of you and your work. Cheryl spoke stating she transferred to Toombs County in 2001 and appreciate the recognition and of this award, the saying goes, "If you love what you do, you never work a day in your life". She appreciated the support in making their transition and was looking forward to the following years.

Department Reports:

Judge Larry Threlkeld, Probate Judge stated he would like to thank the Chairman and the Board of Commissioners as well as John Jones and his staff, Helen, Valerie and Celina. Their office is wonderful to work with and so supportive. At the end of this month Judge Threlkeld stated he has held the position of Probate Judge for twelve years, four months and two weeks. The Probate Court office was closed for two and a half months due to COVID-19 and continued to serve the public through phone, fax and mail. For a comparison from 2019 to 2020: 195 Probate Cases in 2019 and 240 so far in 2020; 154 Marriage License in 2019 to 193 in 2020; 678 firearms permits/renewals in 2019 and 1,071 so far in 2020; vital records, which consist of Birth Certificates, Death Certificates, and Birth Amendments 4,499 for 2019 and 1,823 in 2020. Notary services 282 in 2019 verses 306 so far this year. Chairman Sikes thanked Judge Threlkeld.

Chris Keene, Public Works Director, gave an overview of the year 2020. He continued to say the guys that work in our department are some of the best people I have worked with, they come to work every day and do what they are suppose to and some things that none of us would want to do. The first four months of the year we had 29.18 inches of rain which made it difficult maintaining road surfaces throughout the County. We hired a sub-contractor to cut the approximately 115 miles of right-of-way. The County has paved/resurfaced about 14 miles of road. There have been 3.1 miles of reclamation does this year and twenty six miles of road has been stripped. At the first of July, Jerry Bellflower and I sit down on a regular basis and decide which roads need to have a face-lift. Alex Harden Road, J. D. Galbreath Road, Jeff Webber, Patrick Farm Road and some of George Hill Road. Jeff Webber should be finished in the near future.

Public Participation:

None

Consideration of Approval of the following Alcohol License:

Manager Jones stated in the Commissioners Packet were copies of the applications for each business that has applied for their renewal of existing license. They are in compliance with our application process. We are asking the

board to approve each one for the year 2021.

- **Center Grocery/CEKK LLC** Vice-Chairman Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the Alcohol License for Center Grocery/CEKK for the year of 2021. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Fruteria Rodriguez** Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Nobles to approve the Alcohol License for Fruteria Rodriguez for the year of 2021. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Pop's General Store** Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Nobles to approve the Alcohol License for Pop's General Store for the year of 2021. Motion carried unanimously.
- **La Joya Mexican Store** Vice-Chairman Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commission Cason to approve the Alcohol License for La Joya Mexican Store for the year of 2021. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Cedar Crossing Grocery** Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Nobles to approve the Alcohol License for Cedar Crossing Grocery for the year of 2021. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Dennis Sport Shop LLC** Vice-Chairman Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rollins to approve the Alcohol License for Dennis Sport Shop LLC for the year 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentation of 2021 Local Offices with Elections Due from Board of Elections, Probate Judge and County Manager: Manager Jones stated as per the County Policy, prior to the Commissioners Regular December Board Meeting, Board of Election Supervisor, Probate Judge and the County Manager meet to determine what local elections are scheduled for the coming year and report to the Board of Commissioners in the December meeting. There are no local offices up for election for the year of 2021.

Consideration of Appointments to the Toombs County Department of Family & Children's Services: Manager Jones stated in the packet is a copy of a letter received from the DFCS County Director, Ashley Payne, requesting the Board to reappointed Marianne McMillan to the Toombs County DFCS Board with her term expiring June 30, 2024. Management is requesting the Toombs County Board of Commissioners to reappointed Marianne McMillan to the Toombs County DFCS Board.

Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Nobles to re-appoint Marianne McMillian to the (DFCS) Department of Family and Children Services Board with her term expiring June 30, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Bids for Building at Ross Bowen Agriculture Complex:	<p>Manager Jones stated in the packet there is a tabulation of bids for the Ross Bowen Building which was opened on November 17, 2020 at 2:00 PM. C. Merrill Construction, LLC was the lowest bid of \$ 1,740,000. Management recommended that the Board accept the low bid accordingly and use the designated funds that have been reserved for this project.</p> <p>Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Nobles to accept the lowest bid from C. Merrill Construction, LLC in the amount of \$ 1,740,000 and use the previously marked reserved funds for payment. Motion carried unanimously.</p>
Consideration of Bids for RFP 2020-SW-001 Solid Waste Transport:	<p>Manager Jones stated in the packet there is a tabulation of bids for the Solid Waste Transport. All Green was \$ 115 per transport, Ryland \$ 117 per transport, Republic \$ 120 per transport and Waste Pro's \$ 159.43 per transport. All Green being the lowest bid, Management recommends the Board to accept All Green's bid in the amount of \$ 115 per transport.</p> <p>Vice-Chairman Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to accept the bid submitted by All Green in the amount of \$ 115 per transport. Motion carried unanimously.</p>
Consideration of Approval of MOA with Southeastern Technical College:	<p>Manager Jones stated this was a Memorandum we renew each year with the College. This agreement allows EMT students that are in the EMT program to do their clinical with our EMS Department. Management is asking the Board to approve this MOA with Southeastern Technical College and authorize the Chairman to sign.</p> <p>Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Nobles to approve the MOA with Southeastern Technical College and authorize the Chairman to sign. Motion carried unanimously.</p>
Consideration of Approval of Toombs County Access Plan for CDBG Project:	<p>The Department of Community Affairs requires that the local Board of Commissioners approve the Language Access Plan for all CDBG projects. Management request that the Board approve this language access plan and authorize the Chairman to sign.</p> <p>Vice-Chairman Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the Language Access Plan for the CDBG project and authorize the Chairman to sign. Motion carried unanimously.</p>
Consideration of Approval of Indemnification & Hold Harmless with GDOT on	<p>Manager Jones stated this is the permit for the Courthouse project for the Driveway Encroachment Indemnification & Hold Harmless with (GDOT) Georgia Department of Transportation. Management request that the Board approve this</p>

Permit No.
A-279-005093-5:

Agreement with GDOT and authorized the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve Indemnification & Hold Harmless with (GDOT) Georgia Department of Transportation on Permit No. A-279-005093-5 and authorized the Chairman to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Approval
for Holiday Schedule
for 2021:**

Manager Jones presented the holiday schedule for the year of 2020. There are the same eleven holidays we have had in the previous year. We asked the Board to approve the holiday schedule as presented.

Vice-Chairman Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the following Holidays for the year of 2021: New Year's Day, 01/01/2021; MLK Day, 01/18/2021; Good Friday, 04/02/2021; Memorial Day, 05/31/2021; July 4th, 07/05/2021; Labor Day, 09/06/2021; Veterans Day 11/11/2021; Thanksgiving, 11/25/2021 and 11/26/2021; Christmas, 12/24/2021 and 12/27/2021. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Approval
Build Renovation of EMS/
EMA Building:**

Manager Jones stated a copy of the proposal from Harry Moses Construction Company, Inc. with a final \$ 1,389,709 with an additional cost for the electronic door system in the amount of \$ 14,879.12. Management recommended that the Board approve this proposal and use the designated funds that have been reserved for this project.

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the proposal from Harry Moses Construction Company, Inc. with a final \$ 1,389,709 with an additional cost for the electronic door system in the amount of \$ 14,879.12. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Purchase
of Radios for Fire
Departments:**

Manager Jones stated the proposal from HUB Electronics for twenty-nine handheld radios and twenty mobile units; this will be for all three fire departments in the amount of \$ 20,270. Once these radios are in place the next step will be to go to digital due to the communications problems we have in the lower part of our County. This is the first step of the long term plan to also convert the EMS and Sheriff's Department to digital radios. Management asked the Board to approve this proposal from HUB Electronics and use the Fire Department Funds for the purchase of the radios.

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Nobles to approve the purchase of twenty-nine handheld radios and twenty mobile units from HUB Electronics in the amount of \$ 20,270 and pay with Fire Department Budget funds. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Approval
of Revolving Loan
Application for Vidalia
Apicultural & Bee
Company:**

Manager Jones stated that Apicultural & Bee Company has an application for a Revolving Loan in the amount of \$ 300,000 for a ten year term with a maximum interest rate of five percent. The collateral is a second position on thirty-five acres of real estate purchased and existing business assets; additionally the loan is guaranteed by Stanley Farms LLC, R.T. Stanley, Jr., Brian Stanley, Tracy Stanley, Vince Stanley, Henry Price and Heather Davis. This proposal has been approved and recommended by Loan Committee of the Development Authority and the Toombs County Development Authority's Board Members as well. They are recommending the Board of Commissioners to approve as well. Management recommends the Board to approve the Revolving Loan with Vidalia Apicultural & Bee Company pending the Public Hearing tomorrow.

Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Nobles to approve Vidalia Apicultural & Bee Company's \$ 300,000 Revolving Loan for a ten year term with a maximum interest rate of five percent; pending the Public Hearing tomorrow. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Approval
of Quote for Roof
Replacement on EMS
Building:**

Manager Jones stated there was some water damage from a roof leak on the current EMS building located on Maple Drive in Vidalia. We have received a proposal to replace the roof in the amount of \$ 7,500 from DBM Construction. If approved, the replace cost will be paid from the building repairs and maintenance budget.

Vice-Chairman Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rollins to approve the quote from DBM Construction in the amount of \$ 7,500 to replace the roof at the EMS building located on Maple Drive in Vidalia; to be paid with building repairs and maintenance budget. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Approval
of MOA with Georgia
Department of
Transportation and
Sublease Agreement
with Georgia
Department of
Transportation:**

Manager Jones stated in consideration of the transfer of the Georgia Department of Transportation building to the County, the County agreed to provide GDOT with a temporary building to be housed in the old Lyons Primary School. Once EMS relocated to their new building, we will be moving GDOT in the old EMS building for their permanent housing. Management asked the Board to authorize the Chairman to sign the MOA and the Sublease Agreement with Georgia Department of Transportation.

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the MOA and Sublease Agreement with Georgia Department of Transportation and authorize the Chairman to sign both documents. Motion carried unanimously.

County Manager Report Maintenance and Operation Budget is on budget and seems as if we will be
Financial Report below expected expenses and a little above on the revenue side. The sales tax
Miscellaneous for the month of November was up. As mentions by Chris Keene we started out
with quite a set of circumstances. Not sure when, if ever, Toombs County has
been under two State of Emergencies at the same time, but that is how we
started out the year. Then thing got a little more difficult with the Covid-19 Virus
Pandemic. Overall we are extremely proud of all of our employees of the County;
we are extremely proud of how they reacted to all of the difficult situations.
Manager Jones gave a quick over-view of the meetings that was upcoming in the
next couple of weeks.

Standing Committee Reports

Commissioners Comments:

Chairman Sikes stated that we were missing Commissioner Dixon at the
meeting; he is at home not feeling very well, so please keep him in your
prayers please.

Adjournment:

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

David Sikes, Chairman

Attest: _____
Helen Harris, County Clerk