

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 September Regular Board Meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

Invocation: Commissioner 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 approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Vice-Chairman Rollins asked for a motion to approve the Minutes for the August 16, 2022 Regular Board Meeting:

Regular Board Meeting:

Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the minutes from August 16, 2022 Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Development Authority Report:

Michele Johnson stated The Summit – Greater Vidalia Chamber (GVC) 2022 Business and Leadership Conference will be held Thursday, Sept. 22nd, 2022 at 8:30 AM-12:00 Noon, First Baptist Church in Vidalia GA. Greater Vidalia Chamber (GVC) Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, Sept. 29th at 11:30 AM in the Chamber & Development Authority Boardroom. American Rural Prosperity Summit will be held Tuesday, Oct. 4th- Thursday, Oct. 6th in Athens GA. There will be a Ribbon Cutting on October 6th at 4:00 PM for The Marketplace, 103 SW Railroad Street, Ailey, GA, Greater Vidalia Chamber (GVC) 2022 Business Expo will be on Thursday, Oct. 13th at 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM, Vidalia Community Center. Georgia Economic Developers Association (GEDA) Monthly Meeting & Greater Savannah Regional Alliance (GSRA) Marketing Event on Monday, Oct. 17th in Athens, GA. Region 9 Legislative Event will be held, Oct. 18th in Dublin, GA. Greater Savannah Regional Alliance (GSRA) Quarterly Meeting and Marketing Event Debrief on Wednesday, Oct. 19th (TBD) and CREATE, Session #2 will be held on Wednesday, Oct 26th – Thursday, Oct. 27th in Rome, GA.

Department Reports:

Drew James, Director of EMS, in the month of August there were 598 calls for service. October 6th, Club Pack 933 from Vidalia will be touring our new EMS Quarters and we will teach a Basic First Aid Class to them that afternoon.

Public Participation:

None

Consideration of Revolving Loan Fund Request:

Manager Jones stated in the packet there was a draft of a Revolving Loan Application from Clint Williams from Georgia Pine Straw. Both the Finance Committee and the Development Authority Board recommended the Board of Commissioners approve this application. This is a \$250,00 loan request for manufacturing facility improvements and automotive equipment. The terms are five to seven years. Management recommended that the Board approve the loan application as presented.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Rollins to approve the Revolving Loan Fund for Georgia Pine Straw in the amount of \$250,000 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of Appointment to the Toombs County Development Authority for District 1 (Vidalia):

Manager Jones stated in the packet there is a copy of a letter from Michele Johnson, Executive Director, providing three names to choose for the appointment. This appointment will replace Reid Threlkeld whose term expires on 12/31/2022. The Development Authority list three names, in order of preference, for the Board of Commissioners to consider. The first choice is Pat Dixon. Management recommended the Board to approve Pat Dixon for the terms of January 01, 2023 until December 31, 2027 for District 1 (Vidalia) Seat on the Development Authority Board.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Rollins to Appoint Pat Dixon for the terms of January 01, 2023 until December 31, 2027 to the Toombs County Development Authority for District 1 (Vidalia) Seat on the Development Authority Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of Appointment to the Toombs County Development Authority for District 3 (County):

Manager Jones stated Chris Hopkins who is currently serving in that seat will expire 12/31/2022. The Development Authority provided three names to choose from, first on the list is Aries Haygood to replace Chris Hopkins. Management recommended that the Board approve Chris Hopkins for the terms of January 01, 2023 until December 31, 2027 for the District 3 (County) Seat on the Development Authority Board.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Rollins to Appoint Aries Haygood for the terms of January 01, 2023 until December 31, 2027 to the Toombs County Development Authority for District 3 (County). Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of Proposal for Garmin DriveSmart 65 & Hardware on EMS Ambulance:

Manager Jones asked Drew James, Director of EMS, to describe the equipment being requested. Drew James stated the AVL Wi-Fi System provides a tracking system that the State of Georgia provides, but in order to use this service, you must have the software and hardware (Antenna and Computer Mount, etc). This equipment will allow the ambulances to be tracked as well as providing a Wi-Fi connection to do trip reports throughout the duration of the call and not wait to get back to the station to complete the report. The entire fleet will be covered for the price of \$10,338.93 and would be purchased from Hub Electronics. Management recommended that the Board approve the purchase of the Garmin DriveSmart 65 & Hardware on the EMS Ambulances.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the purchase of Garmin DriveSmart 65 & Hardware on EMS Ambulances from Hub Electronics for \$10,338.93 and will be paid from SPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of Annual Maintenance Contract on Stryker Power Cots:

Manager Jones stated this is the annual maintenance of the stretchers on our ambulances. These Stretchers a few years ago cost \$18,000, now they have doubled in price. This warranty covers all parts and labor, including the batteries that operate them. Management recommended that the Board approve this annual maintenance agreement with Stryker in the amount of \$11,818.80 and to be paid with SPLOST funds.

Vice-Chairman Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the annual maintenance contract on Stryker Power Cots in the amount of \$11,818.80 and will be paid with the existing EMS Budgeted Funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of Annual Maintenance on LifPak Heart Montors:

Manager Jones stated the annual maintenance agreement on the heart monitors on each of our ambulances. Management recommended that the Board approve this annual maintenance agreement in the amount of \$ 12,506 to be paid from the EMS Budgeted Funds.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the annual maintenance on the LifePak Heart Monitors, which will be paid from the EMS Budget Funds in the amount of \$12,506. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Bids for the purchase of an Ambulance for EMS:

Manager Jones stated there were three proposals received; only two proposals were according to the specs of the RFT. There was a proposal for a demo but it was only \$4,400 lower than the lowest bid per specs. The lowest bid was received from Custom Works in the amount of \$271,847. Management recommended accepting the lowest bid per specs of the RFP from Custom Works in the amount of \$271,847 and to be paid with SPLOST Funds. Drew James added that the price included a power cot which is a power load system. The power lift will load up to 450 pounds; once you lock that stretch in, you simply press a button, everything

collapses and then the paramedic simply pushes the stretch in the truck with just one hand.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Rollins to purchase of an ambulance for EMS Department from Custom Works in the amount of \$271,847 and to be paid with SPLOST Funds. Motion carried unanimously.

County Manager Report:

Financial Report: Manager Jones stated Sales tax in July was 4.8% higher than it was in July of 2021. Manager Jones noted that the 4.8 increase is the lowest for the year; the next lowest was 9.1 % for May.

Miscellaneous: Along with the financial Report in the packet, there was also a copy of the medical claims executive summary, for the month of July and August for the Commissioners review. On the outstanding truck orders, we were informed by phone today that one (1) will be delivered Friday. Two more trucks will be put on the assembly line on September 26th.

Standing Committee Reports:

Commissioners Comments: Vice-Chairman Rollins stated there was another wreck at Toombs Central School. Chairman Sikes suggested that we call the Georgia Department of Transportation and request a red light at the crossing of HWY US 1 and HWY 56.

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:31 PM.

David Sikes, Chairman

Attest: _____
Helen Harris, County Clerk