

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 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 Nobles made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Dixon 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 March 21, 2023.

March 21, 2023

Regular Board Meeting: Vice-Chairman Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the minutes from March 21, 2023 Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Development Authority Report: **Michele Johnson** stated Earth Day Appreciation Electronics Recycling Event in Greater Vidalia Parking Lot, 2805 East First Street, Vidalia on Thursday, April 20th, from 11:00 AM until 2:00 PM (or earlier if the trucks fill up). Toombs County Development Authority (TCDA) Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 20th at 12:00 noon, Chamber & Development Authority Boardroom, 2805 East First Street, Vidalia. Chamber Greater Vidalia Chamber (GVC) Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 27th at 11:30 AM, Chamber & Development Authority Boardroom, 2805 East First Street, Vidalia. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Three Rivers Hoe Health Services, 115 Northwest Main Street, Vidalia on Thursday, April 27th at 4:00 PM. Greater Vidalia Event at the Vidalia Community Center, 107 Old Airport Road, Vidalia on Friday, May 12th beginning at 6:30 PM

Department Reports: **Drew James**, Director of EMS, stated there were 552 calls for service for the month of March. The department is in its second week of MR responder class being taught by Jonathon Holland. This is funded by the Georgia Association of EMS, which is a trauma grant that covers the cost of the books and the instructor. Once completed the participant receives a jump bag. April is Autism Awareness Month and the EMS crew will be wearing a blue shirt with a hand print of one of the Captains Dusty Findley's child, Zoey. A physician has diagnosed Zoey on the spectrum. The Vidalia Festival will be covered by our crews this weekend and we are geared up and ready.

Johnny Moser, Chief of Toombs County Volunteer Fire Department, stated about five years ago the county planned for a station South of Vidalia. Recently we have acquired a building to house the fire department's equipment in the south of Vidalia. This location could not be recognized by the insurance companies until it was evaluated. On February 21, 2023 the department went through the ISO evaluation for the unincorporated area with the exception of Cedar Crossing Volunteer Station and they will be evaluated next month. Chief Moser is

confident we will be receiving a good rating very soon. April 16, 2023 there was a State Compliance Audit which we came out with a clean slate.

Public Participation:

None

Consideration of Proposal for Auto Extraction Rescue Equipment:

Manager Jones stated the county currently has three old units of equipment (Jaws of Life) that the county has acquired nearly 30 years ago. These are gas powered machines and everyone has gone to battery powered as being more reliable to operate. The proposal includes two ramps and the Jaws of Life in the amount of \$44,069.50. The equipment will be housed at the Fire Station # 8, located on SR15, which is more in the center of the county. Management recommended the board to approve the proposal of \$44,069.50 and to pay with SPLOST funds.

Vice-Chairman Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the purchase of rescue equipment (Jaws of Life) in the amount of \$44,069.50 and for the purchase to be paid with SPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Contract with Quality Tire Disposal:

Manager Jones stated the county has been having a difficult time the last two or more years to find a reliable vendor who will handle the disposal of used tires. Greg Fields, Landfill Manager, has found Quality Tire and Recycling as the nearest and cheapest used tire Disposal Company for us to use. There is a sixty day termination clause that allows us to terminate with a 60-day notice and payment of all invoices due. Management recommended the board approve and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to authorize the Chairman to sign the one year (1) agreement with Quality Tire & Recycling. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Price Increase for Tire Disposal:

Manager Jones stated management was requesting an increase for disposal of tires to be raised to three hundred seventy-five dollars per ton.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Dixon to increase the price of disposal of tires to three hundred seventy-five dollars per ton. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of the Budget for the Office of the Public Defender Middle Judicial Circuit for FY2024:

Manager Jones stated a copy of the Defender's Budget from FY 2006 to the proposed FY 2023 was included in the packet. As you can tell their budget has went up significantly the last two years. Management recommended the board to approve the FY 2023 Budget Proposal for the Office of the Public Defender- Middle Judicial Circuit for a total of \$665,081.37 with Toombs County's share to be \$142,393.92.

Vice-Chairman Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the FY 2023 Budget Proposal for the Office of the Public Defender- Middle Judicial Circuit for a total of \$665,081.37 with Toombs County's share to be \$142,393.92 Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of the Budget for the Office of the District

Manager Jones stated in the packet was the budget proposal from the District Attorney, Tripp Fitzner. As indicated in his letter, there is no increase in his budget for FY 2024. Management recommended the board to approve the FY 2024 Budget for the Office of the District Attorney of the Eighth Judicial Circuit

**Attorney Middle
Circuit for FY 2024:**

as presented at a total cost of \$871,279 with Toombs County's share being Georgia Judicial \$244,109.12.

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the FY 2024 Budget for the Office of the District Attorney of the Eighth Judicial Circuit as presented at a total cost of \$871,279 with Toombs County's share being \$244,109.12. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of
Approval of the
Budget for Superior &
Juvenile Court of the
Eighth Judicial District
for FY 2024:**

Manager Jones stated in the packet there was a copy of the proposal of the above referenced budget proposal from Bob Nadekow, District Court Administrator. As indicated in the Court Administrator's letter, there are no increases in the Superior & Juvenile Court Budget. Management recommended the board to approve the FY 2024 Budget for the Superior & Juvenile Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit as presented at a total cost of \$493,189 with Toombs County's share being \$138,178.

Vice-Chairman Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the FY 2024 Budget for the Superior & Juvenile Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit as presented at a total cost of \$493,189 with Toombs County's share being \$138,178. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of
Relocation Agreement
between Georgia
Power Company and
Toombs County for
Oren Sharpe Road/
Hugh Taylor Road/
McLendon Road:**

Manager Jones stated in the packet there was a proposal from Georgia Power claiming that the county could owe up to a maximum amount of \$254,011 for this relocation. This is the max that the county would be charged. If the actual costs were greater we would not be charged for the difference; if less, the county would pay less. The contractor, McLendon Enterprise and a Georgia Power Representative have been meeting to discuss any type of mitigation that can be done to limit this costs. Management recommended the Board to approve the agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to authorize the Chairman to sign the Georgia Power contract that states the relocation cost for the Oren Sharpe Road, Hugh Taylor Road and McLendon Road will not exceed a maximum amount of \$254,011 for this relocation of the power utility poles and power lines. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of
Memorial Bricks at
New Courthouse:**

Manager Jones discussed having memorial bricks whereby individuals may purchase a brick in memory of someone or on behalf of their family or a family member. Oglethorpe Brick and Marble in Savannah can produce these bricks. Management requested the board to set a price for each brick to offer to the public to purchase.

Vice-Chairman Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the purchase cost for the memorial bricks and not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per brick to the public for purchase. Motion carried unanimously.

**County Manager Report
Financial Report:**

Manager Jones stated the Sales tax receipts were up in January and February compared to 2022 but March was slightly lower compared to 2022. SPLOST Revenue for the first quarter of 2023 was good. Maintenance & Operation Budget was five percent under budget. The Solid Waste AR aging report was included in the packet for review.

Miscellaneous:

For the past two weeks, Standard & Poor (Bond Rating Agency) has done a review of 2021 Audit and our 2022 results. They met with their committee yesterday morning and Manager Jones received a call giving their results which was they would maintain our AA Bond Rating. The Detention Center progress, the new part of the jail will soon be able to be used within the next week or so. This will begin the process of the renovation of the existing jail cells which will consist of removing all the existing electronics from the old jail and replace with new, among other items. They have completed the renovation and expansion of the existing sally port including the entrance paving. A preliminary review of our health Insurance renewal looks like we may not see an increase; it may ever go down in cost. There was a Monthly Progress Report on our Wellness program was included in the packet. In the spring addition of the TIA Times, they focused on the finishing portion of Hwy US 1 and the round-about on Hwy 292.

**Standing Committee
Reports:**

**Commissioners
Comments:**

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Adjournment:

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

David Sikes, Chairman

Attest: _____
Helen Harris, County Clerk