

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

Call to Order: Chairman Sikes called April 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 Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve 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 March 15, 2022.

**March 15, 2022
Regular Board Meeting:**

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the minutes from March 15, 2022 Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**Development Authority
Report:**

Michele Johnson stated Earth Day Appreciation Electronic Recycling Event will be held at Chick-fil-A in Vidalia on Thursday, April 21st from 11:00 AM until 12:00 Noon. Toombs County Development Authority (TCDA) Regular Meeting / Celebratory Luncheon will be held on Thursday, April 21st 12 Noon / 1:00 PM at Elements Bistro & Grill, Lyons. TIA 2.0 Connection Region 9 Presentation to Lyons Lions Club at Chatters Restaurant, Lyons held on Monday, April 25th at 12 Noon. On Monday, April 25th at 2:00 PM there will be a Ribbon Cutting for Agape Care Group, 100 SW Main T., Vidalia, GA. Southeastern Technical College (STC) Career Fair – Main Building, Vidalia Campus on Tuesday, April 26th at 9:00 AM – 12 Noon. Greater Vidalia Chamber (GVC) Board Meeting will be held in the Chamber & Development Authority Boardroom on Thursday, April 28th at 11:30 AM. Greater Savannah Regional Alliance (GSRA) Joint Development Authority will be on Wednesday, May 4th at 12 Noon in Effingham County. Showcasing Greater Vidalia – Under the Big Top “The Greatest Showcasing on Earth” will be held May 13th at 5:30 PM.

Department Reports:

Drew James, Director of EMS, In the month of March there were 590 calls for service. The Onion Festival is the largest event our services cover. With the large concert and the Blue Angels that will be performing in the air show, we will be placing a little more emphasis on public safety. Our services will be starting Friday morning at the airport and will continue until Sunday afternoon. We had a special visitor on the 14th of April, Mr. Matt Hasbrouck, CEO of our local hospital; he was able to meet most of our crew, had lunch and accompanied a couple of our runs with our crew members. Matt would like to come once a quarter to ride with the different shifts and we are excited to have him show interest in our department.

Public Participation: None

**Consideration of Request
to Close S.T. Perdue Road:**

Manager Jones stated the county had received a letter from Mr. Joseph White requesting S. T. Perdue Road, which is a dead end road, be closed. Impact statements have been received with no issues with the road being closed. Management recommended that the Board authorize for the process to continue with closing of S. T. Perdue Road. A Public Hearing will be held before the next board meeting for public comment.

Vice-Chairman Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to authorize for the process to continue with closing S. T. Perdue road. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of Bid for the Civil Work for the Solid Waste & Recycling Center #8:

Manager Jones stated in the packet there was an attendance sheet for the March 23, 2022 bid opening for this project which will be located on the Cedar Crossing-Vidalia Road. This site will be replacing the old green box site that was located near Petross. We had only one bidder for the project, McLendon Enterprises. This includes all sites work except for the well, septic tank and building which will be purchased separately. In the packet a recommendation letter from Hofstadter & Associates recommended that the bid to be accepted from McLendon Enterprises in the amount of \$ 156,292.50 Management recommended the acceptance of this bid and to be paid with SPLOST Funds.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to accept the bid from McLendon Enterprises in the amount of \$ 156,292.50 and to be paid with SPLOST Funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of Bid for the Civil Work for the Fire Station Site on Cedar Crossing-Vidalia Road:

Manager Jones stated in the packet there was an attendance sheet for the March 23, 2022 bid opening for this project which will be located on the Cedar Crossing-Vidalia Road. There was only one bid submitted for this project, McLendon Enterprises in the amount of \$ 149,390.50. This includes all sites work except for the well, septic tank and building which will be purchased separately. In the packet a recommendation letter from Hofstadter & Associates recommended that the bid to be accepted from McLendon Enterprises in the amount of \$ 149,390.50. Management recommended the acceptance of the bid and to be paid with SPLOST Funds.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to accept the bid from McLendon Enterprises in the amount of \$ 149,390.50 and to be paid with SPLOST Funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Ratifying the Ohoopsee Regional Library Systems Formal Request for Previous Pledged Match for Library Construction:

Manager Jones stated last year the Board approved to provide a match of \$ 100,000 to the Ohoopsee Regional Library Systems in conjunction with their grant application. The Library Board has provided their formal request, which is included in the packet, for payment of the \$ 100,000 pledge. Management asked the Board to formally approve payment of the request, which will be paid from the general fund.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the match of \$ 100,000 to the Ohoopsee Regional Library Systems and will be paid from the County's General Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of Superior & Juvenile Court Budgets for State Fiscal Year 2023:

Manager Jones asked the Board to table this consideration until further clarification of what the state is or is not funding. Management asked the Board to table this matter for further review.

Vice-Chairman Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to table the Financial Year 2023 Budget request for the Superior & Juvenile Court, for further review of financial matters. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of the Office of the Public Defender – Middle Judicial Circuit For Fiscal Year 2023:

Manager Jones stated in the packet there is a copy of the proposal from Brandi Payne, Chief Public Defender, that will begin July 1st; they are requesting an increase of \$ 32,588.67. Ms. Payne stated much of these expenses are due to the lack of allowing the office to retain these excess funds. Additionally, there is increase funding for a public defender attorney position which is current vacant with no applications. The Public Defender's Budget is divided between the Counties in the circuit based on each county's population. Management requested the Board to approve their FY 2023 budget.

Vice-Chairman Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the Financial Year 2023 Budget request for the Middle Judicial Circuit,

which has a District Increase of \$ \$32,588.67 from the prior year's budget.
Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval for the Purchase of 2006 Spartan Gladiator Fire Truck and a 1995 Freightliner FL80 Fire Truck:

Manager Jones stated in the packet there is a detail of each fire truck. One will be station at the new fire station which will be located on the Cedar-Vidalia Road. The other is needed in order to allow the fire station to operate a water shuttle at the required water capacity and time to achieve the best possible ISO rating we can obtain for the Toombs County Fire District. The 2006 Spartan Gladiator Truck is \$13,284 and the 1995 Freightliner FL80 is \$ 20,925 for a total cost of \$ 34,209. Management requested the Board ratify the purchases of these two Fire Trucks and to be paid with SPLOST Funds.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Rollins to ratify the purchase of one (1) 2006 Spartan Gladiator Truck in the amount of \$13,284 and one (1) 1995 Freightliner FL80 in the amount of \$20,925. Both vehicles will be paid with SPLOST Funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Request to Georgia Department of Transportation on Traffic Concerns at US #1 and Toombs County Central:

Manager Jones stated Sheriff Kight and Vice-Chairman Rollins have express concerns with the flow of traffic at the Toombs Central School. Manager Jones asked Vice-Chairman to explain the nature of concern. Vice-Chairman Rollins spoken and told that he watched the flow of traffic at the school on two different occasions and it was horrible. He actually witnessed one accident and his fears are there will be many more accident that will happen if something is not done.

Chairman Sikes directed County Manager Jones to set a meeting up with Georgia Department of Transportation for further discussion.

Consideration of Appointment to the Board of Assessors:

Manager Jones stated there is a vacant position on the Board of Assessors. Duane Tomlin's position expired on December 31, 2021. These appointments are for five years. All of the other positions are filled so the Board has had an adequate number of Board members to conduct business.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to re-appoint Duane Tomlin to the Board of Assessors with his term starting January 01, 2022 ending December 31, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

County Manager Report : Financial Report:

Manager Jones stated the Sales tax continues to show positive increases from prior year. The first quarter of 2022, Maintenance & Operation Budget expenses are five percent under budget. We will need to make adjustments to the Building Department budget to reflect the additional costs of the lease of the mobile chiller system. E911- Revenue is one and a half percent above budget, Solid Waste Revenue is two percent above budget, EMS Revenue is three percent under budget for the Quarter, and expense are one and a half under budget.

Miscellaneous:

In your packet you have this month's Wellness Warrior who is Travis Dawkins who is an inspiration to all. Additionally, you have the Wellness Monthly Progress Report as well. Finally, you have the January and February recap of our Telemedicine Program which has saved us almost \$2,600 over two months. Our current utilization rate is 14.67%. The Ross Bowen Project has been extended for 30 days. The current substantially complete date is mid-May. EMS/EMS Building the landscaping is done we are waiting on the interior signage and the construction for the sign at the driveway on Maple Drive. The Courthouse date for possible beginning the move-in to the new Courthouse is still on schedule for the latter part of January 2023 and substantially complete for June 2023. There was a meeting earlier in the day with the audio and video provider where they toured the new courthouse so they could give us an estimated cost to install the equipment.

Standing Committee Reports:

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Dixon stated the City of Vidalia is planning the Celebration of Life for Ronnie Dixon on the 19th of May at 6:00 PM at Vidalia City Stage.

Chairman Sikes asked everyone to remember this coming week and weekend is our Onion Festival beginning on Wednesday and continuing through Sunday. He hoped everyone would enjoy the events and the Blue Angels having their performance.

Commissioner Nobles attended the meeting for the Council for Aging in McRae Georgia. There is a lot of help for the elderly such as legal services along with many other services. Please let him know of any elderly person is in need of help.

Adjournment:

Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 PM.

David Sikes, Chairman

Attest: _____
Helen Harris, County Clerk

WORKSHOP

Discussion on the renewal for the LOST distribution.