

TOOMBS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
August 15, 2023

Courtroom A
5:30 PM

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

Call to Order: Chairman Sikes called August Regular Board Meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

Invocation: Commissioner Rollins gave the Invocation.

Approve Agenda: Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the Agenda.

Vice-Chairman Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rollins 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 July 18, 2023.

Regular Board Meeting:

Commissioners Rollins made a motion, seconded by Vice Chairman Dixon to approve the minutes from July 18, 2023 Regular Board Meeting.

Development Authority Report:

Michele Johnson stated the Toombs County Development Authority Regular Monthly meeting will meet Thursday the 17th at noon. Leadership Greater Vidalia® (LGV) Orientation Session – Tuesday, August 22nd – Wednesday, August 23rd. The Greater Vidalia Chamber (GVC) Board Meeting will be held on the 24th, Thursday at 11:30 AM. The next leadership class will be starting in September. The Center of Rural Entrepreneur Construction project is off to a good start; hopefully the building will be completed by the Onion Festival time. Their Local group will be attending the last Cultivating Rural Entrepreneurship and Transforming Economies (C.R.E.A.T.E.) Cohort Meeting in Gainesville on Wednesday, September 6th and 7th. This was a two year program that would help develop the programming for the new center. They will be announcing a new position with the Chamber and the Development Authority for a Facility Manager who will take care of the facility and the programming. Leadership Greater Vidalia (LGV) Ag Session – Friday, September 8th. Greater Vidalia® Youth Leadership (LGYL) Orientation Session – Thursday, September 14th. On the Industrial Development side, there are three industries that are contemplating expansion projects, such as site improvements, automations, or just adding additional shifts. The school system has implemented a new child care program for their employee's children; in hopes that other industries will do the same. Southeastern Technology College executed a (MOU) Mutual of Understanding Agreement with Hyundai for an automotive program with their College. The Development Authority has received one hundred thousand dollars for a study of Biofuel production from timber remains after the initial cut of timber. They are finalizing the Housing Study that was done for our County.

Department Reports:

Lynn Moore, EMA Director, Toombs County gets their weather forecast from Peachtree City, Tattnall County gets their forecast from Charleston, South Carolina, Appling and Jeff Davis County gets their forecast from Jacksonville, Florida. With all of this information, it was reported that we did not have any tornados in our area. We did have straight line winds up to seventy miles per hour. The State passed a new safety law as of July 1st, for the School Systems. It has included the EMA to be more involved. All public schools have plans for

implementations, five from Toombs County and four from Vidalia. Plans will be established and approved by EMA, Law Enforcement, and GEMA. On the 24th of August, there will be a drill at Toombs County Schools on an intruder, with a possible shooter scenario and another drill on August 31st for the Vidalia School System.

Public Participation: **Christopher W. Oliver**, 1306 Lawson Road, Mr. Oliver addressed several issue with concerns on Lawson Road and the surrounding business near his home. He has already contacted EPA and EPD on several issues that the county doesn't have jurisdiction on. Migrant workers were being housed on neighboring property and the noise was a concern to him. He will be contacting the Sheriff's office about the noise issues.

Marvin Dasher, 1613 Jeff Webber Road, Mr. Dasher explained that from Hwy. 178 to his home is about one mile and a half there are seventeen homes. There are elderly people living in most of these homes and with the condition of Jeff Webber Road, it is a concern that if the Fire Department or Ambulance Service needed to reach their homes, it would be difficult if even possible to reach their home. Some of the road has had the trees and bushes cut back but then the rest of the road has never been finished. Manager Jones explained that the machinery that did the cut-backs was not in working condition and the County was waiting on parts to do the repair. Manager Jones also explained that a grant was applied for paving the road last year but the county was not awarded the grant. Manager Jones told Mr. Dasher and his family that he appreciated them being gracious about the issues on the road they lived and hopefully we would receive funds so that the road could be paved and resolve the issues Mr. Dasher and his family members has presented.

Consideration of Approval of Proposal Twenty (20) Taser 10: Manager Jones stated the tasers that the Sheriff's Office is presently using will be discontinued and no longer supported by the manufacture. There is one more year on the current contract and Axon Enterprise will credit one year if we upgrade to the Taser 10 models. In the Commissioners Packet there was a copy of the Proposal presented by Axon Enterprise. This is spread over a five year period of time and will cover warranty where they will supply the batteries, supplies, any software upgrades, and data uploads. The data will be uploaded and stored every time the taser is used. The cost is ninety-eight thousand spread over the next five years. The Sheriff has asked for and Management recommended the board approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the Contract. SPLOST Funds will be used to pay for the tasers.

Vice-Chairman Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the Contract with Axon Enterprise, Inc. and authorize the Chairman to sign. This five years contract will be paid with SPLOST Funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentation Proposed Chapter 14 Employment Policies and Procedures Recommended Changes: Manager Jones stated the proposed changes were included in the Commissioners Packet. These policies were originally created in 2008 and clarification or changes needed to be made. The requested changes are as followed:

- **General Budget Policy § 1-1-2 Letter O** – The county will pay bills **every Thursday of each week**. Department heads and elected officials are directed to submit payment requests within these timeframes.
- **Purchase Order Policy § 1-2-5** The County Manager in order to facilitate the day-to-day operations of the County is authorized to approve purchases up to a limit of **\$10,000**. In his absence the Commission Chairman shall have this authority. The County Manager is also authorized to append any

appropriated dollars in divisional budgets under the control of the County Commissioners.

- **Revising Recruitment of Vacant Positions Policy § 14-3-3** – It is the policy of Toombs County to recruit and promote from within where possible. Recruitment notices to publicize vacancies and to assist in locating qualified candidates for vacant position shall be prepared by the County Manager. Announcements of all vacancies shall be posted on the County [website](#) for five days. The announcement of the position shall specify the job title, duties and responsibilities, minimum qualifications requirements, manner of making application, and the final date on which applications can be accepted.
- **Revising Age & Physical Requirements for Safety Sensitive Personnel Policy § 14-3-4** – Persons eligible to receive an original appointment to operate heavy equipment for the road department must have reached the age of [eighteen \(18\)](#). A candidate for this appointment may be required to take and pass a physical examination to certify that the applicant meets the physical requirements necessary to perform the duties required.
- **Revising Applications § 14-3-8** – [All persons wishing to apply for a position within the government of Toombs County shall complete the required Application for Employment Form. Applications may be obtained from the County Commissioners Office and may be supplemented by a resume. The application form must be completed in full and must be signed by the applicant.](#)
- **Revising Disqualifications of Applicants § 4-3-9 #5** – [Has failed a criminal record check.](#)
- **Revising 14-5-4 § Holidays** – [Employees may be required to work during the above holidays. Employees are required to work their scheduled shift before and after the holiday to receive holiday pay.](#)
- **Revising § 14-5-11 Expense Reimbursements** – Employees traveling overnight may be reimbursed [following the State of Georgia guidelines as outlined by the State Accounting Office per person per day for food](#). Any employee who is required to use their personal vehicle in the performance of their duties shall be reimbursed following the [State of Georgia guidelines as outlined by the State Accounting Office for mileage reimbursement and daily per diem](#).

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Dixon to approve the Proposed Chapter 14 Employment Policies and Procedures as presented by Manager Jones. Motion carried unanimously.

**Presentation of 2023
Tax Digest:**

Manager John Jones presented the Tax Digest information and stated the Called Meeting would be held at a later date for approving the millage rate for next year once the advertising has been run in the paper for one week prior to the called meeting. The Board of Education will be setting their millage rate in their meeting that will be held on September 15th.

**County Manager Report
Financial Report:**

Manager Jones stated Local Option Sales Tax was up by 3.39 percent from this time last year. M & O Expenses are one percent under budget and we are on schedule with the revenue. EMS is on budget but lagging behind on revenue. Landfill is eleven percent above on Revenue and one and a half percent under budget on expenses.

Miscellaneous:

In the packet was the Accounts Receivable report on the Landfill accounts. Also, was the workmen's comp report. Moving forward as stated earlier in the

meeting we are re-applying for a grant o get some help to improve the road system in the County.

Standing Committee

Reports:

out

Chairman Sikes stated that Commissioner Cason had a doctor's appointment of town and could not make it to the meeting; please keep him in our prayers.

Commissioners

Comments:

None

Adjournment:

Chairman Sikes adjourned the meeting at 6:12 PM.

David Sikes, Chairman

Attest: _____
Helen Harris, County Clerk