

**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 June 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 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 May 16, 2023.

**Regular Board Meeting:**

Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the minutes from May 16, 2023 Regular Board Meeting.

**Development Authority**

**Michele Johnson** stated Greater Vidalia Chamber (GVC) Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 11:30 AM, Chamber & Development Authority Boardroom, 2805 East First street, Vidalia. The Chamber will be closed on July 4<sup>th</sup> in observance Independence Holiday. Ribbon Cutting on July 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM for Nine Columns Breakfast, 180 NW Broad Street, Lyons. Ribbon Cutting on July 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM for Tom’s Pawn Central, 520 NW Broad Street, Lyons. Ribbon Cutting on July 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM for Burgers on Broad, 108 SE Broad Street, Lyons, GA. The Toombs County Development Authority (TCDA) Regular Monthly Meeting – Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 Noon, 2805 East First Street, Vidalia.

**Department Reports:**

**Drew James**, Director of EMS, in the month of May there were 521 calls for service. One of their PR events was held on June 10<sup>th</sup> Vidalia Fire Department hosted the Vidalia Fire Fighter Convention where 85 firefighters attended for the event on Saturday. The next PR event will be July 4<sup>th</sup> at Ronnie A. Dixon City Park where the department will be teaming up with Safe Kids Toombs County; we will demonstrate stop bleed as well as training on CPR and to be there for standby for the fireworks. Archie Robertson spoke on Rescue Tactical Force where in 2018 there was a rash of active shooters. In 2019 the department hosted a state grant funded Tactical Emergency Casualty Care Course. There are nine members that have been trained and body equipment that is required to do this type of work has been issued.

**Lynn Moore**, Director of EMA, Mr. Moore stated that tomorrow is the Area Eight E-Mag meeting at the EMA Building starting at 10:00 AM, lunch at 11:30 AM. Afterward, Plant Hatch Area Directors meeting at 1:00 PM. We will be preparing for the drill that will be held in September and October, which will be graded drill

by FEMA. We will be receiving our EMPG funding from the state, it is a couple of thousand dollars less this year, because FEMA's budget got cut and those cuts reduced the funding that we will receive. We should be receiving about \$18,500. Manager Jones had asked if we could keep a list of how many people are using the EOC for various training and since March there have been 350 people. It is in a great location and the training room has had a great deal of use besides EMS and EMA training. In August there will be a MS1 drill where there will be a person that will be potentially contaminated and EMS will show how they package the patient to take him to the hospital. The patient will be taken to the exposure room at the hospital and FEMA will be grading this entire drill.

Charles Newsome, who worked for the county for 43 years, was in our audience and Chairman Sikes stated that it was good to see him.

**Public Participation:** Noah Bollard, 647 Dewey Anderson Road; read a statement about the Roads in Toombs County. Mr. Bollard voiced his opinion the concerns of the dirt roads and requested the county to pave all dirt roads in the county.

**Consideration of Resolution Honoring Coach Greg James:** Chairman Sikes stated that the Commission has a policy that if someone was good enough to be in the Georgia Hall of Fame, they are certainly great enough to be acknowledged by us. We are extremely grateful to have Coach James here tonight who coach me as well. Chairman Sikes asked Vice-Chairman Dixon to read the Resolution. Coach James stated it was a great honor to be recognized by Toombs County. We have a great place to grow up, a great place to live and a great place to have grand kids. Again, thank you for the recognition tonight.

Chairman Sikes asked if there was a motion to approve the Resolution Honoring Coach Greg James as read. Vice-Chairman Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the Resolution honoring Coach Greg James of Toombs County. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of proposal for Annual Renewal of Property & Casualty Insurance:** Manager Jones stated the hand-out given to the Commission gave the latest version, this renewal is similar to last year's renewal. The total includes fire protection as well which is under Selective Insurance Company. The total is \$271,400 and Management requested the Board to approve this quote.

Vice-Chairman Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the annual premium of \$271,470. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Appointment of two (2) members to the Aging Advisory Council:** Manager Jones stated, we received an email from the AAA Director, Lisa Livingston, requesting the Board to re-appointment Commissioner Darriel Nobles and City of Vidalia Councilman John Raymond Turner serve on this Board. Both have indicated they are willing to continue to serve. Mr. Turner is serving as the Chairman and Mr. Nobles serves as the Vice-Chairman. Management recommended the Board to re-appoint Commissioner Darriel Nobles and Councilman John Raymond Turner be appointed the Aging Advisory Council for the term July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2025.

Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Dixon to approve the re-appointment of Commissioner Darriel Nobles and Councilman John Raymond Turner to the Aging Advisory Council for the term July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Ambulance Restocking Agreement with Memorial Health Meadows Hospital:** Manager Jones stated, a copy of the agreement was included in the Commissioners Packet. This is an annual renewal whereby the local hospital provides our EMS with their necessary pharmaceuticals. EMS Director Drew James and Management recommended the Board to approve this agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Vice-Chairman Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the agreement with Memorial Health Meadows Hospital to supply the necessary pharmaceuticals to the EMS Department and authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Change to Alcohol Ordinance for Toombs County:** Manager Jones explained that the part of this Ordinance that we would propose to be changed is under the Grandfather clause on page twelve under section eighteen which would affect one establishment; Big Ma's and Frank's Country Club. Ms. Simpson would like to sell her business, in order to do so; the Commission has to address this on our Ordinance Policy. In the sentence where it is stated, the grandfather clause of this section shall remain valid until a change of the current license; we are striking the current license of the current licensee and we are striking that portion and what is being proposed, if approved, this will allow Ms. Simpson to sell her business and the new owner can obtain the same licenses that Ms. Simpson is currently licensed. Management recommended the Board to approve this change to the Alcohol Ordinance.

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Dixon to approve the change on the Alcohol Ordinance as described under the grandfather clause. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Construction Easement for Charles Andrew Drive:** Manager Jones stated we have been informed that a potential buyer of five acres of property, located by Sacred Heart Catholic Church, wishes to construct a road on county property which connects the existing Charles Andrew Road at Rudell Road to the property being purchased. The proposed purchaser is purchasing five acres next to the Sacred Heart Catholic Church and wish to pave Charles Andrew Road from where it currently ends from Rudell Road to the five acre tract that is being purchased.

Vice-Chairman Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rollins to grant temporary construction easement to extend Charles Andrew Drive to the proposed purchaser of a portion of County tax map parcel C27-046 attentive upon the said purchaser paying for the installation, paving, curb and gutter consistent with the county road building specification and the City of Vidalia Roads specification and the existing specification on Charles Andrew Drive. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chairman Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rollins to accept the inspection extension of Charles Andrew Drive and to the County Road System upon the completion of work done by the proposed purchaser upon completion meeting county road building specifications, City of Vidalia specifications, and consistence with the existing pave road specification on Charles Andrew Drive. Motion carried unanimously.

**County Manager Report**

**Financial Report:**

Manager Jones stated Sales Tax we have had three straight months of lower sales tax collection. April 2023 Sales were down 3.18% from April 2022 sales. However, YTD 2023 sales have been greater than they were at this time in 2021 sales. The M & O Budget, the overall operating expenses are five percent under budget E911 Revenue is on budget for the year and operating expenses are four percent under budget. Solid Waste Revenue is seven percent above budget and expenses are three percent below budget, EMS Revenue budget is six percent under budget and expenses are four percent under budget. Aging account report for the Landfill was also included into the packet.

**Miscellaneous:**

Our Health Coach has sent a flyer on Stroke warning signs, this also was included in the packet. There is a proof of the Toombs County Flag which displays the County Seal. This is the flag that will fly at the new courthouse with the US Flag and State of Georgia Flag. Workman Comp Report gives a monthly listing; there is a summary of the outstanding claims and the status of each. 2022 Tax Bill Collections for May 31, 2023 listing of property Tax collections from the 2022 Tax Bills. In total, we have collected 94.46% of the taxes dues. Broadband/Fiber Update was the Altamaha EMC has requested the previously pledged funds the county pledged to match a state grant Altamaha EMC applied for and received to complete the installation and availability of fiber to all of our unincorporated citizens. We submitted that payment this past week. TSPLOST Collections, in the packet the latest collections data from the TSPLOST that started in January of this year. Also Included is the overall collections for our region with a breakdown of each jurisdiction. All of the board meetings have been digitized for the entire history of Toombs County. In the near future these will be added to our file server for our ability to search for any specific information needed.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**Commissioners Comments:**

Commissioner Nobles would like to see a border on the County Flag. County Manager said we would get another proof of the County Flag for review.

**Adjournment:**

Chairman Sikes asked if there was anything else. Seeing none, this meeting is adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

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David Sikes, Chairman

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Helen Harris, County Clerk